

White Christmas to appear at BHS



Jacob Pacek, Patrick Rutowski and cast tapping to one of the show's songs.

Photo by Cameron Monument

Rosie Ekblom
Staff Reporter

This year's musical, *White Christmas*, directed by Michelle Holowicki and Phil Johnson, stars sisters Caroline and Julianne Roberts playing the lead roles. The show runs December 4th-6th and the 10th-13th.

The decision to have *White Christmas* as this year's musical was because it was the chance to have a fall musical, as the musical is usually in spring. Holowicki saw the chance and took it. Caroline Roberts joined this year's winter musical after going to a lot of high school musicals while growing up and hearing sto-

ries from students how it is to be part of something so big.

"I think the best part is how we touch the people watching, whether it's an onstage performance or a preview," Roberts said.

To have her sister in the musical is comforting, especially during heart-felt scenes. Growing up watching

the movie *White Christmas* and to now be able to direct it has been on Holowicki's bucket list. Even though it's a lot of hard work, it is exciting for the directors to work with the students in a creative way to combine dancing, singing and acting. It's different from how she usually teaches during school hours.

"The best part of being part of the musical for me is seeing hundreds of different students and volunteers all working toward the same goal. And everyone plays a different role. But it all comes together in the end and makes it all spectacular," Holowicki said.

Being the first year to add tap dancing and having different leads in the musical makes this year's musical different and special. The audience can expect lively music and exciting dance numbers throughout the musical. But also a talented cast full of contagious energy and happiness. They all look forward for the performances to begin. To see the audience packed, and how the cast feed off the energy of the audience and do some parts a bit differently

when they hear the audience clap or cheer.

"My favorite part in the musical is that there are a ton of large dance scenes. It's a big opportunity for me to work with a big group of kids. I really like it when there's a lot of people on the stage," Holowicki said.

After all work the hours they have dedicated singing, dancing and acting the cast is ready to share their talents with the community.

The show boasts 336 outfits for a cast of 100 students. Some students have seven different outfit changes. Johnson is excited that Brighton High was able to gain the rights to the performance as it is in its first year of touring. Johnson encourages everyone to see one of the seven performances.

"This is the movie my family and I watch while putting up the Christmas tree. It's a special show,"

Johnson said.

Tickets are available at lunches and on-line @ brightonmusical.com

Paws for a Cause scratching for a change

Savannah Edoff
Staff Reporter

This year Brighton High School has had many new clubs added to its already impressive list of after school activities. One of the newest clubs is Paws for a Cause. Teacher adviser Jody Renicker and student leader Hannah Palmer are starting to raise awareness in the school of the amazing things animal adopting can do. They also focus on things such as animal abuse, and just helping out rescues in the local area.

"Paws for a Cause is a club that raises awareness of animal abuse, raise money for local rescues and help animals get adopted. Currently they are trying to come up with a fundraiser to raise money for last chance rescue. They are at risk of closing due to insufficient funds because of the high amount of animals and vet

ills," Palmer said.

So many rescues each year struggle with covering the costs of just taking care of the animals. Most, if not all the money they get, is put towards just the care. That doesn't leave much money for trying to get the word out so it makes it hard to find funding. The club had about 200 students sign up at the start of the year, while they have only had an average of 20-25 of those people attending each meeting. The club meets in Renicker's room (A7) Wednesdays from 2:45-3:45.

"I wanted to start the club because I love animals and helping out at local rescues. I believed that a lot of people loved animals as much as I do, and I figured that by starting this club, we could save animals," Palmer said.

Brighton High School as a whole has been really pushing to help the



Dawg and Caesar pause for a cause.

Photo by Cameron Monument

community. Each year events such as the food drive, Pink Week, the blood drive, as well as many of the clubs at BHS help students, community members and animals alike.

They are still looking for animal lovers to help with this new club here at BHS.

"The connection between humans and animals is a powerful thing. We wanted to do whatever we can to help these animals. I see Caesar do things every day that humans could never do to help the students of Brighton," Renicker said.

Academic ceremony honors students

Jack Hook
Staff Reporter

Every year Brighton High has two academic award ceremonies honoring and awarding students who can carry a 3.5 GPA or higher for two consecutive semesters by giving students a varsity letter for academics. The first year students can receive one is their sophomore year since students need to have two semesters under their belt to qualify. Students get two chances a year to get an academic letter. One taking place in the fall, usually sometime in November and one in the spring, generally in April.

"The award ceremony is a great way to award students, especially for those who don't play a sport, they can work hard in school and still get a varsity letter," senior Matt

Juckno said.

Not everyone plays a sport to receive a varsity letter. Maybe a student wants a varsity letter but can't get it because they don't play a sport. They can get a second chance by working hard in school and being rewarded with an academic letter. The students awarded also get a group photo taken in the field house and are placed on the honor roll. However, some students feel that the standards to receive the award are too high, maintaining a 3.5 GPA for two semesters is too much of a challenge. Others are in favor of the requirements, that this is a perfect way to make students work hard in order to achieve an award like this.

"The ceremony requirements are not too high because if you are being rewarded for something you'll

need to work hard in order to get it. Things just aren't just given to you, hard work is required in order to achieve these goals," senior Brayden Armstrong said.

Not only does the ceremony award sophomores, juniors and seniors who meet the standards, every year a teacher gets a chance to speak at the ceremony. They usually talk about how this is probably one of the best things that the high school could do for students and that you will be rewarded for your hard work. Teacher Ted Buckless spoke at this year's event. Last year AP psychology teacher Kimberly Davis received the honor to speak at the fall ceremony.

"I was super nervous but it was an amazing honor to speak at the ceremony. I thought that it was interesting because I never went to an aca-

demic award ceremony when I went to Brighton," Davis said.

Davis who stated that she never attended a ceremony while in high school reflected that in her speech. She had a good ACT score, but her grades were not important to her and she used this to set an example for the kids at the ceremony last year.

"It made me reflect my high school experience, since grades were not my greatest interest," Davis said.

Buckless recalled some non-curricular lessons as a Brighton High student.

"From Mrs. Rose forcing me to join a school play and introducing me to a new group of people, to watching the power of hard work the freshman football team put in. They worked harder than us seniors and it eventually paid off," Buckless said.

The Lowdown:

December 1-2:
 Cap and Gown Orders

December 2:
 Blood Drive

December 4-6, 10-13:
 "White Christmas"
 Musical

December 18:
 Holiday Assembly
 Winter Break Begins

January 4:
 School Resumes

Other articles you can check out @ patch.com/michigan/brighton

- BHS new weight room
- Brighton's updated graphics equipment
- The marching 200
- BHS table tennis club
- Annual staff vs. student basketball game fundraiser
- BHS blood drive continues