

Happy Holidays from the Eagle Times

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Bonny Eagle High School

Standish, Maine 04084

Facing up to the cost of texting and driving

By Abigail Kovacs

According to researchers at Cohen Children's Medical Center in New York, teen texting and driving has now surpassed drinking as the primary cause of accidents among adolescents, with 3,000 annual deaths and over 300,000 injuries occurring nationwide, as of 2015.

While most students are aware of the dangers of distracted driving, it seems many still struggle to detach from screens behind the wheel; even Bonny Eagle students are not immune. Results from a class statistics survey indicate that the problem is more commonplace than one would believe.

Seniors Lauren Carey, Jocelyn Beau-lieu and Morgan Doughty developed a questionnaire which asked 150 random students (and teachers) about their driving habits. Of the 75 surveyed, 57.3 percent admitted to using their phones while driving.

"We assumed people would be hesitant to tell the truth, but they were really open about everything," said Jocelyn. "...They were weirdly proud of it for some reason, and we ended up with more yeses than no's."

"We were expecting a lot of people to respond differently," agreed Morgan. "We thought people would be ashamed

to admit they text and drive, but most of the kids were like, 'yeah, of course I do it'."

Unfortunately, the responses from Bonny Eagle students were on par with those seen nationwide. According to the American Automobile Association, 94 percent of teenage drivers acknowledged the dangers of texting and driving, yet 43 percent admitted to doing it anyway in a 2015 survey.

"I do text and drive at some times," said senior Sarah Champagne, "I think most people do. We see a text message from our parents and have to check to see what they need, or we text our friends telling them we are on our way. I try not to text and drive for no reason. If I feel that it can wait, I won't."

"I do think that texting and driving is pervasive among teens," explained Junior Tayler Johnson-Hartley. "Teens are just more susceptible to external influences."

"We think we're invincible, that it would never happen to us, but it could," said Sarah. "I think it's hard for us to imagine what could happen to someone who gets in an accident because of this."

Bonny Eagle teachers also have ideas about why the issue has become so omnipresent. According to Spanish teacher Mr. Stephen Fox, cell phones

Better to give than to receive



The BEHS girls basketball team collected toys for less-advantaged families at their game against Massabesic last week. The toys will be distributed to the Buxton Toy Box and other charities in the towns around BEHS. Left to right, the members of the team are: Mackenzie Emery, Mia Ferrante, Dee Sanborn, Emily Bartash, Lindsay Frazier, Sam Averill, Taylor Johnson, Makala Greene, Avianna Rath and Allexius Theberge. Missing from the photo was Emma Abbott.

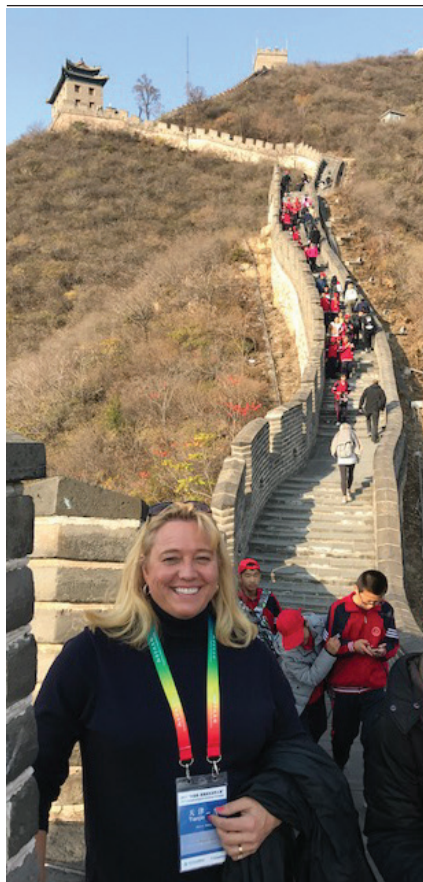
Photo by Mr. Eric Curtis

have become fixtures in everyday life, and it's hard to put them down—even in vehicles.

"My observation in the classroom and in the hallway, after school and before school, is that students are so connected to their telephones, that I have to believe they are engaging in the same behavior in the car."

He also notes that lack of experience plays a role in the frequency of risky behaviors: "Teenagers are more likely to make mistakes when they drive, just because they don't have experience. It doesn't mean they're bad drivers overall, it just means that at the critical moments, they may make the wrong

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BEHS Principal Lori Napolitano toured the Great Wall during her trip. Photos courtesy of Mrs. Napolitano

Crossing borders to expand minds

By Athen Hollis

After a 10-day trip to China, Bonny Eagle High School Principal Mrs. Lori Napolitano has learned that Chinese education is more similar to America's education than it is different, and she hopes other teachers can get this experience in future years.

Mrs. Napolitano traveled to China in November, along with Mr. Benjamin Harris,

the Bonny Eagle Middle School principal, and Mr. Douglas Parker, the Steep Falls Elementary School principal, as part of the Chinese Bridge Delegation, a group sponsored by the national College Board.

The three principals spent two days in Beijing and then moved on to the Tianjin Province for the rest of their adventure. The whole trip is part of a program called the American Principal Delegation, whose goal is to inspire American educational leaders to visit schools, to learn about China's educational sys-



Mrs. Napolitano takes a selfie with three students during her trip to learn more about Chinese schools.

tems, and build lasting connections.

Educators from all around the country attended the annual trip. Mrs. Napolitano is looking forward to sending other educators from Bonny Eagle to experience foreign education systems and to develop professionally.

