

BHS students killing it with kindness

Janelle Kopa
Info Editor

School clubs, See Something Say Something (SSSS), Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA), S.A.D.D., and Peer Mediation decided to spread kindness throughout the school starting on Monday, February 16. For an entire week, these clubs promoted the importance of treating others with respect and giving back to the students and staff in order to develop a positive atmosphere.

The goal of Kindness Week is to brighten everyone's day one smile and kind act at a time. Each of the groups will have a specific day during the week that allows them to give back to their school community.

SSSS is focused on creating a safe and supportive school environment. For Kindness Week, SSSS plans on decorating the school with posters containing kindness quotes in order to give the students a positive reminder to be nice to others as they go about their school day. In addition, there will be fliers with free compliments hanging around school. Students are encouraged to take one, and embrace the



S.A.D.D. representatives Gwenneth Clise and Jessica Caltrider participate in Kindness Week.

Photo by Shane Hillier

positive qualities that they often overlook. During lunch, SSSS had a table where they passed out imperative information about their safety tip line known as the "Principal's Page". SSSS President, Emily Bobel, has been working hard to make sure that Kindness Week has an overall positive impact on the school.

"We want to promote every as-

pect of kindness in order to make people feel safe and accepted throughout the school, and to teach people how to show this feeling. I think it will benefit the school by making the student body as a whole more comfortable in our school," Bobel said.

Lastly, SSSS passed out flowers in every color of the rainbow to students to support the theme

of tolerance and kindness to everyone. Senior and SSSS member Sarah Hively was excited for Kindness Week to begin.

"Kindness Week will promote kindness and kind acts at BHS," Hively said.

S.A.D.D. was also determined to brighten up the school day by spreading their acts of kindness. During lunch S.A.D.D. had a table

outside of the lunchroom that was dedicated to passing out pins that say "Try Kindness" and "Pay It Forward". Pay It Forward is S.A.D.D.'s theme of receiving a kind gesture then passing the kindness along by doing something kind for someone else in hopes of starting a chain reaction of kindness that makes the world a happier place to live.

S.A.D.D. advisor, Kris Sinicola, has been getting her club ready to help everyone enjoy school a little more.

"S.A.D.D. will also be passing out small cards to students that say: "Sending you some sunshine for a beautiful day," Sinicola said.

Peer mediation and GSA were also ready to make their positive mark on the school. Peer mediation created a peace tree that contained leaves with kindness quotes from students. GSA promoted overall acceptance and tolerance by having each grade wear a specific color on the corresponding day.

Kindness Week comes around once a year to remind the school of the positive atmosphere that should be upheld. Let's make it a goal to make sure that kindness continues to last longer than one week.

The Lowdown:

March 3-5:
Standardized Testing

March 13-15:
DECA States

March 20-22:
Musical

March 26-29:
Musical (2nd week)

March 31:
3rd Quarter Assessments

April 2:
3rd Quarter Ends Spring Break

April 13:
Spring Break Ends

Brighton bands prepare for festival

Sarah Wright
Copy Editor

On February 27 and 28th, the Band programs for both the high school, and the middle school, will be attending District Festival at BHS. Both bands will compete for superior ratings against other schools in Livingston and Oakland county.

Band teacher Gabriella Hoffman will lead four of the bands in her hopeful attempt in acquiring superior ratings. Each band will perform three songs accumulating to 12 songs in all, and then all of the bands will be required to sight

read a foreign piece.

"I expect to do really well, considering we have maintained superior ratings in the past," Hoffman said.

Wind Ensemble is said to be one of the most prominent groups of the high school bands, and will likely receive a superior for the terrific sounds, and professional technique.

The middle school will go on with their performances in the morning, and then the high school will follow. BHS is scheduled to hit the stage at nine o'clock in the morning, and beyond with the Wind Ensemble being the last of the

day. Students of the bands have expressed great enthusiasm and confidence in their up-coming performances.

"This is a biggun," senior Austin Huffman said.

While many band members are confident in their performances, others are more worried about how their sight-reading will go. Sight-reading is when band members are given sheet music and have a few minutes to work out the techniques for the piece then perform it for a judge.

"Sight-reading can be really exciting because you never know what you'll get," junior Bethany

Demarco said.

The BHS bands have maintained a superior rating in the past and maintaining that rating seems very hopeful. Both Hoffman and the students are confident that they will succeed during this district festival.

"I think we'll do amazing, spectacular, and superior at Festival," junior Danielle Demarco said.

With Brighton Band's impressive track record at Festival as well as their spectacular performances at concerts and during games, it's clear the bands will have no trouble doing exceptionally well at Festival this year.

DECA determined to dominate

Emmerson Marlatt
Staff Reporter

As anticipated, the Brighton DECA program is heading to states with a confident attitude, and are expecting the outcome of an exceptional performance. As many students may already know the competition's purpose is to present students with real world business scenarios, and then use their classroom business experiences to execute possible outcomes.

The competition, which is located in Grand Rapids, lasts for three days. The students have 10 minutes to prepare a presentation and present their plan to a group of judges who then score them on their plan and abilities to talk and present their plan.

The judges then give Brighton's around 25 predicted contestants a score. There are also 30-minute team events that are structured to develop good teamwork and cooperation skills among the contestants.

This competition, and this program's purpose is to mold young business-minded students into young leaders and entrepreneurs. It's such a popular and prestigious program because the skills that it teaches are so important to one's potential future in business.

"I love the program and I believe it has been very valuable to my development," DECA president Alli McNulty said.

