

# The Tornado Connection

**District Hires Hopp  
As Curriculum Director**  
By Katherine Hortert

This past fall, Butler Area School District added a new position for a curriculum director. Ms. Julie Hopp was selected to fill that position, and she has big plans for the curriculum in grades K-12.

Ms. Hopp's job is to look at the grade material and make decisions on what is taught and how. "I also need to have a dialogue with teachers to find out what they need and take that into consideration too," she said. Ms. Hopp talks with the department chairs and book companies to find the material for the curriculum. The companies consist of textbook companies and regular book companies. Plus, she researches and talk with organizations who work with science tools and kits to get new materials. According to Ms. Hopp, "Each grade level in each department chooses the way they teach and what they plan on teaching through collaboration and research."

Prior to accepting the position as Butler's curriculum director, Ms. Hopp taught second, fourth, and sixth grade. She then went on to serve as an assistant principal and principal. Admittedly, she knew her new position would be challenging. "I love solving puzzles," she commented.

Every day is different for Ms. Hopp, but usually, she tries to make some classroom visits. Overall, her day's activities could range from talking with Summit Elementary teachers in the morning to reviewing report cards in the afternoon. Along with her daily business, she is also working on professional development projects and kindergarten screenings, attempting to get to know the kindergarten students. She insists on making the kindergarten students feel welcome and ready to learn.

One of the first departments she has been spending time with is the English Language Arts department (ELA).

Regarding the new ELA curriculum materials, she commented, "The materials allows students to grapple with learning; it won't always be easy. We want them to be prepared to grapple with challenges in adulthood." The prior materials weren't rigorous or challenging enough to test students. "But it isn't always about being challenged as much as being engaged. New technology keeps the students paired with the learning," she added.

Changes are coming soon in science classes as well. Currently, the state standards for science are more challenging than the current curriculum. It makes her think, "What should students be learning?" Ms. Hopp is trying to have consistent materials for kindergarten through eighth grade. She claims students need to have "similar materials." So, when students move through the grades, they are going at a current and steady pace. "It needs to be entertaining for the students, so they will pay attention and try to learn," she said.

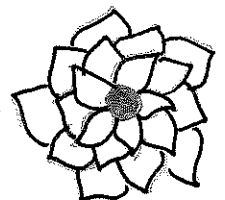
Every seven years, Butler Area School District used to look at the curriculum materials and buy new ones as necessary. Now, materials will be evaluated every year and evolved as needed.

Ten years from now, she wants to make sure the district has the best staff and curriculum materials available. She plans on using them to engage students as much as possible. Some schools would say that every student deserves their own technology, but that isn't her viewpoint. "Technology is always changing, so not everyone is going to get their own tablet because tomorrow might be different," she commented.

Ms. Hopp enjoys being a part of Butler Area School District. "The district employees are great to work with. They show great community pride, and they are caring."

Volume 21 Issue 2 Winter 2018


Keeping the lines of communication open






## Gettysburg Trip Slated For March


By Joey Panian





On March 24-25, approximately 180 seventh grade students will travel to Gettysburg, Hershey, and Harrisburg on the traditional seventh grade overnight field trip. The excursion is coordinated by Mr. and Mrs. Casher each year and is always a memorable experience for the students involved.



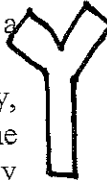
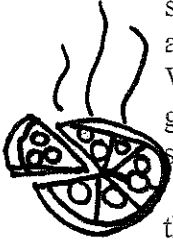
The students will be accompanied by faculty chaperones and closely supervised at all times. According to Mrs. Casher, "This trip will be the first time experience for kids to actually see the monuments."



Students will board the buses between 5:45-6:45 a.m. on Saturday. Each one of the buses will include restrooms, outlets, armrests, padded seats, and a DVD player. Chaperones will request internet access, but it doesn't always come through. The bus ride will be about four hours long.





During the first day, the students will visit the Pennsylvania State Capitol Building and the Civil War Museum in Harrisburg, PA and Hershey's Chocolate World in Hershey, PA. While at the capitol building, the travelers will tour through the House of Representatives, the Supreme Court, and the Senate. They will then tour the museum and eat a Subway sandwich for lunch. Re-enactors will perform so that the students have a clear idea of what life was like during the Civil War. They will demonstrate how soldiers treated the wounded, fired muskets, and walked in formations. At Chocolate World, students will take the tour and will be given time to explore the gift shop or grab a snack in the food court.




At the end of the first fun-filled day, the students will have a pizza dinner at the Midway Fire Hall in Hanover, PA. Once they are done eating, they will have a full evening of fun and activities at the nearby YMCA, where foosball, racquetball, swimming, and basketball will be available. The students




will stay at Country Inn and Suites for the night.




In the morning after a hot breakfast in the lobby, the group will head to Gettysburg to check out the Gettysburg Visitor's Center and tour the battlefields. While at the Visitor's Center, they will watch a film in the Cyclorama about the battle and look around the center at their leisure. The battlefield tour will involve a guided bus tour and some traveling on foot. Because of the time of year, the battlefield will likely be muddy, so make sure your child wears appropriate shoes. They will explore the site of Devil's Den, Pickett's Charge and the Peach Orchard, among other sites.



The exhausted, hungry students will then be fed a buffet lunch at a local restaurant, including but not limited to chicken, spaghetti, corn, drinks, salads, rolls, and desserts. The buses will head back to the school and arrive at approximately 7:30 p.m. Due to the size of the group, delays may be experienced, but parents will be contacted by their child once the buses are getting closer to Butler.