While she was there, Mrs. Napolitano got to visit the Great Wall and many other tourist attractions. While in Beijing, her group also went to Hanban headquarters, a government organization whose mission is to spread culture around the world and put more Chinese

language programs into schools.

Mrs. Napolitano had the opportunity to sign partnership agreements with many Chinese schools which, Mrs. Napolitano explained, would connect Bonny Eagle to sister schools programs and teacher exchanges in the future.

According to Mrs. Napolitano, the trip was a learning experience and gave her ideas for how to improve Bonny Eagle. She wants to work on promoting more of the positive aspects of BEHS to the community and celebrating and building respect among students and community members for the work that teachers do.

The biggest takeaway for Mrs. Napolitano was that, "We really are on the same page about what kids need."

This is why the highlight of her trip was visiting the schools in the Tianjin Province.

It was there that Mrs. Napolitano had the opportunity to observe classes, meet with students, and tour the campuses. After this she could say that "their schools and education are more like ours than they are different."

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Watch out BE

New resource officer has disarming sense of humor

By Abigail Kovacs

There's a new sheriff roaming the halls of Bonny Eagle High School. Deputy Sheriff Richard Bradway can often be spotted parked by the front entrance, patrolling between class periods, and occasionally dancing to pop music at school assemblies.

With 21 years of law enforcement experience, he's no stranger to police work. He says he is enjoying his new job as the school resource officer—a position which presents unique benefits and challenges. "I like working with kids,"

Deputy Bradway said. "I have two boys who are freshmen, so I enjoy being around them more than I would be if I was out on the streets."

So far, he says his experience at Bonny Eagle has been welcoming, and he appreciates the chance to engage with the school community.

"I like sports. I love to watch the football team and see all the other activities that are going on; I really get to know the kids better."

Unsurprisingly, he says his favorite part of the job is the people.

"I enjoy interacting with the kids in the hall, just getting to know them... Sometimes they start off kind of standoffish, kind of quiet, but when you get to know them, they let their guard down and get a little more personal."

Deputy Bradway grew up in Sheldon, Connecticut. He has been a resident of Maine for over 20 years. When he's not working, he enjoys playing guitar and drums with Life Church in Gorham, spending time with his family, and weightlifting.

As his dancing antics at the

homecoming assembly reveal, Deputy Bradway also has a sense of humor. But as he himself notes, he is not afraid to lay down the law.

"I'm pretty laid back, I'm friendly and approachable, but I'm also reasonable," he says. "If I have to do my job, I will. If kids are breaking the rules, I have to enforce those rules."

At right, Ms. Erin Maguire and Deputy Bradway get ready to dance at the fall pep rally.

Photo by Mrs. Dawna Cyr



BEHS Mock Trial team has another successful season

By Athen Hollis

The season is over for the BEHS Mock Trial team, but the lessons students learned during their competitions in November will stay with them long after the class ends.

According to participants, Mock Trial is a great way to get a sneak peek into the legal system and develop skills used by lawyers and witnesses. It is a class open to sophomores, juniors and seniors during first trimester to prepare them to compete in the Maine Mock Trial Competition. Bonny Eagle competes against 18-22 other schools in southern Maine.

During the competition students argued an adapted court case. The competitions are held at the Cumberland County Courthouse to make it feel more real. The cases they argue vary year to year, but they are either a civil or criminal case. This season, they worked with a case involving the charge of manslaughter.

To prepare, the class is split into de-



Members of the mock trial team pose for a photo. Back row, left to right: Connor Baldwin, Nicholas Sanborn, Elias Eberhart, Trey Marsh, Ethan Hamilton, David Byrne, and Patrick Stanley. Front row, left to right: Skylar Desrochers, Mia White, Ian Reilly, Sadie Berthiaume, and Tia Lavigne. Missing from the photo: Ethan Cruz and Wyatt Girioux.

fense and prosecution teams, and they work on developing closing arguments, direct lines of questioning, cross examination strategies, and questions as well as opening statements.

Mrs. Breanna Bellafontaine-Krupski (better known as Mrs. B-K), has been

teaching the class for three years with Spanish teacher, Mr. Stephen Fox.

"I think Mr. Fox and I can agree that we love how invested the kids get in the case," said Mrs. B-K. "They do all the legwork! They come up with the lines of questioning, the themes... they do it all."

We simply help them dig a little deeper and stay organized. It's particularly wonderful to witness how hard they can work in a team."

The competitions are two rounds of the full case. In round one, the defense team competes. In round two, the prosecution team goes. The teams each have lawyers and witnesses who are well prepared. Last year the Mock Trial team came in fifth, and this year they weren't too far behind, according to Mrs. B-K.

"The top four school teams the past 3-4 years have been Kennebunk, Cape Elizabeth, Berwick and Lewiston. We are coming for them!" Mrs. B-K said.

She adds that Mock Trial helps students advance their skills in public speaking, teamwork, fact finding, synthesizing information, argument formation and "thinking on your feet."

"I really would encourage any 10 to 12th grader to sign up for the class if they're looking for a great, fun, challenge," says Mrs. B-K. "I love teaching it!"

Weathering the storm by putting safety first

Editor's Note: The BEHS journalism class sat down with Supt. Paul Penna for an interview after the big Halloween wind storm that closed school for four days and left many residents in the district without power for more than a week. These were some of his reflections.

By Madison Chayer

MSAD 6 Superintendent Paul Penna says he faced the biggest challenge of his time as superintendent during the wind storm on Oct. 29. The district ended up losing four days of school that week (one day of which will be made up on Dec. 22). But Mr. Penna, who has been superintendent for a little over a year, says he was happy about the way the community came together during the crisis.

