



# Bulldog Barker



ISSUE 2, CIRCULATION 600 — BKW HIGHSCHOOL, BERNE, NY 12023 — SPRING 2011 FREE

## NEWS

### Things Are Looking UP at BKW



*photos by Maria Torina*

Mr. McGurl-Principal BKWHS

“We’re very excited and very busy right now. We have many construction workers tearing apart the school as we speak. There will be between seventy-five and one hundred people on site this summer. The locker rooms, auditorium and weight room should be ready by the start of school. As for the gym, it is planned for use during the winter sports season. Everyone is looking forward to next September.”

August Freemann-Clerk of the works

“When the community sees the size and scope of the new cafeteria, the tech rooms and library, they will be very impressed with the work that is hard to see right now. The entire time-line for completion is stacked which means one section can’t be moved into until another is moved and so on and so on. The new technology sections will be ready late in the fall for a mid year move-in. Then the library can move and then.... September 2012 should see the completion of the entire process.”

### Libyan Issues Raise Student Concerns

By Annie Choiniere

In 2001, the United States entered into a war with Afghanistan and with Iraq in 2003. On March 19, 2011, President Obama ordered air strikes against Gaddafi’s forces in Libya, indirectly involving the United States in a war on a third front. In a speech given by Obama on March 28, 2011, he gave reasons as to why as Commander in Chief, he chose to begin air strikes in Libya.

The brutality of Gaddafi to his own people was a motivating factor in initiating the air strikes. Gaddafi had compared his people to rats and killed over a thousand in one day. Obama said, “We knew that if we waited one more day, Benghazi, a city nearly the size of Charlotte, could suffer a massacre that would have reverberated across the region and stained the conscience of the world. It was not in our national interest to let that happen.” The goal of the U.S. in this conflict was for Gaddafi to leave power, and we are on our way to completing this, as Gaddafi’s forces continue to be attacked by NATO. Obama also mentioned the air strikes being launched for a humanitarian purpose, essentially to give aid to the rebels in their quest for freedom. The United States did not want to witness the murder of thousands of innocent people under the rule of a brutal dictator.

Many have questioned what is to come next for U.S. troops in Libya. President Obama promised he would not deploy ground troops but many are still concerned about if the U.S. is stepping back and letting the rebels fight their own war. NATO will be taking over the operation but will this conflict develop into a United States war with Libya?

# ***NEWS Continued***

## **Animal Abuse: Why?**

**By: Erika Dockey**

Over the years, many animals have been tortured or ended up dying because of a careless owner, or an owner that abused it. Organizations over the world try to stop this atrocity, but it still happens. People became concerned about child abuse, so perhaps that is why Parenting classes came about. Well, why not create a class that teaches people and children alike about how to properly take care of an animal? It would most likely help with the case of children “innocently” abusing a poor animal. Animal abuse is not just, at all, and should not exist at all.

As a child, I once - unintentionally - flipped my guinea pig, Max, plenty of times where he landed on his back. Over the next few days, he began to limp and soon died. We never figured out what was wrong with him, but my guess is that it involves my unintentional abuse. If I knew better, and if I was taught not to do this to my pet, then he most likely would have lived a little longer. It is these incident abuse cases in which a child is taught, at the last second, how to treat an animal with care and respect. If there were people teaching us how to treat animals with love and compassion, then maybe these accidental abuse cases would happen less often. It breaks my heart hearing an animal is abused

and / or persecuted because of the way a child treated it. It sickens me that we value our own lives over the lives of animals, in which I think that we should value our own lives and the lives of others equally. Animal abuse is not much of a concern, apparently, if we do not care about it as much as we do about child abuse. Animal abuse should be gone, and banished.

I am glad to hear about the tougher laws for animal abuse, but once more, I feel that it is not enough. We should have classes for taking care of animals with respect, like we have classes on how to properly take care of a child. If you are not ready for the responsibility, you should not be taking care of an animal. Animals require a certain amount of responsibility, and if you do not feel that you are up to the task of providing a shelter, food, and water for the animal, then you should take it to an animal shelter, where it would be better than neglecting the animal. I watch plenty of animal abuse commercials at home that are against animal abuse, where they wish for donations, but once more, I feel that it is not enough. If a person takes the life of an animal, then they are not in value of having their own.

In conclusion, I feel that animal abuse is a strong, and important topic. Many people are against it, so why not do more to help prevent animals suffering? Teach others the value of taking care of a companion in your life. Teach

them that it is not right to abuse an animal in such a way, that it is a horrid deed that should never be committed. Animal abuse, I believe, is just as sin as abusing another human.