When packing, make sure your child follows the list provided by the school and brings items like: tennis shoes, swimming supplies, gym clothes, comfortable clothes, toiletries, and spending money.



This trip was started by a retired teacher named Mr. Logan, who wanted to expose students to the richness of Pennsylvania history in 1965. Sponsors voluntarily helped fund the students' trip by organizing candy bar and hoagie sales. Some of these same fundraisers still take place today. Mr. Casher commented, "Mr. Logan also wanted kids to take part in or experience the foundation of the country." He retired from coordinating this trip in 2000. Mr. Vaughn then took charge for a short time, and Mr. Casher and Mrs. Casher have been coordinating it ever since.

Mr. Casher is a science teacher and



ESP teacher, and Mrs. Casher is the principal's secretary, which makes it convenient when students need to stop and ask questions. Other teacher chaperones include: Mrs. Heinack, Mrs. Richards, Mr. Popovich, Ms. Eckert, Mrs. Sarver, Mrs. Reinhold, Mr. Armahizer, and Ms. Carlson.

The Gettysburg trip, along with the eighth grade trip to Washington, DC and the ninth grade trip to New York City, are offered by PA Tours. "They will organize any school-related trip if it is fun, new, and educational," commented Mr. Casher.

### Take a Trip *Under the Sea* At the All-School Musical

By Taryn Miller

On March 16-17 at 7:30 p.m. in the Butler Senior High auditorium, theater students in grades 7-12 will perform Disney's hit musical, *The Little Mermaid*. Directed by Mr. Dale VanLaningham, the show features exciting musical numbers, like "Under the Sea" and "Kiss the Girl." Mrs. Alicia Erevia assists Mr. VanLaningham as the music director.

The cast members will showcase imaginative choreography and will be accompanied by a live orchestra. They have been working on their show since casting in January, and everything is coming together nicely. Each day, they have practiced blocking, dances, and vocals in preparation for opening night. "It's been a great experience with amazing people," commented seventh grade cast member, Daylen Mavrodis.

According to Mr. VanLaningham, a lot goes into choosing the spring musical. "When I choose a show, I have to be sure that our performers are capable of the show's demands, that we can afford the expenses of the show, and that we have the technical abilities to present the show properly. *The Little Mermaid* meets this criteria," he said.

Mr. VanLaningham has been involved with theater for the last 30 years, starting back when he performed as a student in Butler. He has been directing shows since 1998. He is excited about this year's show. "It's going to be a lot of fun...great songs and a lot of laughs," he commented.

Mrs. Erevia thoroughly enjoys her role as music director and looks forward to a great show. "Musical is one of my favorite parts of my job. I look forward to rehearsals every day. The students always blow me away with their dedication, hard work, and talent." Like many of the students have commented, Mrs. Erevia sees the cast as a big family. "I can see friendships blossom between students whose paths would probably never cross were it not for musical. So while obviously, I am proud of the final product every year, I love watching students make friendships and memories that will last a lifetime," she added.

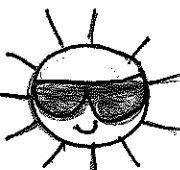
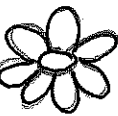
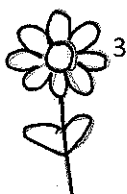
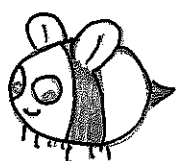
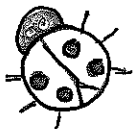
Pre-sale tickets for the show are available at May's Music Store for \$10. If you would rather buy them the night of the show, tickets will be available for \$12 at the door. Come see these talented students perform a Disney classic. You won't be disappointed that you did!