"People were pretty positive and accepting of it," he said.

When deciding whether to call off school, Mr. Penna says he had to look at the safety issues and much more. The winds knocked down so many trees that roads were impassable for days and many of the district's schools lost power.

Even after the storm passed, Mr. Penna says, "It still wasn't safe for the bus drivers to be driving because of all the

trees and power lines that were down. That means all the bus routes and bus stops would've been changed because of the trees and power lines. It was, of course the best choice for everyone living in MSAD 6."

The district returned to school Friday, but with a two-hour delay instead of a full day of school. It was all about safety for Mr. Penna.

There were still some concerns having to do with the bus routes. On Thursday, the day before school resumed, transportation got all the bus drivers to drive their routes to see if any issues remained. The bus drivers reported back and helped determine if the roads were safe to be driving on.

The late start on that Friday also gave bus drivers a maximum amount of light.

There were complaints about taking days of school off, but that didn't bother Mr. Penna. He did take into consideration that there might be kids left home alone because of the parents with jobs, but he just had to hope that the kids had the supervision they needed.

He says he can't just open school for child care. He thinks that parents have to be responsible enough to either take off work to be with their kids or bring them to a friend or family member's house.



Mr. Paul Penna led the team that responded to the Halloween storm.

MSAD6 photo

The storm interrupted sports and other school activities. Usually, sports teams and other activities are not allowed if school is called off. But, but since the drama club and the football team had big events coming up, they were given the go-ahead to practice at the school.

Mr. Penna said he decided that if the students were safe enough to get a ride from their house to the school, then they should be allowed to practice. The

drama club had a big play coming up Friday night and the football team had a playoff game on Saturday. Mr. Penna said he felt it was fair to give them that time to prepare.

Everything in the district was back to normal Friday, except for one school. The George E. Jack Elementary school's roof was ripped off by the wind. Repairs and water damage had to be addressed. Mr. Penna compared the way the roof was lifted off by the wind to the tornado scene that begins *The Wizard of Oz*.

After everyone got back to school, the children from George E. Jack School were moved to the middle school until the roof was repaired and classrooms were returned to normal. Carpets were dried and rooms were renovated due to water damage. The roof was given layers so that the wind could not do that kind of damage again. The students were allowed to go back into their school a week later.

"They are happy to be home," Mr. Penna stated.

Although there were some complaints about the decisions that were made that week, Mr. Penna believes he did his best to make it a safe environment for everyone. If he had to relive that week, he wouldn't do anything differently.

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The purpose of the *Eagle Times* is to:

a.) Present the news, as it pertains to the student body, in a non-biased and tasteful fashion,
b.) Provide a forum, wherein ideas and options, concepts and concerns may be freely and openly discussed,

c.) Provide the student body, faculty, and administration with a circulated medium in which letters, notices of recognition, and other submissions may be published.

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Happy to have our first-world “problems”

By Elizabeth St. Arnaud

Our little tiffs with inanimate objects has led to the rise of first world problems. We go through our lives not willing to admit that sometimes, first world problems get the best of us. Whether it is dropping your phone on your face, or getting your belt loop impossibly stuck on the cabinet handle, are you among those fooled by the evil of simplicity?

My personal favorite: trying to grab your blankets. After a long day your bed is usually the number one destination. You get into your blankets that are fresh out of the dryer, and snuggle up with your favorite movie or book.

Your shoulders are a little chilly, so you go to pull the blankets up and suddenly you find you’ve punched yourself in the face. The blankets somehow got tucked under your legs at just the right angle, or in my case a fat cat has claimed the foot of the bed.

For the introverts out their silently cursing the world, your first world problems are heard too.

For instance, you get hungry, but you are currently hiding in your room from the company your parents have welcomed over, and walking into the kitchen would mean you would have to introduce yourself.

This leads to the next problem that usually picks the worst time to appear: making yourself sound more enthusias-



publicdomainpictures.net photo

tic than you actually are.

Grandma: “Hey do you want to come over? I can show you how to cross stitch!”

You : “OK”

Users of technology may experience minor annoyances as well, such as when your thumb print refuses to work on your phone, so you manually have to type in your passcode. Or when you’re in need of a quick Google search for a project, and you end up forgetting to delete the word “search...” in the search bar.

Most people have a fandom they totally geek out about. So every weekday when your show comes on, you like to get your things in order, especially the snacks. But you sadly realize chips were not the best choice. Now you have to wait for the loud action scenes to chomp on your chips, or else you won’t be able to hear over the sound of your chewing.

Along with the theme of TV shows,

the most heartbreaking moment is when you find out that your crush has a significant other, and then you kind of start to hate them and wish for their character’s death to come...but then feel guilty for even thinking it.

During your high school day you may experience some hard things in gym, but nothing compares to having to go from the third floor all across the school to the second floor. Lazy as that may seem, don’t worry. Short charging cords get us up and moving, just at the wrong time... when you are supposed to be relaxing or possibly recovering from the punch in the face caused by blankets.

The thing to remember is no matter how terrible these things may seem, there are places out there that have real problems.

So, next time the size of your cookie affects your ability to dunk it in milk, be thankful you have the cookie in the first place.

Texting continued from page one

choice.”

“I feel it is a pervasive issue,” said English teacher Mr. Brooks Clark. “They’re so attached to their phones; it’s virtually every waking hour they’re on them...it doesn’t matter if they’re in a car, or in school, or at home.”

Some teenagers, however, believe texting and driving is stereotyped as an adolescent issue.

