

# Happy Holidays from the Eagle Times

Volume 39, Number 2 December 2021

Bonny Eagle High School

Standish, Maine 04084

## Superintendent wrapping up career

By James Arbour

Every weekday morning, MSAD6 superintendent Mr. Paul Penna wakes up early and gets ready for another busy day. However, after his sixth year as superintendent and 39th year in education, Mr. Penna will be stepping down from the role of superintendent and a new head of the district will take over next fall.

"We needed his energy five years ago," said Ms. Erin Maguire, the MSAD6 curriculum director for grades 6-12. "I don't think I ever thought Paul Penna would stop working in schools."

Helping others is what Mr. Penna loves to do. In college he majored in law enforcement and wanted to be a police chief. After college he became a police officer in South Portland. During this time he formed relationships with the local students, and this is when Mr. Penna had a revelation: he realized that he wanted to get into education. He made connections with professors and went back to school for his new career.

"I went into education because I really like being around students and youth," Mr. Penna said, adding that working with younger people is like "working with a fir tree" because they are much more flexible than adults and easier to talk to. He compared adults to oak trees, as they are less flexible and harder to work with. He believes that younger people are more open minded, and he truly enjoys helping them be the best that they can be.

After finishing his education, Mr.



Mr. Penna will be ending a long career in education when he retires in June.

Staff screenshot from Vimeo.com

Penna was hired as the assistant principal at Portland High School. He then moved on to become principal at Gray-New Gloucester High School. There, he found many students whose parents had grown up in Portland, which made being there a whole lot easier since he already knew members of the community. However, Mr. Penna wanted to move to a bigger school, so he applied to become an administrator at Bonny Eagle High School. He was accepted and soon made himself at home.

Eventually, Mr. Penna wanted to climb another rung up the ladder by becoming the next superintendent. Ms. Maguire, who has worked with Mr. Penna in various roles over the years was "surprised when he was interested

in becoming superintendent because he was frustrated by many things superintendents in the past have done."

Mr. Penna has tried to identify flaws by observing the work of previous superintendents in order to avoid making those mistakes himself. He says he has tried to create a system where everyone can get the help that they need to find success. Everyone learns differently and people shouldn't be left behind just because they have different needs.

"I've been focused ... on how we can make the system best serve the students," Mr. Penna explained. The question he asked himself was "how do we develop support services to improve teaching and learning?"

Mr. Penna also found that it's not just

students that need support. In fact, he has put the same degree of effort into supporting teachers as he has students.

"Teachers need support as well," he said. "You can just say: 'Oh I want you to do all these things,' but you have to support teachers to do all these things." He believes that it is vital that students and teachers are on the same level of support and that both can get help if they need it.

"What's made him a good superintendent is that he's visible," said Ms. Maguire. "It's important that people know he's out there and an approachable figure that's reliable."

For Mr. Penna, the toughest thing about being superintendent is not getting to know the students as well as he could as a principal. Being the superintendent of such a large district can be a big challenge since superintendents have to divide their attention between several schools at once. He tries to take some time each day to make an appearance at the high school. But because he doesn't have connections with most of the students, it is difficult to converse with them.

The MSAD6 school board has formed a committee that will be posting the position nationally in early January. The board will begin conducting interviews in March.

Everyone is different and different superintendents will have different priorities, but Mr. Penna hopes that his successor continues his efforts and ensures that students feel that they are treated as individuals.

## Girls cross country team makes history at New Englands

From staff reports

The Bonny Eagle girls capped off their season with a second place finish at the New England cross country championships on Nov. 13 in Vermont. It was the best finish ever by a Maine team at the New Englands. The top five scorers averaged 21:20 on the muddy 5K course and were led by senior Delaney Hesler's 6th place finish and senior Emmaline Pendleton's 18th place finish (out of 250 runners from all six New England states).

The girls qualified for the New Englands by running away with the Class A state championships in late October, their third straight state championship. The Scots beat out runner-up Marshwood by 51-112. Delaney won that race, her first individual title

in her four years. Emmaline Pendleton recovered from an early fall to finish fifth.

This was Coach Burleson's fourth year as coach. He was named the Varsity Maine cross country coach of the year by the Portland Press Herald at the end of the season.

"We had some big goals coming into the season and our girls stayed focused, put in the work and battled from the first practice to the last meet," Coach Burleson told the Press Herald.

The girls also won the Festival of Champions in Belfast on Oct. 3. Bonny Eagle won the girls team title by one point over Harwood Union High School of Moretown, Vermont. Hesler



(18:29.01) was the top finisher for the Scots, with a fifth place finish, while teammates Thibodeau (19:22.04) and senior Emmaline Pendleton finished 10th and 12th respectively. Nine of 10 BE runners finished in the top 100 out of 1200 runners at that meet.

The Bonny Eagle girls cross country team is all smiles after coming away with a second place finish at the New England championship. Left to right are: Addy Thibodeau, Kallie Warner, Delaney Hesler, Emmaline Pendleton, Hannah Stevens, Grace Quinn, Gwen Catalano, Elizabeth Forestiere, Allie Hesler, Cadence Howard and Meseret Day.

Staff screen shot from YouTube.com

Return of  
Robotics  
page 2

Holiday  
Traditions  
page 3

Mrs. Brown  
returns  
page 4

Lunch  
crunch  
page 5

Reviews  
page 6-7



## The Eagle Times staff

### Editors

Macey Cabral  
Amelia McAvoy

### Reporters

James Arbour  
Emily Bell  
Macey Cabral  
Abigail Cormier  
Sam Doucette  
Sara Ettinger  
Hannah Higgins  
Amelia McAvoy  
Zachary Myers  
Isak Robinson

### Photographers

Emily Bell  
Abigail Cormier

### Teacher Advisor

Ms. Joanne Lannin

## Hidden treasures await in our school library

By Abigail Cormier

You wouldn't know it by the halls full of phone-obsessed teens, but Bonny Eagle is full of avid readers. Luckily, the school library is home to an extensive selection of books. The librarian, Mrs. Erin Deprez, is always looking to meet new students and help them find the perfect book. She also wants to help students enjoy the library atmosphere she has worked hard to create.