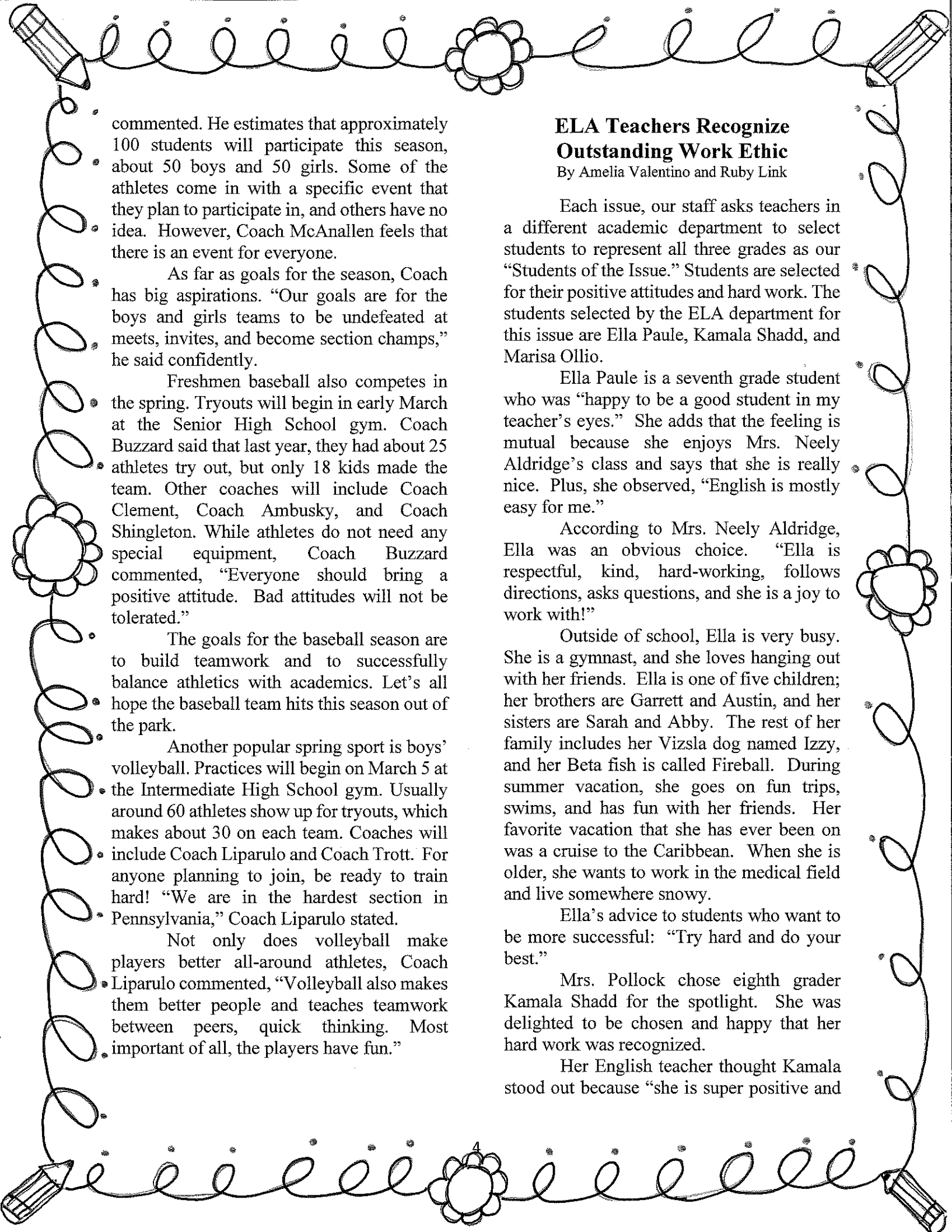
### Spring Athletes Prepare for Season

By Mark Collins

Winter's coming to an end, which means spring is right around the corner and spring sports are coming! Some spring sports include track and field, baseball, and boys' volleyball.

Coach McAnallen is very excited for this upcoming track season. This year's first meet will take place on March 27. Practices, on the other hand, will start March 12 at the Butler Intermediate High School track. According to Coach McAnallen, there are great advantages to participating in track. "Track helps athletes prepare for all other sports and improve their athletic abilities," he





commented. He estimates that approximately 100 students will participate this season, about 50 boys and 50 girls. Some of the athletes come in with a specific event that they plan to participate in, and others have no idea. However, Coach McAnallen feels that there is an event for everyone.

As far as goals for the season, Coach has big aspirations. "Our goals are for the boys and girls teams to be undefeated at meets, invites, and become section champs," he said confidently.

Freshmen baseball also competes in the spring. Tryouts will begin in early March at the Senior High School gym. Coach Buzzard said that last year, they had about 25 athletes try out, but only 18 kids made the team. Other coaches will include Coach Clement, Coach Ambusky, and Coach Shingleton. While athletes do not need any special equipment, Coach Buzzard commented, "Everyone should bring a positive attitude. Bad attitudes will not be tolerated."

The goals for the baseball season are to build teamwork and to successfully balance athletics with academics. Let's all hope the baseball team hits this season out of the park.

Another popular spring sport is boys' volleyball. Practices will begin on March 5 at the Intermediate High School gym. Usually around 60 athletes show up for tryouts, which makes about 30 on each team. Coaches will include Coach Liparulo and Coach Trott. For anyone planning to join, be ready to train hard! "We are in the hardest section in Pennsylvania," Coach Liparulo stated.

Not only does volleyball make players better all-around athletes, Coach Liparulo commented, "Volleyball also makes them better people and teaches teamwork between peers, quick thinking. Most important of all, the players have fun."

## **ELA Teachers Recognize Outstanding Work Ethic**

By Amelia Valentino and Ruby Link

Each issue, our staff asks teachers in a different academic department to select students to represent all three grades as our "Students of the Issue." Students are selected for their positive attitudes and hard work. The students selected by the ELA department for this issue are Ella Paule, Kamala Shadd, and Marisa Ollio.

Ella Paule is a seventh grade student who was "happy to be a good student in my teacher's eyes." She adds that the feeling is mutual because she enjoys Mrs. Neely Aldridge's class and says that she is really nice. Plus, she observed, "English is mostly easy for me."

According to Mrs. Neely Aldridge, Ella was an obvious choice. "Ella is respectful, kind, hard-working, follows directions, asks questions, and she is a joy to work with!"

Outside of school, Ella is very busy. She is a gymnast, and she loves hanging out with her friends. Ella is one of five children; her brothers are Garrett and Austin, and her sisters are Sarah and Abby. The rest of her family includes her Vizsla dog named Izzy, and her Beta fish is called Fireball. During summer vacation, she goes on fun trips, swims, and has fun with her friends. Her favorite vacation that she has ever been on was a cruise to the Caribbean. When she is older, she wants to work in the medical field and live somewhere snowy.

Ella's advice to students who want to be more successful: "Try hard and do your best."

Mrs. Pollock chose eighth grader Kamala Shadd for the spotlight. She was delighted to be chosen and happy that her hard work was recognized.

Her English teacher thought Kamala stood out because "she is super positive and

sweet, always participates, and she is a hard worker.”

Kamala’s favorite subject is English because she “likes the stories.” When Kamala grows up, she wants to work in the medical field and be a nurse. Kamala loves the warm, sunny weather, so she wants to live in Hawaii. During the summer, she goes to the pool and Lake Erie. She also hangs out with her friends and has fun. One of her favorite summer activities is going camping with her sister and mom, Autumn and Kiera. At home, she enjoys playing with her dog, Buddy. Kamala’s favorite things about the school are the teachers, her friends, and lunch.