“I think it is just as much an issue among adults,” noted senior Zach Klein, “I think it is perceived as a teen issue because according to everyone over the age of 40, ‘this generation lives on their iPhones’.”

Senior Abby Logan agreed. “I feel that it has been portrayed as an adolescent issue because it is associated with how obsessed teens are with their phones.”

“My parents both text and drive from time to time,” added Tayler. “Yet young adults are usually the ones who get

pegged for it the most.”

“I think it definitely has a lot to do with how adults think we’re addicted to our phones and we’re irresponsible,” said Sarah. “When a teenager gets into a car accident, the initial thought is always that they were texting or doing something wrong, when it is completely plausible that they were not distracted at all.”

Students may not be entirely wrong about this perception. Many of the campaigns to stop texting and driving have been aimed at teens, but a 2013 study from AT&T shows adults are actually more likely to be driving distracted. Of the adults surveyed, 49 percent said they text and drive—as compared to only 43 percent of teenagers. The trend also appears to be on the rise, as six out of 10 drivers said they never texted behind the wheel just three years ago.

One popularly cited alternative to normal texting, especially among adults, is

the use of voice-activated messaging.

“Most of the teachers in our survey said they didn’t [text and drive], but used voice-activated texting,” said Jocelyn.

“I don’t text and drive,” said Mr. Clark. “I have a hands-free phone... I think using hands-free devices are much safer.”

While it may seem like a less risky alternative, studies show that speaking to a cell phone is just as distracting as texting. Overall, it seems it will take a massive cultural shift to help those who text while driving understand the consequences.

“I think our society needs to...recognize that it’s not their lives that are being risked when they take their eyes off the road,” explained Abby. “I think it is necessary to show examples of such consequences as real world examples to dissuade teens from making a mistake they cannot reverse.”

It’s Just Life

By Dillon and Logan Hiltz



Exchange students reflect on their experience

On being an exchange student

Editor's Note: We asked Eagle Times staffer Clara Boxus, who is also an exchange student from Belgium, to share her thoughts with our readers.



By Clara Boxus

It was Friday, Aug. 28 and I had spent three days in New York City with some exchange students, mostly from Europe. While I was supposed to speak English,, I stayed there with the French speakers from Belgium and, primarily spoke French.

I arrived at the airport at 4:15 a.m. with an exchange student from Spain. Our English was really bad, and we could not understand each other. So when the air personnel told us that we had missed our flight, it took us a while to understand that our plane had left without us.

English was everywhere but definitely not with me. The woman who helped us was the nicest person—she put us on the next flight, didn't ask us anything, and called our host family to let them know what was going on. Problem solved, you would say, except that my host family didn't answer, and our suitcases were still flying with our first flight.

So here we were in our flight toward Portland. At the airport, my host mother was there waiting for me with my suit-

case. Fortunately, our flight was only one hour later than the one that we were supposed to take. And you know what? The fact that I was one hour later was a good thing. My host mother was coming back from Canada and had forgotten to change her watch—the timezone being different—and so was one hour late.

When I finally arrived here and saw the sign with "Welcome to Maine" on it, my first thought was, "Why am I here?" My English is so poor that nobody is going to understand me, I'm going to live in the countryside, I don't have any host siblings, and I live with an old woman who lives alone. And on top of it all, I had just missed my flight!

In my head it was a sign, a sign that I should have stayed in Belgium to go to college like everybody does and not begin this nonsense adventure.

When I decided to do this program, I was already in the middle of my senior year. I had no idea what I was going to do (I must tell you that I'm the worst person when it comes to making a decision) and all of my friends were already decided—they had made the obvious choice. So I finally decided to take a year to learn languages: half a year here in the U.S and half a year in the Netherlands. Indeed, languages are really important in Belgium.

The first day of school I was lost—completely lost. School was very different from what I was used to. I wasn't familiar with all these classes, clubs, activities, and possibilities. Even now I wish I could say that I understand the schedule processes, but I cannot.

The hardest thing for me was having no friends. I grew up with a lot of

Clara continued on page 7

says the teachers and students at Bonny Eagle have all been very kind and welcoming. Kristina compared American high school to her education in Slovakia, explaining that in her home country, students have to choose what type of school to attend— from a high school for science to a high school dedicated primarily to the arts.

Kristina enjoys having a variety of classes to choose from and finds BEHS less of a challenge than her high school back home.

"This school is a lot easier," she notes. "There are a lot more tests at the schools in Slovakia."

This year abroad does not count towards her classes in Slovakia, so she plans on completing her schooling next year. While uncertain about her future, Kristina says she will use her time away as a chance to find what interests her.

"I don't know what I want to do, I guess that's why I'm here—to figure out what I want to do in the future".

Back home Kristina is dedicated to ballet, and even teaches children to dance. While she will not be dancing during her stay in Maine, she plans to try out for the tennis team in the spring and focus on her art.

Lea Pillsbury

Photos by staff writers

Enjoying the chance to choose his own courses



Elia Frongia originally hails from Tuscany, Italy, not far from the iconic Leaning Tower of Pisa. Now, a year later, he is a senior at Bonny Eagle High School in America—where he's always wanted to visit.

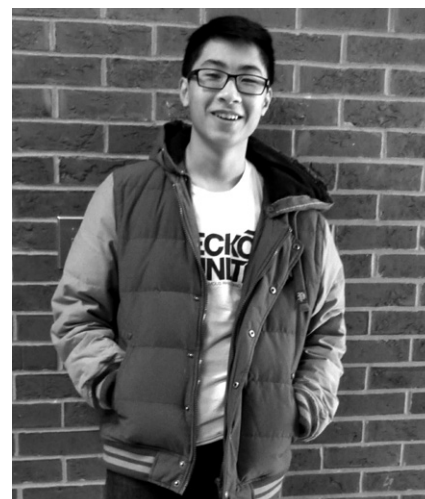
One of Elia's favorite parts about Bonny Eagle is its curricular freedom.