These past two years have been full of struggles no one could have predicted. As a result of this, our library took a pretty hard hit. Keeping the library a safe and enjoyable place is our librarian's everlasting goal.

To ensure that students keep reading, Mrs. Deprez has been working to add more books to the online library. She has even had students request additions to the e-book collection.

The in-person library has an even larger collection of books, from graphic novels to ancient philosophy. Students in this age group lean towards books in young-adult (YA) genres. YA often includes a combination of romance and realistic fiction.

"Being able to relate to books... books that feel close to home, like it could be you. Those are really popular," says Mrs. Deprez.

Students also tend to check out a lot of sci-fi and dystopian fiction. Sci-fi may be very popular right now due to current world situations. Unfortunately, young people are able to relate to the problems in these books more and more. The feeling of hopelessness is unfortunately getting more and more prevalent in this



high school age group. YA authors are also putting out a lot more dystopian/sci-fi content and people are eating it up.

As you enter the library, you see books on every wall divided by genre. The horror section is dominated by Stephen King novels. Stephen King is arguably Maine's most famous author, and this sure shows in the BEHS library. The library can't keep his works on the shelves.

"I know that it's going to get checked out. I know if people put books on hold, Stephen King's gotta be in there," Mrs. Deprez said after opening another box of books with King's book right on top.

Recently, a few books have gained popularity at an insane rate. Books such as Frank Herbert's *Dune* have been a part of this phenomenon. This has happened

as a result of the new movie adaptations. Some students like to learn the origins of these high-grossing blockbusters. *Dune* is one of the most famous and well known sci-fi novels and has now become popular amongst the younger audience.

Some books and authors are not so fortunate. There are certain genres and topics that students tend to stray away from. Younger people these days are less inclined to read classics or things that their parents read.

Although it's good for students to sample new content, it is also important to broaden their horizons. Being forced to read has been the cause of many students' aversion to the activity as a whole. Our librarian urges students to give classics another try.

"I think that you're missing a lot when you decide that you don't want to read something because your teacher suggested it..." Mrs. Deprez says.

The library has many uses beyond borrowing and returning books. Upon entering you can see students studying, eating lunch, socializing, and browsing the stacks. Even clubs, such as Robotics, use the library for their meetings.

Most of the students checking out and reading the library books lately were freshmen and sophomores because of their familiarity with having a library to go to at the middle school.

Mrs. Deprez and Mrs. Musto, the library assistant, want upperclassmen to know that they are welcome and encouraged to use the library—whether it be for studying, reading or anything in between.

## Robotics returns with a full head of steam

By Macey Cabral

This year's Bonny Eagle Robotics Team (BERT) is off to an awesome start.

On Nov. 7, at Prospect Mountain High School in Alton, NH, BERT participated in its first live competition in 18 months. This event combined both the Battle of the Bay and Governor's Cup (two annual off-season events) into one competition where our own Team 133, along with 30 other teams, was finally able to participate.

Using the robot from 2020's Infinite Recharge competition, BERT achieved #1 seed through five seeding matches, and went on to the finals. Along with the seven other top scoring teams, BERT earned the right to choose which teams to partner with in the finals, and decided to join Teams 5813 Morpheus and 6690 MV RoboPride. Together, they won the event and earned the Governor's Cup.

Although there weren't as many teams participating as in years past, the team captain, senior Rachel Prejean, said that it was still "very thrilling to watch." There were many more inexperienced people and unfamiliar faces participating at the Governor's Cup, she said, "so it's just a whole new ballgame this year."

Many people that participated in BERT in 2020 did not return to the team this year. Jean Falkner, a sixth-year mentor for the team, explained how "usually we are able to recruit students at the beginning of the school year, and get them excited by taking them to an off-season event."

Unfortunately, not only did this not



Team Captain, senior Rachel Prejean (fourth from left), presents the Governor's Cup trophy alongside members of BERT's allied teams. Courtesy photo

happen last year, but there were also no in-person meetings, so "students that checked BERT out didn't stick around." Although the recruiting process is starting back up again this year, Mrs. Falkner admitted that the numbers "will take a while to build back up."

Rachel says that she's "really excited about [competing in person]" again. Having missed out on a lot of competitions, she wants to really enjoy her last year on the team.

Junior Lucas Matthews participated last year and the year before, and remembers being able to compete in three competitions during his freshman year. Last year, he says, "we only had one and I was a little disappointed over that. But it was still fun." He feels that "the team has been great," and is happy to "finally get back to normal competition season."

Laura Milne, a freshman, agrees that "the team is very nice and outstanding to work with."

The great thing about the changes this year is that "students grow and learn the most when they are actually at a competition and have to make on-the-spot engineering changes and decisions," says Mrs. Falkner. "They also expand their horizons by meeting so many different students from other schools, states, and sometimes even countries (this is mostly at worlds)."

In a usual competition, a minimum of 24 teams participate. The first round is the qualifiers round, where teams can begin earning 'ranking points,' which will help them to grow higher in the rankings overall.

Completing certain tasks or winning matches during each round can earn a point; this year one task was to have the

robot climb a 'Shield Generator' (a tower which the robots had to hook onto) using a bar that came down on the front of the robot. In order to receive a point, the machine had to be level.

During the qualifier round, teams can scout which other teams they may want to join in the later alliance matches. After the qualifiers end, the top eight ranking teams are lined up, and the first team chooses their first alliance. This continues until two alliances are formed, one red and the other blue, with three robots per alliance. This means that, during one match, there will be six robots on the field at once.

The allied teams win and lose together, so they must work together with their robots in order to win the matches and earn points, and the bracket competition continues until the best alliance wins.

This year, the task during the matches was to shoot little balls into a sort of goal, where getting the balls into different sections of the goal could earn different numbers of points. Getting balls into the smaller holes would earn more points than shooting them into the larger ones.