Kamala’s advice for students who want to do better in school is to study more and to be nice and honest.

Ninth grader Marisa Ollio was selected by Mrs. Mahood, her honors English teacher. “She is a rock star who works hard every single day. She has an amazing attitude,” Mrs. Mahood commented enthusiastically.

Marisa is fifteen years old and has a brother named Connor and a dog named Welly. She loves Spanish and math. She loves these two subjects because she can speak a new language and in math there is always a correct answer. Although English is not usually her favorite, she admits that Mrs. Mahood’s class is really fun. “Mrs. Mahood helps me understand it better,” she said.

When Marisa is older, she wants to either be a veterinarian or an architect. During the summer, Marisa goes on vacation. Her favorite trip was going to Hilton Head Island. Marisa loves the warm sunny weather of summer. Her favorite thing about our school is that we are different from other schools and “we are like a big family.”

Marisa’s advice for students who want to bring up their grades is: “Keep your head up and work hard!”

Congratulations to Ella, Kamala, and Marisa for their outstanding effort in their classes! Keep up the hard work!

## **Trout Project Enters Tenth Year**

By Cailyn Tosadori and Autumn Gall

Mr. Andrews established the Trout ESP class in 2009, through the Trout in the Classroom grant. When he heard about the about the class, he knew right away that he would want to teach it. Not only does Trout teach students about different types of fish, it also helps students understand the fish’s environment and what part that species plays in the Earth’s many ecosystems.

According to Mr. Andrews, “I have always liked to be outside and to go fishing. Once this program became available, I thought it would be great addition to the school.” After a couple years of running the program and raising the trout, he was asked by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission to raise catfish as a part of a study. He decided to include the catfish program as part of his ESP class. Mr. Andrews stated, “My favorite part of teaching the Trout program is the hands on aspect of it, and teaching the children about trout. Although raising and caring for the trout is very time consuming, in the end it is worth it when we can release them into the stream.”

Mr. Andrew’s ESP class is usually the most popular class request by students. They always enjoy taking the class and participating in the releasing of the trout. According to Mr. Andrews, “I am very proud of the outcome of the class, and I hope that students enjoy it and get something out of it.” In the class the students help raise three species of trout: brook, brown, and rainbow, along with catfish, and many land and water plants.

It is a very time consuming task to take on all 150 catfish and 100 trout. Mr. Andrews not only has to teach the students

about how to regulate and maintain the tanks of fish, he has to teach about the different accommodations the trout have. Mr. Andrews has to trust his students, since one wrong step could mess up the study. Taking care of the fish and supplying food can be an expensive process. Mr. Andrews gets many grants so that he can afford the supplies for the fish, along with the Pennsylvania fish and boat commission supplying the fish and plants.

Taylor Thrash, a seventh grader, really enjoys the class. "I love the hands-on aspect, and I enjoy feeding the fish."

Ben Lyons, also a seventh grader, agrees. "I like the fish, and Mr. Andrews is a really good teacher."

Taylor added, "I have learned so much about trout, catfish, and the plants. When I signed up for the class it sounded fun, so it was at the top of my list. It is very interesting how much the catfish have grown in a short time."

On May 23, the three trout classes will take a field trip to Connoquenessing Creek to release the fish and have some fun. First on the agenda, the students release all three kinds of trout into the creek. Then the students will scavenge underneath rocks and leaves to look for bugs. After that, Mr. Andrews takes part in teaching the students how to fly fish. Finally, the students do a fish survey, plant trees, and clean up litter. At the end of the trip, students head back to the school and return home.

At the end of the year, Mr. Cochran's TV video class joins Mr. Andrews' trout class to help transport and release the fish. They transport the fish in coolers with aerators to keep the fish healthy and alive. While out releasing the fish, the two classes eat lunch by the creek. Each of the activities the students participate in at the creek helps to show them the importance of the creek ecosystem.

## **E.S.P. Provides Enrichment Opportunities**

By Hannah Aldridge and Samantha Miller

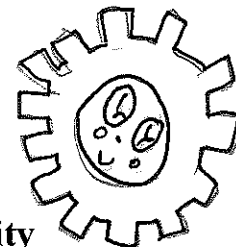
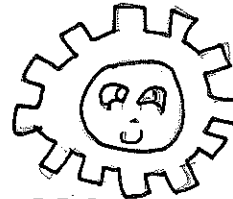
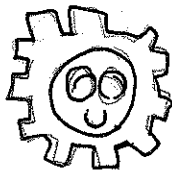
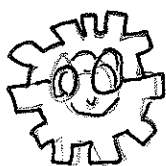
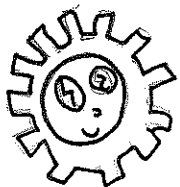
The Enrichment Study Program, most commonly known as ESP, provides students who have maintained outstanding GPA's with a variety of enrichment classes. ESP allows the students to choose classes that match their interests and allows them to learn something different than they do in their everyday classes.

When scheduling for classes, students rank their selections from their first choice to last choice. Then, Ms. DeThomas and Mr. Casher create the class lists, matching students to one of their requests while balancing class sizes at the same time. Three of the 11 different class currently offered are Yearbook, Public Speaking, and Drama.

Yearbook has been taught by Mr. Casher for the past 23 years. The class offers many opportunities for students to get involved with creating the yearbook, and they sometimes work in collaboration with the ninth grade yearbook staff.