"You can choose your classes here," he says. "You're not required to do something you don't want to do."

Elia is taking advantage of the opportunity to select his own courses by exploring a wide variety of subjects. This trimester, he is taking a guitar and a songwriting class, along with AP Studio Art. He's also joined the drama club.

Elia will be here for 10 months. He says he does miss his family and friends back in Italy, but "I don't feel the need to go back before the end of the year," he says. "I like the change here." *Channing Webber*

From Da Nang to Standish



Several months ago, sophomore **Duy Le** was studying 13 subjects in his school back home; now he attends Bonny Eagle High School as a foreign exchange student.

Duy came here from Vietnam in a city called Da Nang. He arrived in the U.S for the first time at the beginning of the school year and will stay until June.

Lover of many languages

Alexandra "Alex" Rutkowski came to America from Itzehoe, Germany to follow her love of learning new languages and cultures.

She says that Germany is very different from America. Gas is a lot more expensive there, and unlike the population of Standish, not many people have trucks.

"If you have a truck, you're rich," she says.

Alexandra and her brother were adopted from Poland when she was about six. She's been to many countries, including England, Italy, Spain, France, Portugal, Turkey, and Poland. She also speaks four different languages.

In her school in Germany, the students can't pick their own classes. They are required to take at least five years of

English, and have to study a third language of their choice. They can't make up tests.

Outside of school, Alex like to run long distances and enjoys tennis. After this year, she has two more years of high school in Germany before college.

It's been quite the climate shock, especially with the arrival of the snow. "It's cold as hell," he exclaimed about Maine's frigid winter weather.

The 16-year old exchange student is involved with the swim team, an activity he describes as "the hardest sport," but one he says he is enjoying nonetheless. Duy also takes interest in art classes— his favorite subject at Bonny Eagle.

His school back home was not as competitive in athletics as BEHS. He also notes a difference in academic rigor, commenting, "Everything here is easy. In Vietnam, we study 13 subjects." He explains that the math classes are much harder and that his school offers various sciences like Biology and Chemistry. Tests are only taken once, there is no chance to fix them. "If you fail, you have to redo the whole year," he said.

In the future, Duy plans on finishing college here in the United States. While he doesn't think he will be coming back to Maine, he wants to attend a university somewhere in California.

"I would love to be a movie director," he said. *Brenna Finn*



English, and have to study a third language of their choice. They can't make up tests.

Outside of school, Alex like to run long distances and enjoys tennis. After this year, she has two more years of high school in Germany before college.

Sarah Desrochers

Happy to find a good fit



Kristina Svakova, a senior at Bonny Eagle, is originally from the city of Bratislava, Slovakia. She began her year abroad with a host family in Northaven, a small island outside of Rockland. Consumed in a lifestyle of fishing and a high school with only 15 students, Kristina did not feel as though she fit in—going so far to say, "I just hated it there."

Now she is staying with the Whitneys, and is enjoying life at BEHS. Despite only being here a week, she



The 50 students and six chaperones who traveled to New York City for two Broadway shows and some early Christmas shopping, assemble for a photo outside the theater. In the front row with BEHS drama director Mr. Rick Osann (left) are members of the cast of Chicago.

Photo by Mrs. Peg Maxwell

New York City trip full of shows and shopping

By Madison Chayer

At 5 a.m. on Nov. 18, 50 Bonny Eagle students and six advisors traveled to New York City to see two Broadway shows: *Chicago*, the longest running Broadway show ever, and *The Migration: Reflections on Jacob Lawrence*, a show at the New Victory Theater that ran through Nov. 26.

Students were allowed to go shopping and eat before the shows. They toured shops in Times Square, including the Disney Store, Forever 21, M&M World.

After shopping, everyone proceeded straight to the theater to see *Chicago*, a musical about the murders of husbands and boyfriends who mistreat their partners.

***"I didn't expect there to be a lot to 'The Migration,' but I was pleasantly surprised at how great it was."* Alison Jones**

"It was fun and I really loved the show," said freshman Kiana Hubbard.

The Migration was a very different experience. Through dancing and drumming, the show explores the experience of those who participated in the Great Migration—the flow of Black Americans from the South to cities in the North throughout the 20th century. It is based on the paintings of Jacob Lawrence, whose parents were part of the Great Migration.

The show surprised lots of the students and the chaperones, who included faculty members Mr. Rick Osann, Mrs. Peg Maxwell, and our Chinese language teacher, Mrs. Ji Wenhua.

"I didn't expect there to be a lot to *The Migration*, but I was pleasantly surprised at how great it was," said freshman Alison Jones, adding that it was truly an amazing story and the songs really added to it.

After the two shows, students and supervisors had their last opportunity to shop in a tourist-type store called I Love New York by Phantom of Broadway. The students who took this opportunity to shop, were very thankful for the time.

After last-minute shopping, everyone walked to the bus and boarded for the long trip back to Maine.

The ride home was quieter than the one on the way to New York City. Some students played cards games and talked with their friends, while most slept.

Many of the 50 students agreed the trip was definitely worth waking up at 3 a.m. for.

Overall, this was an amazing experience and both shows "were a masterpiece," freshman Sabrina Cable said.

They can't wait to do it again next year!