During the first fifteen seconds of the match, the robots had to operate autonomously, working solely off of the programming that the team installed the previous year (they built the robot for the last in-person competition season). Then, the drive team would be able to control the robot remotely in order to shoot the balls into the holes. The more points they earned, the closer they were to winning by the last 30 seconds, at which point the robots would then begin to climb up a tower in order to complete the mission and 'save the planet.'

Robotics cont. on page 5



## Exchange students share their holiday traditions

By Abigail Cormier and  
Amelia McAvoy

This year, Bonny Eagle has welcomed a variety of students from vastly different cultures and lifestyles. The holiday season is fast approaching and some of these students are really looking forward to sharing their culture and traditions and experiencing ours as well.

Anu Purvetogtokhis is from Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, a majority Buddhist nation. Because of that, Christmas is not celebrated. On the other hand, they have many end of year and new year festivities. New Years is celebrated by almost everyone in Mongolia and it is one of the most important holidays throughout the year, along with Nadam and The Lunar New Year. These two holidays are when they would practice family traditions and wear their cultural attire.

New Year's Eve and New Year's Day are filled with a variety of delicious dishes in Mongolia. These dishes may include a whole chicken, dumplings, fried noodles, mashed potatoes, salads, cake, and bowls of fruit. Then they drink soda to wash it all down. On more traditional holidays, the soda is substituted with milk tea.

"We eat a beautiful dinner with our family or relatives at home," explains Anu.

In preparation for New Years, everyone in the family gets together to clean the house. Anu usually does chores and helps her mother with dinner.

In Mongolia it is very important to respect relatives and ancestors. Family members speak words of deep respect when they speak with the elders. They serve food and tea to the oldest members of the family first.

When there's only a few minutes left in the year, the Mongolian president will come onto the TV and wish everyone greetings and a happy new year. When the clock reaches 00:00 everyone will drink champagne and give out presents. The night ends as fireworks



light up the sky across the city.

Maja Modzelewaska is an exchange student from Poland. Despite the vast ocean separating them, Poland is not too different from the United States. Poland has a large Christian population, but like many places, that's not the only reason they celebrate Christmas.

"It's a religious holiday, but even if someone isn't religious and they don't believe in God they still celebrate," says Maja.

Despite the occasional homesickness, Maja is happier than ever with the holiday season fast approaching. She is hoping to bring some of her family traditions here to America.

A holiday celebrated by many Polish children is Mikołajka. Mikołajka or Saint Nickolas day is celebrated on Dec. 6. Children leave out their shoes and when they wake up the next morning, there will be presents next to them. This is when Santa visits the house. People will leave out cookies and milk for Santa as well.

Another tradition happens where hay is placed under the tablecloth to represent the manger where Jesus was born. It is a reminder of Jesus and where he was born. Many Polish people do this, but Maja says that her family typically doesn't.

In Poland the festivities start early and continue throughout December. As we do in America, the Polish family will decorate a tree, wrap presents, and

spend the whole day together. Maja's family has quite a few unique traditions surrounding the joyful day. One of the most heartwarming is that the family will set up an extra seat at the table in case someone is in need of shelter, food, or simple companionship during the holidays. They have extra food and a place for this person, whoever they may be, to make sure no one spends the holidays alone.

For the Christmas Eve dinner, they wait until the first star appears in the sky before they eat a 12-dish meal in honor of the 12 apostles. These 12 dishes do not contain meat, except for fish. They eat a large variety of delicious foods from dumplings to cheesecake. Some of the most popular foods include Pierogi with cabbage and mushroom, compote with dried fruit, red borscht with mushroom dumplings, mushroom soup, carp, herring, fish in gelatin, and "Greek" style fish. "The beetroot soup is my favorite," Maja says.

Along with this mouth watering spread



Emily Bell photo  
Above right, Maja Modzelewaska shows off her holiday sweater during spirit week. Abigail Cormier photo.



At right, Baebars Mahasneh explains to a Global Village class what life is like in his culture. Amelia McAvoy photo

of food there are a few famous desserts: Fruitcake, cheesecake, poppy seed cake, and poppyseed with dumplings (Kutia). Can't forget the loads of gingerbread freshly baked every year!

Christmas Eve is finished off with Christmas mass, where the families will share wafers and wish each other a safe and happy new year.

After the presents are opened Christmas morning, the holiday season officially ends. Soon everyone heads off to party away the previous year. They spend time with friends as the clock switches to a new year.

Baebars Mahasneh, who goes by the nickname 'Bebo,' comes to Bonny Eagle from the Asian country, Jordan. As a majority Muslim country, there aren't any winter holidays typically recognized by the Jordanian people. However, the Muslim holidays of Ramadan and Eid are widely celebrated.

Ramadan is a month long celebration of the Qur'an being revealed to the

*Holiday traditions cont, on page 4*

## Good bus drivers getting more difficult to find

By Sam Doucette

The Bonny Eagle district is massive, sprawling across four towns. Its buses provide safe and reliable transportation to all of its students each and every day, and keeps up with extra curricular activities too.

Nevertheless, COVID has made doing so difficult, and MSAD6 is not alone. A labor shortage has hit some districts harder, both statewide and across the nation. A WCHS6 report in October stated that some elementary and middle school bus routes in Portland had to be cut because there was no one to drive the buses. This means that some parents had to figure out another way to get their children to school.

The Bonny Eagle district has not had to do this yet, but staffing is pretty tight, as two bus drivers retired earlier than planned due to COVID. Still, the remaining bus drivers do want to make sure that students are going to and from school safely.

According to Dorothy Muchmore, the MSAD6 transportation director, "They're here for the students because they truly do care."

The Bonny Eagle buses drive a cu-



mulative total of about 5,500 miles per day. At present, there are 73 buses in the fleet, which is the largest in the state of Maine. Each bus driver has a bus, and there are spare buses in case of breakdowns, and for when buses need to be serviced.

Both COVID-19 and the labor shortage in Maine have added some struggles to getting children to and from school. As of right now, there are 41 bus drivers in the district with three in training. According to Mrs. Muchmore, 10 years ago, there were 56. Because of the shortage, Mrs. Muchmore is driving routes to help fill in, and the mechanics can also drive if needed.