Every trimester's class has a different responsibility in contributing to the yearbook. For example, the first trimester designs the cover, inside, and layout of the book. They also take pictures of the school, students, and staff to show what the Intermediate High School has to offer. Then, the second trimester staff gathers the individual pictures and writes all the captions. The third trimester finishes spring sports and clubs and edits the first and second trimester's work. Each student has his/her own camera from the school to use for the yearbook production.

Yearbook is a nonprofit class but does add a couple of dollars to the yearbook price for necessary equipment. When the first trimester designs the cover of the yearbook, Mr. Casher looks for creativity. His favorite design was from the first year that he taught yearbook when a drone was used to take the



cover photo. "I enjoy improving the yearbook every year and making memories with my students," Mr. Casher stated.

Mrs. Mahood has been teaching ESP's Public Speaking class for two years. Public Speaking helps students with presenting and communicating. Students give five speeches throughout the trimester. Their first speech is an introduction about themselves. That is followed up by a demonstration speech before they present a children's book and write a persuasive speech. Finally, students create opening and closing statements for mock trial. Students get three to four class periods to complete their speeches.

Mrs. Mahood said, "I teach Public Speaking because I have a major in communication and remember what it was like to be a nervous while talking in front of a class." Mrs. Mahood continues to teach because she enjoys watching the students improve and become more comfortable in front of their peers.

Mrs. Waseleski taught ESP's Drama class for her first time this year. Students do not have to audition for the parts in which they are interested. Instead they sign-up, read all the parts, and decide who they want to be in the play. The students rehearse for about three months during class. The cast rehearses the whole play a week before the performance.

"Acting is something that I love," said Mrs. Waseleski, who enjoys seeing her students play parts that are different from their personalities. She wants to continue to teach drama because she likes teaching students to be confident through working hard. Mrs. Waseleski enjoys the work behind the scenes because it's not always about the actors, but the work behind the stage makes the whole performance go smoothly.

## New Makerspace Supports Student Creativity

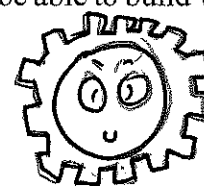
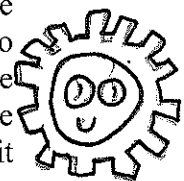
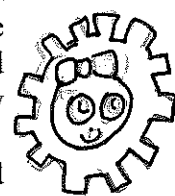
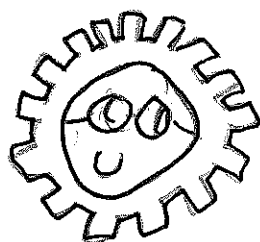
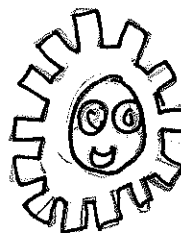
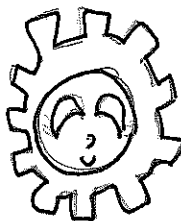
By Lexi Holt

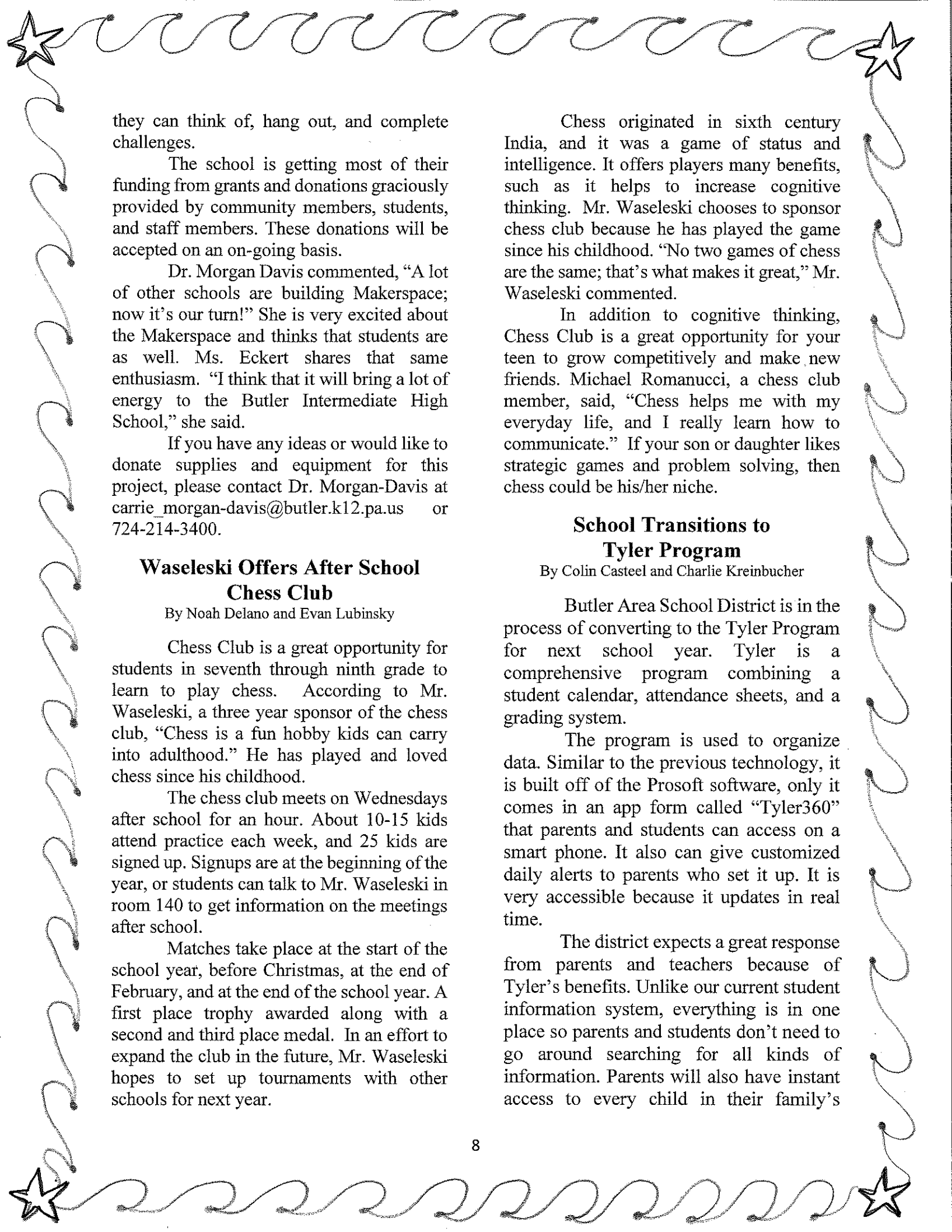
The BIHS library has been rearranged quite a bit recently to make room from an exciting new project: Makerspace. The creative proposal will mix technology and innovation to encourage students to deeply engage in learning.