Logical brains unite to form Bonny Eagle's first chess team

By Elizabeth St. Arnaud

A logical brain is a thing rarely found, yet among us they do hide. Do you own one of them?

If so, you might be interested in BE's first-ever chess team, which kicked off its season on Dec. 14 against Cheverus. The team will be working towards making the Maine State Scholastic Teams Chess Tournament in Orono next March.

First players had to prove their place. Ten players showed up for the tryouts on Thursday Nov. 16, in the high school multi-purpose room, where people met their matches, losses, and challenges.

The coach, Mr. Osin O'Searcoid, an eighth grade math teacher from Bonny Eagle Middle School, said that the tryouts were pretty challenging, both for the students and for him.

"We played simultaneous games so I could assess players' abilities in various situations," he said. "It was very challenging to create situations in games to see if players could exploit them, and I was very happy that several of those situations were noticed by the players. We had one situation where I set up a checkmate opportunity for a player on a crowded board which he missed. But he took advantage of other opportunities."

A championship team consists of five players. But in the end, Mr. O'Searcoid kept all 10 players who tried out.

The high school players practice Thursdays in Mr. Dan Murphy's Room 207 after school, where they welcome casual players to attend as well. On Wednesdays the BEHS team practices with the middle school team, where both teams work to perfect their skills.

"Chess isn't really a game that's age-dependent," explained Coach O'Searcoid. "World Champion Magnus Carlsen became a grandmaster at 13 years old, so it's a healthy thing in chess to mix age levels, and it is helping our program to do that."



Above, members of Bonny Eagle's chess team wait for Cheverus to arrive for their first match. Back row, left to right are Mr. Dan Murphy, an advisor to the group, ????, and ????. Front row, left to right, ????, Coach Searcoid, and ????. In photo above, right, ????, shakes hands with his opponent before the match against Cheverus.

Photos by Abigail Kovacs

coach said.

After that, Westbrook and Cape Elizabeth are future matches just waiting to be won. The season will conclude with the formally mentioned Maine State Scholastic Teams Chess Tournament, to be held in Orono in March.

The dates are set, players have their thinking caps on, and the coach is in good spirits. Ready or not, here they come!

At 35, Super Mario is still going strong

By Logan Hiltz

Platform games have come and gone over the years, usually running out of steam and crashing into either a sequel halt or a series of spinoffs. But one platform series continues to thrive and earn new fans every passing year. With the recent release of *Super Mario Odyssey* and Mario Bros' 35th anniversary coming in June of next year, it's a great time to talk about the history of the king of platform gaming: Super Mario.

The first game that I ever had a strong passion for was *Super Mario 64*. The controls were snappy and undeniably fun, the game was simple, and the levels had tons of replay value. The feeling of saving Princess Peach from the grasp of Bowser was the best feeling any kindergartener could ever dream of.

The vastness of all of the levels and the challenge of collecting up to 120 stars in the game was almost too much to handle for a wee child like me. The more years passed by, the more Mario games I played, with my ever-growing addiction taking over my gaming preference. To this day, I still feel the same enjoyment while playing Mario games, which can only be described as "Nintendo's Magic."

The Mario franchise dates back into the early 1980s. The first game the famous goomba-stomping plumber appeared in was *Donkey Kong*, released in 1981 and supervised by Shigeru Miyamoto. Even though this was the same Mario character that appeared in later games, he was referred to as "Jumpman." His role in the game was to reach the damsel in distress, also known as Pauline, in order to save her from the barrel-throwing ape named Donkey Kong. This has been a



Nintendo collage by Logan Hiltz

recurring theme throughout most of Mario's main games, with some variations in the plot or setting.

The first game that centered mainly around Mario was *Mario Bros.*, released on June 1, 1983. The goal of this game was to defeat enemies coming out of sewage pipes to progress to the next level. This game also introduced Mario's brother, Luigi.

Arguably the most famous game in the entire Mario franchise, released two years after *Mario Bros.*, is *Super Mario Bros.* In this version, Mario runs through each side-scrolling level in order to save Princess Peach from Bowser, the king of the koopas. This game was massively successful and was the starting point for many later sequels that created the Mario Bros. franchise.

Skipping over later 2-D sequels, which didn't have as much of an impact on 2-D gaming, *Super Mario 64* was released on the Nintendo 64 home console on June 23, 1996. This game was one of the first true 3-D platformer games ever invented and was a large contributor to the success of the Nintendo 64.

This game also received critical acclaim for being one of the most revolutionary video games of all time and sparked a new line of 3-D platforming sequels, including *Super Mario Sunshine*, *Super Mario Galaxy 1 and 2*, *New Super Mario Bros. Wii 2, U*, *Super Mario 3-D World* and, most currently, *Super Mario Odyssey*.

The goal of *Super Mario 64* brought back the damsel in distress theme, with Princess Peach being trapped in her cas-

tle by, once again, the evil Bowser. Bowser has stolen all of the castle's stars, and the object of the game is to explore levels, defeat Bowser on multiple occasions, and collect stars to continue through the castle until the final and climactic battle with Bowser.

The direct sequel to *Super Mario Bros. 64*, which was *Super Mario Sunshine* on the Nintendo Gamecube, was the first and only main Mario platformer that contained voice-acted lines for the characters (they are quite laughable and definitely worth a listen).

The game received extremely positive reviews nonetheless, but it didn't reach the acclaim of its predecessor. The *Super Mario Galaxy* games are some of the most well known games for the Wii console and provide a huge twist on the Mario theme by setting the game in space. Each *Super Mario Galaxy* is a gem for the console, with *Super Mario Galaxy 2* having the #1

spot on WatchMojo's top 10 Wii games list.