Last year, students were separated

by last names, with half of the students going to school on "BE days" and the other half going on "Scots days." This year, all of the students are back together again. This means that buses are more crowded, and some student management issues have arisen. Fortunately, administration, drivers, and parents are all working together to make sure that bus rides are safe.

Another way to make sure buses are safe is the COVID-19 protocols for bus drivers. Drivers must keep the front and back windows open at all times in order to keep air flowing through the bus, and masks must be kept on for the whole ride. Students must use hand sanitizer

when getting on the vehicle, and sit in their assigned seat. Bus drivers spray the bus with sanitizer after students leave the bus, and wipe down all seats, windows and handles once a week.

According to MSAD6 assistant superintendent Lori Napolitano, the district offers paid training for soon-to-be bus drivers. Mrs. Muchmore also says that applications are still coming in, and some people are leaving their current jobs to become BE drivers. Usually when trainees start their training, they don't have any prior experience with bus driving, but "when they come to us we prepare them; we have a really robust training program."

The district's sole trainer prepares trainees for their school bus driving permit. In order to earn said permit, drivers need to pass four computerized tests. Two weeks after that, they can apply for their license and take a driving test just like you would driving a vehicle.

Before being hired, drivers have to get a physical and a drug test, and can be drug tested at any time. Bonny Eagle needs spare drivers to drive activity buses, as well as drivers for sports activities.

*Sargentfamily.weebly.com photo*



## Annual Veteran's Day assembly honors men and women who served



From staff reports

Bonny Eagle held its annual Veteran's Day remembrance on Nov. 10.

This year's ceremony took place outside, on the athletic field where the traditional flag folding by members of the NJROTC was conducted.

The band also took part and officers of the Student Council talked about the significance of the day.

Student Council advisor Mrs. Dawna Cyr organized the event.

Above, left, members of the NJROTC salute after laying a wreath near the memorial in front of the school.

Above right, veterans gathered in the library at the conclusion of the outdoor events.

Photos by Emily Bell

At right, students watched the ceremony from the grandstand.

Photo by Mrs. Cyr



## Back to the future for Ms. Brown

By Amelia McAvoy

This year, Bonny Eagle introduces a new position: Director of College and Career Counselor. Ms. Lynn Brown's job is to help seniors with the college application process. This ranges from matching students to schools well-suited for them to helping students navigate the application process. Along with implementing a college-specific counselor, the school has also introduced SYNC (Success, You, Next Steps, Capstone) this year, which allows for all students to start planning their future, from the freshmen to the seniors. With this combination of resources, the school is hoping to better prepare its students for their next steps.

Ms. Brown may be a new staff member this year, but she is no stranger to Bonny Eagle. Directly before taking this new job, she worked a variety of jobs at St. Joseph's College, but before that, she worked at Bonny Eagle High School for 20 years as a guidance counselor and then as an assistant principal.

Predating that, she worked for five years as a seventh grade counselor at Bonny Eagle Middle School. She also graduated from Bonny Eagle herself and was very active in the community, playing basketball, field hockey, and running track for the school. Her father was the head mechanic at the district's bus garage and her mother was the manager of the high school's food service department.

Since Ms. Brown's last time at Bonny Eagle, a lot has changed, but a lot has remained the same. Despite the changes in architecture, classes, and staff, high schoolers have mostly stayed the same. Ms. Brown has observed that "students are still the same in that they want to make sure they are successful and happy during high school, have friendships



Ms. Brown is settling into her new job.  
Staff photo

and classes go well. They're trying to find themselves with the ultimate goal of preparing themselves for life beyond high school. [They want] to be as successful as they can when they leave, whether that means going right into a career, joining the military, going on to a two or four year college, or maybe taking a gap year." Even though years have passed, the goals and needs of teenagers haven't changed.

It wasn't a hard decision for Ms. Brown to decide to return to the halls of Bonny Eagle High School. She says that the college and career work was "the part of my job when I had been a guidance counselor that I liked." Even though the personal counseling part of being a counselor is very important, Ms. Brown never felt like she was best suited for that role, so she is glad to have a job specialized to her strengths. She is also excited to have the opportunity to work with a brand new team of coun-

selors and "build something from the ground up."

Ms. Brown has high hopes for the future of her job. With the pandemic, the college application process has been complicated for many of this year's seniors. For example, it has complicated college visits, SAT testing, and lots of other opportunities that students typically have when they're preparing for college. Next year, Ms. Brown hopes that the seniors will be a little more prepared and that the work given out in SYNC classes will give future grades a better understanding of what they want to do with their lives coming into their senior year.

While being a college and career counselor has kept her busy, Ms. Brown enjoys reading and quilting in her free time. She also enjoys spending time with her husband and two adult children, Lincoln and Morgan, when they are home. Morgan is a professional dancer for Florida Ballet in Jacksonville and Lincoln is assistant coach and pitching coach under his father for St. Joseph's College. With her husband and son coaching the Monks, she attends many a ball game in the springtime.

So far, being a college and career counselor has proved to be a difficult job, but also a very rewarding one. She says that the team of counselors at BEHS are great people to work with and they make a great team. Perhaps the most rewarding part, however, is seeing students begin to receive their acceptance letters, and for them, "to see the fruits of their labor and have at least the next steps in their life planned." She can hardly wait until this spring when she can see the success of the members of the Class of 2022 and see where life will take them next.

## Holiday traditions continued from pg. 3

Prophet Muhammed, during which Muslims fast from dawn to dusk and abstain from immoral behaviors, such as drinking and smoking.

It occurs in the spring, but the actual dates differ from year to year. Bebo's family has a tradition of hanging lights on their ceiling and outside their house for Ramadan, similar to how one may hang Christmas lights.

The day after the end of Ramadan is the first Eid, also called Eid al-Fitr, which is a celebration of the previous month's spiritual reflection. The second Eid, Eid al-Adha, occurs two months after the first Eid and is a three-day celebration of the Prophet Ibrahim's devotion to Allah. Both Eids are celebrated with prayers and gifting money to the young and the poor, which, much to his chagrin, Bebo adds, "the girls get more than the boys."