McNulty is the DECA president, and is another great example of how being a member of the program can help to develop important leadership and teamwork

skills. As one can imagine, in a team, exercise in a real world business situation is essential. Most of the time teamwork and leadership are essential, and that is what makes this program such a vital contributor to a students' academic development.

The program is a great way for people to see if business is a career path they could pursue. Many people have also found new likes or dislikes since becoming a part of the program. It also develops public speaking, presentation, and persuasion skills that are going to be essential in many different fields.

"It's a great way to get into your comfort zone in a business situation," senior member JJ Johnson said.

These aren't the only students that encourage the younger class-

es to participate in DECA.

"I was influenced by some friends of mine who were already in it, and I plan on recommending it to others as well," junior member Sydney Powser said.

The DECA members will be competing against the best students of other schools all around the great state of Michigan. This competition is sure to bring out the best in all of the students involved which is always a good thing for any competition of any kind. Also, competing with all of these schools surely gives a unique experience of conversing with students from other schools and developing skills together.

It is apparent that the team mood is very prepared and excited for the event, and that the team really does plan to excel once again.

Re-capping the royalty of winterfest

Kalli Hedden
Patch Editor

After crowning Madison Wiljanen and Evan Luketic as this year's Winterfest King and Queen, the Winterfest week of February 2nd came to a halting stop. This year's formal dance brought excitement and spirit to BHS for the entire week. The Winterfest event this year was a great success to say the least.

"I am honored and excited to be nominated Winterfest King this year and I accept the responsibility as role model of the senior class," Luketic said.

Dressing up for spirit days often times is the student's favorite part of Winterfest. However, due to the two snow-days, BHS was forced out of the first two days of the spirit week. This was very upsetting to many of the seniors and others who had made preparations for the days missed. Dressing in wacky outfits may seem silly, but it definitely is very entertaining and something the students always look forward to doing.

"I really like spirit week and I especially liked the days this year be-



Senior Jess Kovacs rebounds for classmate JJ Ellison at the assembly.

Photo by Todd Day

cause they were easy for everyone to participate," Wiljanen said.

The Leadership class, as always, worked hard to put on another assembly to motivate the students for the Winterfest basketball game. Athletic director John Thompson and senior Sako Kendirdijan had a dance off this year which was defi-

nately a crowd favorite. Also, this assembly is one of the only opportunities for the entire student body to enjoy a performance by the Varsity Pom Team and the Varsity Cheer Team. After many exciting games like dodgeball and a pudding eating contest between the grades and the addition of the results from

spirit week participation, the judges came to the conclusion that the seniors, as usual, won the Spirit Cup.

This year's Winterfest game was played by the BHS girls varsity basketball team vs. the Howell girls varsity team. Different from Homecoming, the Winterfest game this year was played by a girls team

rather than the boys. To make this spirit week even better, the team lead BHS to yet another victory with a score of 34 to 21, with Brighton taking home the win.

Led by the sophomore class council, the theme of the dance this year was "A Night in Emerald City". This theme was a fun and easy option for virtually all grades. Many things were put into making this night, one to remember. The mini light show was one of the main things that made Brighton's winter formal different from those at other schools. Though Winterfest is not as popular of a dance as Homecoming is, this year's dance was not a night to miss.

"We enjoy being apart of Winterfest because it is fun for the students and they enjoy it," principal Gavin Johnson said.

As this enjoyable week quickly came to an end, all the seniors had to wave goodbye to their very last spirit week, and Winterfest Dance. Having this event as part of the school year not only brings the students a little pleasure to their time in high school, but it gives them memories that last a lifetime.

Exploring history through the Holocaust

Amy Krause
Copy Editor

Every school year, the freshmen class takes a trip to the Holocaust Museum. Students take the class in their required US History course. For that reason, they learn all about the history of the US, including our involvement in the Holocaust. The trip to the museum takes place in February, and the different US History classes take turns going.

The Holocaust Museum is located in Farmington Hills. The Museum is closed every Saturday and on all Jewish holidays along with most legal holidays. This museum is unique

because along with going through an essential part of history and seeing all that it contains, you can also meet a Holocaust survivor if you go on certain days at specific times. The survivor will tell their story and how they survived through it all. It is a great experience to hear the stories of survivors.

Jack Brenner is one of the freshman students who went to the Holocaust Museum this February. Junior, Margo Mekjian, also went to the museum when she was a freshman and she learned a lot, and wishes to go back again.

"It was heartbreaking to learn about all those that died during the

Holocaust. After seeing the death numbers on the wall it felt so real that so many died during that tragic time," Mekjian said.

At the museum one learns valuable information about the numbers of concentration camps, and numbers of all those who died. A network of about 42,500 facilities in Germany and German occupied territories were used to concentrate, confine, and kill Jews, and other victims. Between 100,000, and 500,000 people were direct participants in the planning and execution of the Holocaust. About 11 million innocent lives were taken during the Holocaust.

"The trip I just took made the Holocaust feel so real. Seeing all the things I did really upset me, I could not help but cry," Brenner said.

Erica Mathew is one of the US History teachers who went on the Holocaust trip. She loves hearing the real experiences from the Holocaust survivors. The speakers give an emotional and real account of information that her US History class discusses.

"I learn new things each time I go, and there are always new tour guides and new perspectives that so that I learn something new and unique that I had not previously known before," Mathew said.

She thinks the trip is very significant because the students learn a lot about the Holocaust before the trip and this allows the students to hear more details and information. plus, the Holocaust survivors are getting older and the future generations of students have less chances to hear the story of someone who really experienced it. Soon there will be no survivors left and the stories will have to be listened to through recording accounts, which is much different than hearing it in person.

The students in Mathew's class all gave positive feedback from the trip and wish they could go again.



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