Through the years of Nintendo's game releases, Mario has become the face of Nintendo, and for quite obvious reasons. Every main Mario game released in the franchise has received positive reviews, and often, critical acclaim. The games that have received the highest ratings are *Super Mario Galaxy*, *1 & 2*, and *Super Mario Odyssey*. The latter has also introduced many new mechanics into the franchise, arguably more than any other Mario game.

I can personally guarantee that if you're a fan of 3-D platform gaming, every Mario entry in the franchise is a must-have for your home Nintendo console.

Coco is a visual and emotional hit

By Dillon Hiltz

Coco is the newest addition to the Pixar franchise, released in theaters on Nov. 22. With the exception of a few (I'm looking at you *Cars 2*), Pixar has never ceased to disappoint its audience. From its start with *Toy Story*, to *Finding Nemo*, to *WALL-E*, Pixar movies have always been visual, and emotional masterpieces. Is there an exception with *Coco*? Absolutely not.

At first I was stunned by the early audience and critics' reviews. I was puzzled how an animated movie could get that many positive reviews. A 96 percent positive review rating on Rotten Tomatoes, and 8.9/10 on IMDb? That's crazy! Considering its poor performance at the box office, and considering how much more money other Pixar movies have made, I thought there was something fishy about this and decided to go see it for myself.

To put it simply, *Coco* is about a young Hispanic boy named Miguel and

his love for music. However, the old family ban on music keeps him from achieving his dream of becoming a successful musician. On the Day of the Dead, Miguel must embark on a journey to the Land of the Dead to discover the meaning of the generations-old music ban his family holds.

Now, should you watch it? This was the big question, considering the somewhat boring plot and simple idea. I decided to keep an open mind as I walked into the theater, and I was not disappointed.

Coco was, like a standard Pixar movie, emotionally and visually outstanding. The lights and colors, mixed with the animation in the Land of the Dead, were completely breathtaking. The story was much more sophisticated than I expected, and the characters had such depth and heartfelt performances that you felt like you were watching an Oscar-winning live-action movie.

Another great aspect of the movie

was the music. The film had superb original songs to fit the Mexican setting, like "Remember Me" and "Un Poco Loco," and were gladly not overused. This movie is, after all, about Miguel and his love for music.

Coco had few negative aspects. The only thing I had a bit of a problem with was the predictability of the story. As it was playing out, the story provided details that became major over time. If someone really paid attention to these small details, they may be able to piece together the story early and predict some of it, as I did.

Overall, *Coco* failed to disappoint me, and audiences seem to be like it too. According to Cinemascore, the film earned an A+ from its audience, which is quite rare.

So should you go see *Coco*? My answer is, yes, definitely go. If you don't want to see it in theaters, it's definitely worth renting or adding to your Disney DVD collection.



Disney studio photo



Nate Carlow, left, and Zeke Sturgeon are the students on the MSAD 6 school board
Photo by Zoe Peters

Voicing student concerns on all things Bonny Eagle

By Zoe Peters

The MSAD 6 School Board holds public meetings every other Monday at 6 p.m. in an effort to make our district the best it can be. To ensure that all voices in the community are heard, the Board regularly invites a student to sit as a representative.

This year, however, the voters of the district actually elected a second student to be a full-fledged member of the school's governing board. Senior Na-

than Carlow is the community-elected member of the board, and sophomore Zeke Sturgeon is the student representative.

Both students attend every meeting and vote on topics and issues such as student attendance, Proficiency-Based education, bullying, and student achievement, which are highlighted in the Board Goals 2016-2017 section of the district website. The meetings regularly consist of reports from the superintendent, the board

chairman, the policy committee, and the financial affairs committee.

"The main responsibility is to make sure students are receiving a prime education," explains Nathan, who was also elected student-governor during the Maine Youth in Government conference last spring. Nathan has been an active member of district committees since his freshman year in 2014, because "politics is a passion," and he wanted to take the opportunity to make a "big statement as a young person in politics."

Zeke explained that his job as student representative is to collect reports from the secretary at each school in the district, as well as to create his own report on the current happenings here at BEHS.

All in all, Zeke and Nathan say they take great care to make sure our voices as students are heard.

"Sometimes I argue the general opinion of students, not my own personal opinion," Zeke says. "[The meetings] may be boring, they may be hard to stay awake, but I go for the meetings when something that will actually affect our student body comes up."

Clara continued from page four

friends and a lot of siblings around me. So when I arrived here with no host siblings to introduce me or any way to meet people of my age, I'm not going to lie, it was really hard.

But quickly everything began to change. I figured out that the woman with whom I lived (a retired teacher named Carla Turner) was incredibly energetic and had things to do all the time. After only a few weeks, we were lucky enough to be joined by Miss Ji, the Chinese language teacher at BEHS, and our house became a completely international home.

Thanks to Mr. Fox and Mr. Mathieu, I began to meet people. I joined the golf team. My English was still really bad at this point, so I had a hard time. However, the simple fact that I had something to do after school with people of my age changed a lot.

I also met people from the Drama Club, the Key Club, the Civil Rights team, the Track team, and the school newspaper. I want to apologize to some of these clubs because in my little craziness, I wanted "to try" everything, and so I haven't been able to participate fully.

Another thing I had to deal

with was being 18. In Belgium, being 18 basically means that you are an adult and you can do "whatever you want." Moreover, by growing up in a city, I have had the bus, metro, subway, and train, but here there is no common transport except my school bus. Here I had to ask to have a ride for every single place I wanted to go.