In Jordan, winter is not a large holiday season. As a Muslim, Bebo is not able to celebrate Christmas in a religious vein.

"I can't say 'Merry Christmas,' because it's a religious thing. So, if you don't see me saying 'Merry Christmas' to you, I'm not being impolite, it's just, I can't say it."

However, this doesn't stop him from being able to participate in the non-religious traditions that accompany the holiday. Already he has helped his host family decorate their tree and house for the season and has received his first Christmas gift.

His host mother gifted him an ornament with his name on it to match their family ornaments, which he says he definitely is "going to take that home."



## Four lunches are proving to be better than three

By Hannah Higgins

The 2021-2022 school year has brought many challenges. As students returned to school in person for five days a week, one of the biggest challenges Bonny Eagle faced was keeping everybody safe. Perhaps one of the most profound changes was the change to the lunch schedule.

In order to prevent the spread of COVID-19, Bonny Eagle High School introduced outside eating, which successfully kept students socially distanced. If students preferred to eat outdoors, they could eat under the tent or in the courtyard.

"People felt more comfortable outside, and they were able to take their masks off. Having that extra space also held a lot of people, which was really nice," said Selena Leavitt, our Dean of Students. Still, a few problems did arise.

One challenge that came along with eating outdoors was the bees, which was a problem experienced state-wide. However, as the weather got colder and the tent came down, eating

outside was no longer an option. Because of this, the administration team introduced the four-lunch schedule, which gave students four lunch blocks instead of three.

"We knew we had to do something because we were losing the outside tent, and it would be impossible to keep everyone distanced in the rooms we have inside," Ms. Leavitt explained.

Another reason for the four-lunch schedule was to avoid using the gym for lunches.

"If we put desks in the gym this year, it would affect a lot more than just block four. Kids wouldn't be able to have a normal schedule as we wouldn't have enough time to move 150 desks in-and-out," said Ms. Leavitt.

Susan Porter, Bonny Eagle kitchen manager, believes that the four-lunch schedule has been going well so far.

"It gives us more time in between to restock and get things ready for the next group that comes through. I see more kids coming to lunch every day, which makes me very happy.



Ms. Porter says the new lunch schedule is working.

Staff photo

Sometimes the schedules are different or off, or kids come earlier than they should, but that's okay. They've been patient, and I appreciate that," she says.

Zackary Metayer, a Bonny Eagle freshman, also believes that the new schedule and the function of the school days is going well. He really likes the change, and it does not affect how he feels about lunch or

the schedule as it is. A good thing about it is that everyone is spread out and able to social distance, as it is a COVID protocol to avoid crowded areas where the risk is severe.

Zackary said that he is glad that the portion of students assigned to the tents are now able to be in a warmer setting as the weeks get colder and we approach winter time. Another good thing about it

is the fact that a lot of students, including Zackary, are still able to keep friendships and bond in their assigned places during lunch and the study hall portion of the day. Yet Zackary says that even if he didn't have his friends to talk to, it wouldn't affect how he felt about the lunch change.

Something positive about this is that everyone is comfortable with the arrangements that were made to keep everybody safe and happy at school. The first day of the new lunch schedule did have many confused people asking for help on where to go, but during the second day it was a bit easier for students to navigate their way and get to their place without taking up too much time.

The study hall portion is also very helpful, as it gives all students an extra 20-30 minutes to catch up on their assignments and summatives.

It's going to be a long four months of winter this year, but as springtime rolls in, students will hopefully be back to eating outside again.

## Mr. Roche understands the minds of math students

By Isak Robinson

From teaching students online to setting out on his own mid-pandemic, first year math teacher Mr. Jordan Roche is experiencing all the ups and downs of being a full time teacher.

Before coming to Bonny Eagle, Mr. Roche majored in computer science at Northeastern University. When he realized that it wasn't the career for him, he transferred to the University of Southern Maine to pursue his desire to teach in Maine. He eventually completed his student teaching at Casco Bay High School in Portland.

Due to COVID-19, Mr. Roche did his student teaching in the in-person/online hybrid model. Going full time has definitely been a big transition for him. Trying to follow all the COVID protocols while also adjusting to a brand new lifestyle is definitely a tricky thing to handle. For example, he has one of his classes in someone else's room because



Mr. Roche had a choice of where to teach. He chose the high school level. Courtesy photo

his is too small for the number of students he has. Mr. Roche does give lots of thanks to his coworkers for helping him to adjust through all of this and making the changes that much easier to overcome. He says Bonny Eagle has "a really welcoming staff, particularly in the math department."

When he has free time, Mr. Roche often likes to get together with a group of friends and have game and trivia nights. Occasionally, he will go out on weekends and compete in Super Smash Brothers Melee tournaments.

Luckily, Mr. Roche had a couple of connections to Bonny Eagle before he ever stepped foot in the building. He had a few cousins that went to the school in prior years and his aunt, Mrs. Amy Doucette, is a teacher here as well.

When deciding what age group he would like to teach, he chose high school because he feels that it is easier to make connections with high schoolers; they are at a completely different

level of maturity compared to elementary or middle school.

Wanting to be able to make that connection with students and engage on a certain level of maturity, he knew high school would be the best option for him.

"It is a different dynamic, and I feel like I'm better able to support high school students because I understand their mindset a little better," he noted.

Mr. Roche had a couple of offers from other schools as well, but when he was doing his interview he felt really comfortable with the teachers and staff that he met here. He believed that they had a lot of the same ideals as he does, which really motivated him to choose Bonny Eagle.

Mr. Roche is teaching Integrated Math and Algebra 1 A this trimester. He wants his students to walk away with a higher confidence level in math because he understands that this is a large part of the struggle that many experience with the subject.