The hope is that entire classes and individuals will utilize the space for collaboration and project learning. Some of the many tools available to students in the Makerspace will include: Legos, drones, robots, and a new item called *Makey-Makey*, an invention that allows students to connect their computer to everyday objects. The work for the Makerspace will be on-going, but it is expected to be up and ready for use by the end of the school year. According to Ms. Eckert, the librarian, "The Makerspace will never be finished; we will always be adding new things!" Ms. Eckert believes it will become more popular as the faculty learn more about the students' interests.

According to Dr. Morgan-Davis, the assistant principal, "The Makerspace is more of a flexible classroom that will hopefully make more students look forward to coming to school." She added enthusiastically, "Students will be able to think outside of the box. It's going to be the greatest super crafting area." Some plans include a Lego wall that will serve as a green screen for making videos. In addition, tons of crafting supplies and stand up desks will fill the space. Ms. Eckert and Dr. Morgan Davis both agree that in the future there will be challenges and competitions between classes and maybe even other schools.

During school hours, students will be able to utilize the space when their teachers reserve it for class projects. In addition to the classes going to the Makerspace, there might be a Makerspace Club for after school. At the club students would be able to build whatever





they can think of, hang out, and complete challenges.

The school is getting most of their funding from grants and donations graciously provided by community members, students, and staff members. These donations will be accepted on an on-going basis.

Dr. Morgan Davis commented, "A lot of other schools are building Makerspace; now it's our turn!" She is very excited about the Makerspace and thinks that students are as well. Ms. Eckert shares that same enthusiasm. "I think that it will bring a lot of energy to the Butler Intermediate High School," she said.

If you have any ideas or would like to donate supplies and equipment for this project, please contact Dr. Morgan-Davis at [carrie\\_morgan-davis@butler.k12.pa.us](mailto:carrie_morgan-davis@butler.k12.pa.us) or 724-214-3400.

### **Waseleski Offers After School Chess Club**

By Noah Delano and Evan Lubinsky

Chess Club is a great opportunity for students in seventh through ninth grade to learn to play chess. According to Mr. Waseleski, a three year sponsor of the chess club, "Chess is a fun hobby kids can carry into adulthood." He has played and loved chess since his childhood.

The chess club meets on Wednesdays after school for an hour. About 10-15 kids attend practice each week, and 25 kids are signed up. Signups are at the beginning of the year, or students can talk to Mr. Waseleski in room 140 to get information on the meetings after school.

Matches take place at the start of the school year, before Christmas, at the end of February, and at the end of the school year. A first place trophy awarded along with a second and third place medal. In an effort to expand the club in the future, Mr. Waseleski hopes to set up tournaments with other schools for next year.

Chess originated in sixth century India, and it was a game of status and intelligence. It offers players many benefits, such as it helps to increase cognitive thinking. Mr. Waseleski chooses to sponsor chess club because he has played the game since his childhood. "No two games of chess are the same; that's what makes it great," Mr. Waseleski commented.

In addition to cognitive thinking, Chess Club is a great opportunity for your teen to grow competitively and make new friends. Michael Romanucci, a chess club member, said, "Chess helps me with my everyday life, and I really learn how to communicate." If your son or daughter likes strategic games and problem solving, then chess could be his/her niche.

### **School Transitions to Tyler Program**


By Colin Casteel and Charlie Kreinbucher

Butler Area School District is in the process of converting to the Tyler Program for next school year. Tyler is a comprehensive program combining a student calendar, attendance sheets, and a grading system.

The program is used to organize data. Similar to the previous technology, it is built off of the Prosoft software, only it comes in an app form called "Tyler360" that parents and students can access on a smart phone. It also can give customized daily alerts to parents who set it up. It is very accessible because it updates in real time.

The district expects a great response from parents and teachers because of Tyler's benefits. Unlike our current student information system, everything is in one place so parents and students don't need to go around searching for all kinds of information. Parents will also have instant access to every child in their family's





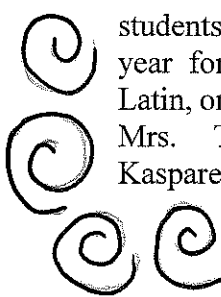
information via one password. Mrs. Behrens, a history teacher whose own children attend school in another district that utilizes Tyler, said, "As a student, you have easier access to your grades."