Still, I'm grateful for everything that you did for me, Bonny Eagle. Here my emotions were like a rollercoaster and the mere fact that someone would smile at me, say hello, or invite me for lunch changed my entire day. The opportunity that I had to be here taught me so much about myself (it also let me also master nodding and smiling, when I had no clue what people were talking about).

We should all be able to see how it is somewhere else. Come see me in Belgium—it would be a pleasure for me to welcome you!

I will miss you, my amazing friends, my lovely teachers, my beautiful Maine countryside, and my stress-free life.

I want to say thank you—thank you, Bonny Eagle, for welcoming us. I will miss my unforgettable adventure. Thank you for being part of it.

Absolutely everything you need to know about *Stranger Things*

By Athen Hollis and Brenna Finn

Warning: Spoilers Ahead! The Netflix original series *Stranger Things* aired its much-anticipated second season on Oct. 27. There are nine highly addictive episodes in this new installment.

Some of you may have already binge-watched the first season...and then went back to watch it again. But if you didn't, here's a recap.

Set in the 1980s in a small town called Hawkins, Indiana, a boy named Will goes missing. His three friends, mother, and a mysterious girl named Eleven, who has supernatural abilities, go on a journey to find him. Along the way they discover an alternate universe called "The Upside Down," a dangerous monster called a demogorgon, and the sinister plans of the Hawkins Lab. To defeat the demogorgon in the last episode, Eleven sacrifices herself... or so we are led to believe.

The second season takes place a year later, still in the small town of Hawkins. The characters are struggling with what they encountered last season. Will is experiencing what he calls "now memories" and is overtaken by a new villain called the Mind Flayer. Meanwhile, Mike is left heartbroken after Eleven's disappearance. Lucas and Dustin are chasing after the new girl, Max, who moved from California to Indi-

ana with her brother Billy. Her brother was brought into the show to be the show's first human antagonist.

Fans were ecstatic to see Eleven back in season two. Eleven finds herself in the Upside Down after defeating the demogorgon and escapes back to the real world through a tunnel. She spends most of the season going on her journey to discover that she has a mother and a sister, Kali, who is also from the laboratory and has similar powers.

Matt and Ross Duffer, also known as the Duffer Brothers, are the creators of *Stranger Things*. They pulled inspiration from 80s classics like *ET*, *Stand By Me*, and *The Goonies*.

Winona Ryder portrays the character Joyce Byers, the mother of Will Byers. She was popular in the 80s for her roles in *Beetlejuice*, *Heathers*, and *Edward Scissorhands*.

The Duffer Brothers cast many 80s stars such as Ryder and Sean Astin to bring a feeling of nostalgia to the show. The main characters are played by Finn Wolfhard (Mike Wheeler), Millie Bobby Brown (Eleven), Gaten Matarazzo (Dustin Henderson), Caleb McLaughlin (Lucas Sinclair), and Noah Schnapp (Will Byers).

Their roles on *Stranger Things* are what made their careers. (Millie Bobby Brown now has a modeling contract with IMG Models and Finn Wolfhard has a role as Richie Tozier in the hit



Netflix photo

horror film *It*.)

The Duffer Brothers weren't going to make another season, but after the success of season one they started to create season two. Many fans were worried that season two would be a letdown compared to season one, but it is anything but. The plot has more action, twists, and character development.

This season shows a whole new side of each character and allows you to get to know them better. Overall, reviews for *Stranger Things*, season 2, have been positive. Rotten Tomatoes gave the show a rare 94 percent positive rating.

Rob Sheffield from *Rolling Stone Magazine* sums up the appeal of the show.

"Everybody in this story has seen people die or disappear for no good reason, and no matter how bravely they search for answers, sometimes the answers don't come. That's the real power of 'Stranger Things'

— once you come into contact with the monsters, even if you escape from the Upside Down, you might not be able to come all the way back home."

The seasons may seem very different but what they do have in common is that they leave fans on a cliffhanger, wanting more.

Netflix officially renewed *Stranger Things* for a third season on Dec. 1. It is not expected to air until late 2018 or even early 2019.

That hasn't stopped fans from coming up with theories about what will happen next. One popularly cited prediction

is that 'Papa' or Dr. Brenner, who was one of the bad men working for Hawkins Lab, is still alive. He was last seen in season one being attacked by a demogorgon. But since Kali used her powers to make Eleven see Dr. Brenner again, fans have theorized that maybe he didn't die after all.

It is also speculated that there might be more children out there with powers. It is shown that Eleven has a tattoo with the number 011 on it, hence her name. Kali has 008 on her wrist as well. Many believe there could even be hundreds of children out there with supernatural abilities.

The last theory posits that Eleven might end up like Will, and be overtaken by the Mind Flayer. It is assumed that the Mind Flayer must know about Eleven and her powers by now, so it might try to use her like it did Will.

In any case, there's plenty of time to catch up on the episodes and make your own predictions.

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We Ask BE

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December 2017

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE HOLIDAY TRADITION ?

Photos and reporting by Tabitha Burgess, Anna Keenan, and Brenna Finn



"Multiple different Christmas parties and eating cookies"
Jessica Johnson

"On Christmas Eve I go to my Aunt's house where we have a big dinner and open gifts."
Autumn Head



"Hanging out with my family at a huge Christmas party"
Keisha Spencer



"I enjoy eating." Ms. Isabella Echavez



"Driving around and looking at all the Christmas lights"
Mrs. Rosalind Deptula



"I like to drink milk."
Clayton Urquhart

"Cutting down a Christmas tree."
Aubrey Denico



"Having dinner with my family and singing Christmas songs."
Jacob Varney