## Robotics continued from page 2

During a normal season, spectators are encouraged to come watch the competitions, but during this year's off-season event, "only the team members and mentors [were] allowed to attend," explained Mrs. Falkner. Rachel feels that "people need to get more excited" for competitions, and that they need to "cheer louder" as well. Luckily, the rules that were in place during the off-season competition are not set in stone, and the season doesn't officially start until January 8.

Once the season begins, the field, objective, and parameters for the competitions will be revealed. In the following six weeks or so before the first event, the team will work to design, build, and program the new robot.

The hardest part about creating a robot, says Rachel, is that you have to take ev-

erything into consideration, and decide which things you want it to specialize in. It's also one of the most fun parts as well, as the team usually spends a couple of weeks working in groups to create little prototypes, and everyone gets a big whiteboard to draw on.

"It's pretty cool," she added. Although she will be doing a lot of 'CADing' (a computer program used to design 3D models of the custom parts needed to build the robot), Rachel will do "a little bit of everything" once the team starts constructing. The robot will also have to be programmed for the autonomous part of the competition over the span of a couple months, using Java to program the raspberry pi computer that will be on the body of the machine.

Rachel notes that they will also have to "get a good drive team" that will control

the robot remotely during the matches. In fact, Lucas "hope[s] to improve [his] driving skills" before the start of the season in order to do just that, and Laura plans to "help write the code," adding that she is very "excited to see how well it works and troubleshoot any problems" that may arise.

Overall, Rachel feels that being a part of BERT has helped her to improve both her building skills and her people skills. Although being team captain is "intense," being a part of the team has also "made [her] realize what [she] want[s] to do," which is to become an engineer.

She hopes that the team will stay together after she graduates, and that more people will stay interested. She also wants to come back at some point in the future in order to help the team,

Best wishes  
for a  
Happy  
New Year  
from all of us  
at the  
Eagle Times!



## First installment of *Dune* lives up to the hype

By Amelia McAvoy

The newest adaptation of Frank Herbert's classic sci-fi series *Dune* released its first installment this year. The film features a star-studded cast with Timothee Chalamet playing the lead hero, Paul Atreides, the heir to the noble House Atreides.

The story follows Paul as his father is given rule of the dangerous planet Arrakis, forcing him and the rest of the House Atreides to uproot and move to the new planet. Arrakis is a harsh desert planet, but it is home to the most valuable substance in the universe, spice. However, ruling Arrakis puts House Atreides in danger. Paul and his family must navigate the hostile planet natives, referred to as Fremen, giant sand worms that suck anything in their path underground, and a coup being planned to overtake House of Atreides rule.

Despite its release amidst the coronavirus pandemic and simultaneous release on HBO Max for at-home screening, *Dune* still amassed \$41 million at the box office on opening weekend. It quickly topped the charts as the highest grossing movie in the theaters and most streamed dual release film of 2021. Unsurprisingly, a sequel was greenlighted only four days after the film's release. It is currently looking at a tentative Oct.



A diverse cast of characters brings *Dune* to life on the big screen.

HBOMax.com photo

2023 release date.

For many of the younger generation who may never have heard of the *Dune* series, the biggest attractor to the movie was Timothee Chalamet and Zendaya. Unfortunately, Zendaya had little screen time, but longtime *Dune* fans promise that her character becomes more important as the series progresses. Chalamet, however, delivered with his act-

ing. Stepping into the sci-fi genre for the first time, the actor portrays a very believable young hero. He excels at conveying so much of his character through facial expressions and this was critical in the movie, which was heavily plot driven rather than character driven. In one particularly impressive scene, he is able to make audiences believe his character is experiencing excruciating pain

simply from the mind power of another character.

The cinematography in this movie is amazing. Not only does it help to build the atmosphere of the film, but the views it creates are also incredibly pleasing to the eye. The landscapes of Arrakis especially stood out. Its desert looks like a real place, providing a realistic element to the fantastical story while also being visually stunning. Despite the desolate climate, the shots of the desert create epic visuals that provide a strikingly beautiful backdrop for the story.

Although I personally enjoyed *Dune*, it is certainly not for everyone. Unlike many modern sci-fi movies, it is not heavy with action sequences. The majority of the film focuses on politics and world building. The movie is definitely not a stand alone since, as the first installment, its major purpose is to set up the universe. However, it doesn't drag. Every scene has a clear purpose and is important to the film as a whole. I wholeheartedly recommend this movie, as it creates a unique and intriguing universe, but I warn those who are expecting your typical action-packed film that it is not that. *Dune* would be best enjoyed by those who have a love of sci-fi, but who prioritize the political aspects of the genre.

## Holiday family traditions include watching movie classics

By Zachary Myers

My family and I have many Christmas traditions. We hang up the tree after Thanksgiving, we open a single present on Christmas eve, and we check out the Norad Santa Tracker, which is just what it sounds like, a tracker of where Santa is throughout the night and how many presents he delivers. I'll also make cookies, most likely of the sugar variety, which I think is a typical Christmas cookie.

But my favorite personal Christmas tradition that will live on into my old age is watching *The Polar Express* (2004). I've watched it since I was in the fourth grade, and even though most childhood traditions fade away, this one hasn't. It's an inspiring movie that I recommend for all ages.

It helps that Tom Hanks plays a few roles, but the other characters and actors also bring the whole movie together. The movie sees the 12-year old hero boy, voiced by Daryl Sabara as a kid and Tom Hanks as an adult, go on an in-

spiring journey. The boy doesn't believe in Santa Claus like most kids until the famous Polar Express train comes to a stop outside his house. He makes the ultimate decision to get on the train, captained by the conductor (Tom Hanks, yes he shows up a lot.)

As he goes on this incredible journey, he rediscovers belief and learns about perseverance and what real things are." By beliefs, I don't mean just the childhood belief in Santa Claus but about faith, religion, hope, etc.

My favorite quote from the end of the movie illustrates that point. When the conductor, the hero, and his girlfriend are on the top of the train after nearly falling off, they are talking about beliefs when the conductor says, "Seeing is believing, but, sometimes, the most real things in the world are the things we can't see."