There are many differences between our current program and Tyler. First, the Tyler program combines many sites like grades and assignments into one page, where parents and students had to go into several separate pages before. In addition, the Tyler program updates grades and information into real time. With Edline, there was often a delay, which caused confusion between parents, students, and teachers. Tyler is a more costly program, so the district researched very carefully before obtaining it. However, the results of the extensive research were overwhelmingly in favor of Tyler, and they decided to make the transition.

Tyler also comes with many benefits that can help change the way students learn. Each student account can be customized to a certain style of learning, as well as give access to information regarding strengths and weaknesses. Another amazing perk is that it is modern, up to date, and shows multiple levels of student data. According to Mr. Dobransky, "The staff will be trained in the new program this summer, and we expect that Tyler will keep students and parents well informed next school year."

## **Students Enjoy Learning Foreign Languages**

By Rhyan Deal and Ella Paule



Starting in eighth or ninth grade, students have the opportunity to take a full-year foreign language in Spanish, French, Latin, or German. These classes are taught by Mrs. Taoufik, Madame LePage, Mr. Kasperek, and Frau Richards respectively.


Spanish is a popular choice among students at Butler Intermediate High School. Mrs. Taoufik is one of the teachers who has the pleasure of teaching the Level 1 students, along with Exploratory Language to the seventh graders. A typical day in this class includes a short conversation with the students in Spanish; then they use their creativity to participate in what the language has to offer. Of course, projects are included, about four big ones throughout the year. "We do a couple of projects such as a menu, fashion magazine, family tree, and a house," Mrs. Taoufik stated.

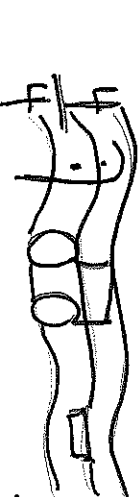
Spanish I is also taught by Mrs. Marks and Mrs. Thomas. They all use the same curriculum, but there is still room for creativity throughout the year. As for exploratory language classes, the curriculum is different. The grammar in the language is ignored, and the main focus is on the vocabulary and culture, yet both classes help students benefit in the Spanish language.

French is also well-liked by the students at BIHS. This course is taught by Madame LePage, a born and raised French speaking teacher. "A typical day in my class is busy," said Madame LePage. The first step is reviewing the students' homework; then they participate in several French activities.

Her favorite part of teaching this language is interacting with the students and making them laugh and smile throughout the year, in both her French and exploratory classes. She prefers to teach French though, mainly because of the age. This class definitely will help students reach their full potential in the French language.

Some students, on the other hand, choose Latin as their foreign language class. Mr. Kasperek, wanting to follow in his high school teacher's footsteps, teaches this class with enthusiasm and excitement. The Latin students learn about the Latin grammar and vocabulary, but only a few projects are given in place of final exams. Latin I completes one





end of the year project, while Latin II usually submits three.

One of the most common misconceptions among students about Latin is that it is a language that they won't use as much as the other foreign languages. The truth is the exact opposite. This language can be very helpful to the lives of students. "It's everywhere," Mr. Kasperek commented. Even though this is not a spoken language, it is a foundation of our culture.

Mr. Kasperek has been enjoying the students for the entire 14 years he has been teaching. "I enjoy the students' creativity in my classroom," Mr. Kasperek stated.

Frau Richards, who has been teaching German for 13 years, thoroughly enjoys her job. "My favorite class to teach is my exploratory classes. I love the seventh graders' personalities," Richards commented. She learned German from her seventh grade German teacher and her family. She loved it so much that it became her major in college. She can also speak Pennsylvania Dutch fluently.

This class includes a geography and food project, along with an oral presentation. This language's vocabulary is very simple, but the grammar is difficult. Exploratory classes only learn vocabulary though, making the class simple and fun since the language is close to English.

All of these classes bring out the fun in different languages and will make the student's year at the BIHS a great one!

### Musicians Take the Stage in Spring Concerts

By Madalyn Semmler and Olivia Henne

The BIHS music department's concerts will take place during the next several months for your entertainment. The directors of the spring concerts are: Mr. Karenbauer, Ms. Vercek, Mrs. Tepper, and Mrs. Waseleski. In all, ten different concerts

are planned: three band concerts, five orchestra concerts, and two chorus concerts.

Mr. Karenbauer, who conducts seventh through ninth grade band, will host a seventh and eighth grade concert, a percussion ensemble with ninth grade band, and a jazz concert. The 19 Jazz Band players will be playing on March 11 at 2:00 p.m. at the BC3 auditorium. The following songs will be included: Big Noise, All of Me, and Children of Sanjez.

The seventh and eighth grade concerts, with 72 seventh graders and 68 eighth graders, will play on May 2 at 7:00 p.m. in the BIHS, with admission being free. Each band will play a total of seven to eight songs. Some of the seventh grade songs will include: Believer, As the Eagle Flies, Legacy of Heroes, and Fanfare of Joy. On the other hand, eighth grade will be performing: Sons of Liberty, Saxology, and Mambo #5.

To finish out the band concerts, the 50 ninth graders and 21 percussion ensemble players will play on May 3 at 7:00 p.m. in the BIHS auditorium. The ninth grade section will include the songs: Disneyland Celebration, Highlight from Hamilton, and American Visions. Percussion ensemble will be performing: Jamaican Me Crazy, Trash Can Chronical, The Final Pursuit, and Rocking Ricky Rocket.

Mr. Karenbauer chose to have these concerts to show everyone the students' talents and effort, and he picked these songs to teach and challenge the students. His favorite part about conducting is "seeing the smiles on the students' faces when they succeed."