I like this quote because it means that not just the things you can see are real. In the end, our hero boy ends up redis-

covering his beliefs about faith and hope that in reality, many of us don't have, but we should. He ends up celebrating Christmas like a normal child.

I feel like lots of kids born after the late 1990's and from the 2000's on have watched this movie at least once, whether it is on their own or at school around Christmas. I also feel like if you surveyed the age 13+ of that group, the majority would say that they stopped watching the movie when they got older. As you may guess, I would not be one of those people, as I can proudly say I've watched this movie for the last five or six years.

The movie has such a calming and joyful effect on me when I sit down to watch it with a cup of hot chocolate. It makes me feel happy and at peace with what I feel is wrong in the world. Not much more to say about the movie except that if you don't own the DVD, you can rent it on Amazon Prime or Hulu Plus. It's also streaming on HBO Max.



cinematerial.com photo

## Life-changing events, with some love mixed in, fits holiday movie formula

By Sarah Ettinger

*The Christmas Edition* follows Jackie, a journalist, who has to decide which dream she wants to pursue after taking a major risk. The movie, directed by Peter Sullivan, is a family-friendly story that is based on the values of hard work and love. It's a great movie to watch with family to get into the Christmas spirit.

Prior to a life-changing event, Jackie (Carly Hughes) was working hard at the Sunshine Chronicle in San Diego, hoping to get a promotion to be editor-in-chief. However, when Melanie (Marie Osmond) from Dower Media – a purely digital company – comes to acquire the *Sunshine Chronicle* newspaper, Jackie is downgraded to staff reporter, her job five years prior.



Lifetime Channel photo

Feeling defeated, she seeks an opportunity to save a struggling newspaper in Lantern Grove, Alaska, where the owner has just passed away. With little hesitation, she starts up the *Lantern Grove Press Christmas Edition*,

after seeing how important Christmas is to the small town. In the process, she meets Finn (Rob Mayes), the son of the previous owner of the newspaper.

The daily paper follows various Christmas activities each day throughout a town that is in no short supply of Christmas spirit. As Finn shows Jackie what a true Lantern Grove Christmas entails, she writes about her own firsthand experiences of traditional events in the town, which sparks great interest among readers.

However, once the business becomes profitable, something significant happens—and Jackie has to make a challenging decision.

*The Christmas Edition* is a perfect movie for families, emphasizing the importance of hard work and taking

chances. With a little love mixed in, this movie is great for people who like to follow a romantic Christmas story. The hour-and-a-half movie can be accessed through Vudu for \$0.99, Amazon Prime Video for free with an existing subscription, and occasionally on the Lifetime TV channel.

While I would recommend the movie, be warned that it is relatively predictable. Still, it is a great movie to watch with little ones and it does its job of getting you in the Christmas spirit. Just don't expect any crazy plot twists or a lot of action.

All and all, *The Christmas Edition* leaves one with an important message. If you are willing to take a risk, you may end up better off than you were before.



## Good times and hard times in *Little Women*

By Emily Bell

The Bonny Eagle Drama Club's first performance with a live audience in over a year was a slamming success! The drama club performed *Little Women*, a story based on the novel by Louisa May Alcott, in the Bonny Eagle High School auditorium on Nov. 12 and 13.

Opening night actually began right after school. Actors and actresses, stage crew, and tech crew stayed after school in the multi-purpose room (MPR). Dinner was brought in from Low's, and Elton John songs spilled from bass-boostered stereo speakers as the night progressed imminently towards the bustling chaos of the play. People had fun outside in the rain and running races in the halls before getting to work.

Actors and actresses began getting their makeup done and their hair fixed around five o'clock. Then, they changed into their costumes while the jumbled sounds of confidently-delivered lines and rock bands playing thunderous chords filled the room adjacent to the stage.

Around 6:45 pm, the audience began showing up to watch the play. Theater members sold snacks, such as home-baked brownies, cookies, and other sweets. Inside the auditorium, the audience sat at assigned and spaced out seats, following COVID guidelines.

The MPR emptied of actors and actresses, and soon enough, lights went out, and bustling chaos became shushing whispers, confusing mumbles, and



Above left, Julianna Scott gets Jacob Piche ready for the big first night. Photo by Emily Bell

Above right from left to right are Ronnie Shore, Audrey Ricker (sitting), and Molly Turnbull. BEHS Drama Club photo.



squeaking chairs.

Between scenes, the backstage crew switched props and dealt with lighting. Those who have read *Little Women* could guess the plot. But for those not familiar with it, this performance explained and showed the story with much confidence and humor.

There was great timing with jokes, and as a deserved result, there were many giggles and hearty laughs from the audience. The actors played their parts beautifully.

After the first act, there was an intermission. Backstage crew members cleaned the props, as actors took a breather and the audience bought snacks in the lobby, stretched, and exhaled. Slow piano music played

through speakers in the ceiling as the audience once again relaxed into cushioned seats for Act Two.

The play, which had begun on an upbeat note, ended on a melancholy moment between sisters. Actors bowed while applause rained down. Curtains closed, cheers and claps ceased, but smiles stayed on the actors' faces.

The marvelous night slowed to an end. People packed their things and put on their coats. Quiet murmurings of "Congratulations!" "You did so good!" and "I have to go, I'll see you tomorrow," became hugs, and damp bouquets of vibrant flowers.

After the commotion, shoulders relaxed. Makeup was removed and comfier clothes put on. Cars left the parking

lot. Bodies that worked hard to perfect this play for an audience of family members, friends, and strangers could finally exhale.

This play is about losing some things and gaining other things—learning about what you want and who you are. Elise Ruona, who played Jo March, stated, "We work hard, but we act harder."

She said the kind of emotion they want to convey during the play is a mixture of happiness and sadness.

"Definitely a lot of mixed emotion," said Elise. "Some parts you're supposed to laugh at, but, some parts you're definitely supposed to cry at. We're usually really good at making people laugh, but we really want to make people cry."

## Novel reimagines Shakespeare's family life in *Hamnet*

By Macey Cabral

Published in 2020, Maggie O'Farrell's *Hamnet* slips between past and present to follow the family of a dying child.

In Europe, 1596, twins Judith and Hamnet become ill with the bubonic plague. Around 15 years prior, William Shakespeare falls in love with a woman named Agnes, and, much to their families' displeasure, they marry and have their first child, the twins' older sister Suzanna.

The couple moves in with Shakespeare's family, and Agnes soon sends her husband to London to work for his father, setting him on the path to fame as a playwright.

To start with, the first thing I noticed about this book was that O'Farrell never actually names Shakespeare. That is to say, the name 'William Shakespeare' does not appear once in the entire novel. Instead, the identity of the famous playwright is outlined by those close to him.

Now, this may have been done for a number of reasons, but in my experience of the novel, this was done to both humanize him and turn the spotlight to his family. O'Farrell calls him different things depending on who he's with, such as 'the tutor'

when he's around the kids he tutors, 'Hamnet's father,' when speaking through his eyes, Agnes's husband, Eliza's brother, Mary or John's son, Bartholomew's brother-in-law, and so on. Rather than calling him by his name, she identifies him by who he is to the people around him, revealing another piece of his identity every time. It shows that he wasn't just some famous writer, but that he meant something to the people in his life, and that his identity did not overshadow theirs.

My favorite part of the book was the characters, Agnes in particular. Her strong presence drove a good portion of the novel, and a number of important events throughout.

In general, she was also, for lack of a better term, really cool. Part of what caught Shakespeare's attention was her pet hawk and dominant nature. No matter how vicious her stepmother, Joan, was, and no matter what people said about Agnes, she never forgot who her real mother was, and continued to practice the arts she learned from her.

Even after marrying her husband, Agnes refused to let her new mother-in-law, Mary, tell her what to do, and eventually Mary realized that she would never change, and accepted

her for who she was. Her stubbornness made her stand out in a time when people were expected to fit into the rest of society.

Another thing I found interesting about some of the characters, especially Mary, was that because of how often the perspective changed, some of the more villainous characters were humanized, and the motives behind some of their actions became clearer.

Although I normally don't care for rotating perspectives, the way O'Farrell switches between characters provides a much richer, fast-paced story. The emotions that drive each of the characters are so realistically depicted that it's hard to believe that the novel is almost entirely fictional.

While many characters get to share the limelight, I think that I still would have liked to have read more from Shakespeare's father John's point of view. He was one of the main antagonists in the novel, so it would have been interesting to see how he really felt about his family.

On the other hand, I think that O'Farrell may have wanted to keep at least some characters in the dark as villains, such as Joan, who only had a little characterization in the times I read in her perspec-



William Shakespeare's son, Hamnet, stands to his right in this 19th century engraving that imagines their family life.

Wikimedia Commons photo

tive. Without showing how they felt, or justifying what they did, it kept me from sympathizing with the people who made life difficult for the main characters.

Historical fiction has never been a favorite of mine, but this book was a beautiful, bit-

tersweet tale told through such vivid characters that it might as well have happened yesterday.

Even if you don't normally read this type of novel, I would definitely recommend it to anyone who wants to escape their comfort zone.

**Happy New Year  
to everyone at BEHS  
from the staff  
of the Eagle Times!**



# We Ask BE

Page 8

December 2021

## How do you *really* feel about cranberry sauce?

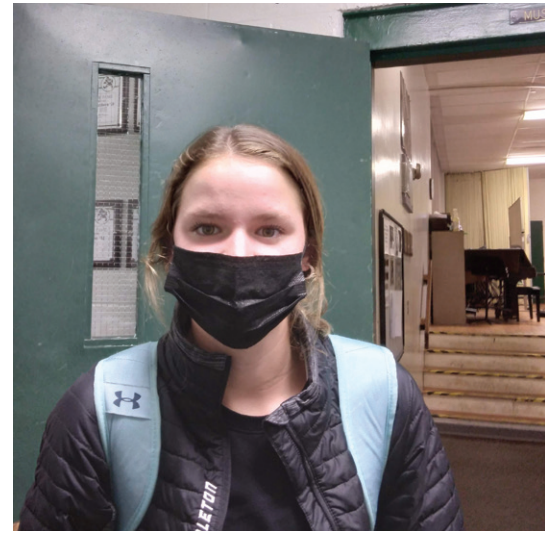
Photos and reporting by Abigail Cormier and Emily Bell



*"Absolutely vile and disgusting. Anyone who likes it is a dirty sinner."*  
Elise Ruona



*"It's all disgusting."*  
Ellie Donahue



*"I liked it when I was 5. I haven't had it since, but I enjoyed it then."*  
Emmaline Pendleton



*"Cranberry sauce is absolute dog poop!"*  
Nate Hamblin

### More responses

*"Canned. The other stuff is gross."*  
Mr. Fox

*"It tastes like baby food."*  
Julia Pendleton

*"Too bitter. Overrated"*  
Alana Berube

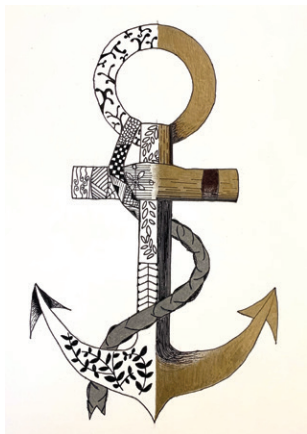
*"I stand for cranberry sauce!"*  
Nick Freeman

*"Cranberry sauce is good. If you think anything else, you need to see a doctor."*  
Sam Caldwell



*"Cranberry sauce? Cramberry juice is delicious."*  
Max Creedon

## Art class creates "Wrapped Objects" in all shapes and sizes



### From staff reports

Students in Ms. Heather Tauroney's first trimester art classes combined zendoodles — designs using structured patterns or "zentangles" — with realism to create works of art.

They used sharpies and prismacolor colored pencils to achieve this look and to create specific moods.

Clockwise from right, the students artists are: Audrey Ricker, Fiona McCleary, Zoe Schmaling, Stephen Lailer, Erin Bartram, and Timothy Zidle.