Ms. Vercek, who conducts sixth through 12<sup>th</sup> grade orchestra, will host a secondary Pops Concert, an eighth and ninth grade concert, a senior high concert, a Rock Orchestra concert, and a Chamber Orchestra performance this spring. In total, there are 38 seventh graders, 60 eighth and ninth graders, 45 senior high players, 25 Rock Orchestra



members, and 7 Chamber Orchestra members.

The Pop, Rock, and Chamber orchestra concert took place on February 15 at 7:00 p.m. at the BIHS. The Pops Orchestra performed Disney theme songs such as: Lion King, Frozen, Pocahontas, High School Musical, the Little Mermaid, and Pirates of the Caribbean. The Rock part of the concert played: Crazy Train, Blue Broken Dreams, Viva La Vida, Cashmere, and Bohemian Rhapsody.

On May 16 at 7:00 p.m. in the BIHS, the Spring Concert will feature seventh through ninth graders and the Rock Orchestra. They will play a wide array of songs in many different styles.

The last orchestra concert will be on May 17 at 7:00 p.m. in the BIHS auditorium. Just like the Spring Concert, there will be a lot of diversity in the songs. According to Ms. Vercek, "Diverse songs push the students to become better musicians."

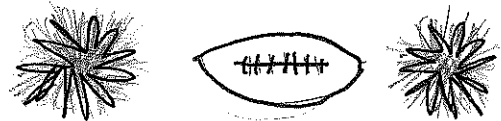
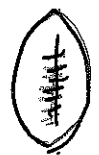
Ms. Vercek loves to do the concerts because she "gets to share a gift with others." To receive these gifts, be sure to attend one of the upcoming orchestra concerts!

Mrs. Waseleski, who teaches seventh grade chorus, will host her students' performance on May 24 at the BIHS at 6:00 p.m. Approximately 200 students will sing 10-12 songs at this end of year concert.

Mrs. Waseleski is not positive about the songs yet, but she likes to do different styles from different time periods. She chooses her songs based on curriculum, her students' interests, and musical concepts.

According to Mrs. Waseleski, "The best part of choir concerts is seeing how proud they are of themselves when they finish a concert." She has these concerts to show their effort for learning new music. "I feel like learning music is pointless if you don't have a concert," she added.

Even though her choir doesn't have a lot of experience, they learn quickly, work



hard, and are super fun and very inspiring. She hopes that you can have the same experience at the concert.

Mrs. Tepper is the eighth and ninth grade chorus teacher. She will host her spring concert on May 24 in the BIHS auditorium at 7:30 p.m. There will be around 100 students singing 15 songs during the hour long concert.

Like Mrs. Waseleski, she is not positive about her song choices yet, but she knows there will be pop songs, classical songs, spirituals, and folk songs. She picks her songs to challenge the students and give them variety. Mrs. Tepper loves to perform because "it is always a surprise. You never know what will happen when everything comes together." She also loves seeing the students feel accomplished.

She conducts the choir because it makes her feel alive, and she loves to see her students grow musically every day. The students are really advanced in singing, but talk too much during class. This creates challenges and advantages. The students are really excited to see you there!

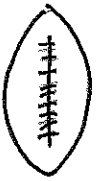
After a lot of hard work and preparation, the students will be ready to show you what they can do. Make sure to mark your calendars with the dates, so you can see how hard work can pay off!

## Football and Cheer Coaches Seek New Talent for Next Season

By Teagan Donahue and Sydney Rajchel

Butler Golden Tornado Football off-season workouts are already in full swing at the field house weight room. Coaches are looking for experienced players to start off the season right, but anyone is welcome to come and play. The cheer squad will seek members for next season this spring as well, when they host tryouts next month.

Mr. Mark Hunka is one of the seventh and eighth grade football coaches. According to Coach Hunka, "When practice begins the



team will be focusing on running, conditioning, defensive plays, and practicing covering the guys on the field.” Any student that would like to try out to be the quarterback is able. The coaches pick the student depending on how well the kids throw the ball, manage the game, and run the plays. They also take in consideration how well the player can lead the team. “It’s like becoming a point guard in basketball and pitcher in baseball,” commented Assistant Athletic Director, Mr. Jeff McAnallen.

Butler cheerleading tryouts take place at the beginning of April. During tryouts girls are expected to learn a cheer and dance. They also will be showing any tumbling they have and be required to show a jump. There is three days of open gyms to prepare students for the tryouts at the end of the week.

The students have an opportunity to try out for game squad from grade 7-12. For the seventh and eighth grade teams, students do not have to demonstrate any tumbling, but to make the team, it is better for students to have tumbling. In grades 9-12, cheerleaders are required to have at least a backhand spring. During tryouts there will be approximately four judges that are selected from the UCA staff.

The judges that are picked have no relationships with any cheerleaders to avoid favoritism. Judges are looking for sharp and clean motions, loud voices, and the ability to remember all of the material they were taught. After tryouts, results will be posted on the Butler cheerleading website.

Once students have made the game squad, they have an opportunity to try out for the Butler competition team. Seventh and eighth graders are on the junior high competition team coached by Coach Megan Kosar. “Every year we have more and more talent that comes into our gym,” said Coach Kosar. Ninth-12<sup>th</sup> graders are on the varsity competition team coached by Marie Anne and assistant coaches Kristen Karam and Keagan Geagan. This is an optional team to try out for if you have already made the Butler game squad teams.

To make the junior high competition team, cheerleaders must have a backhand spring or any high skills. For the varsity comp team, they must have a tuck or any higher skills. The tryouts consist of tumbling and stunting. The coaches of each team decides whether or not cheerleaders make the competition squads.

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