## **“Skaters Paradise”**

**By Joe Dober**

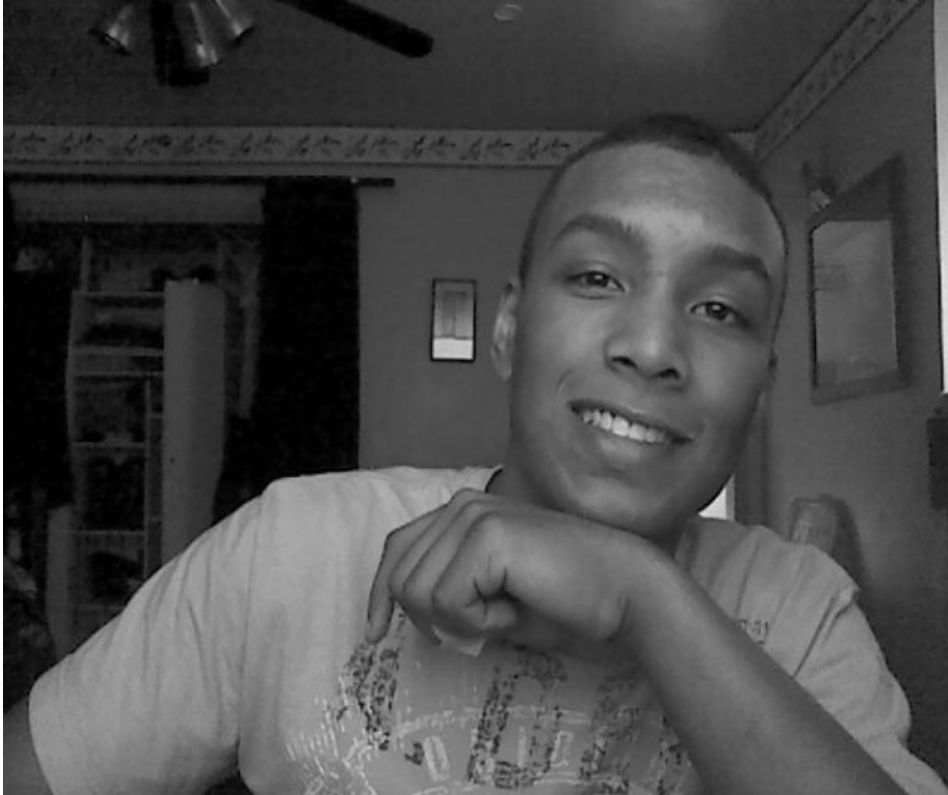
The Franklin Delanor Roosevelt Skate Park (FDR) is located in Philadelphia, Pa, under the I-95 highway overpass right of Broad Street, so its protected from rain and snow. You can also get to it from the Puttison Ave. stop off the subway. It’s a park built by skaters for skaters. It’s a place where a skater can feel free and at home. The birth of this great spot in 1994 marked the beginning of a legendary skate zone. The reason for building this was because the government in Philadelphia wanted to ban skating everywhere. It was highly illegal to skate at Love Park so the skaters needed a location.

So the birth of FDR became necessary. The city set aside 16,000 square feet beneath the highway. They threw up a couple of rails and boxes and thought that would settle the dispute between the government and skaters. But half a year later the skaters got tired of waiting and took matters into their own hands. In the spring of 1997 the “Bunker Wall,” sixty feet long and eleven feet high began to take shape. Then came the Dome at fourteen feet with an insane overhang extending high.

In 1999, it was marked as part of the expansion of the back section of the park. In early 2000, a heated disagreement over terrain design and space put the park on hold. After disputes were put aside, the park took its rightful place again at the top of the skaters’ dream list.

FDR has a life of its own. Its pulse is measured by every new tag and urethane marks.

# News Continued



## Prostart A Professional Leap

By Akeem Stewart

Prostart, a competition that tests the skills of the individual and the skill of a team in the culinary field. Culinary students from across America gathered in Kansas City to represent their state in the national Prostart invitational.

Over forty states participated in the 2011 Prostart competition. The experience was a once-in-a-life-time and I was fortunate enough to meet people from around the country. Two team appearances that surprised me were ones from Guam and Alaska.

Now, the contest consists of a four person team and one alternate, in case anyone was injured. The New York culinary team consisted of Victoria McCormick (Berne-Knox- Westerlo), Meghan Miller (Cobleskill), Rebecca Raffin (Duaneburg) , Brandon Kallner ( BKW), and me. The teams were faced with the task of demonstrating work efficiency in a working kitchen environment. To compete, the teams must have two members fabricate a whole chicken into eight cuts. The other two members had the task of knife cuts, demonstrating knife skills, cutting two ingredients in specific shapes or sizes for each. The judges looked for technique, safety and the overall end

product of each of the cuts. Performing knife cuts and fabrications in front of the watchful eyes of the judges, top chefs from around the country, is much harder than cutting in the classroom kitchen where there is no pressure to be perfect.

Next came the hard part, preparing a three course meal within the hour. Every team competing in this national contest came in first place in its state. Competition was the best of the best for a high school culinary contest. Judging was similar to the popular television show Iron Chef America, where food is judged on taste, presentation, and originality.

Prostart wasn't all about serious competition. Most of the time we were there was free time. Prostart and its supporters had a big opening ceremony for the kids. Marching bands played with people cheering and the whole thing was filmed by professional camera men and women. After the ceremony, there was a party held for all the kids. This big field was full of a DJ, sumo wrestling suits, ice carving, inflatable slides, Velcro walls, and everything in an amusement park was there. Coca-Cola donated a room full of free drinks and activities, and the Sheraton Hotel lent us their spaces to hold the competition and festivities. It was nice to meet all of the kids from across the country with similar interests.

Prostart, to me, is a once-in-a-lifetime experience and any kid interested in the culinary field at BOCES should participate in it.

# Arts & Entertainment



## Karate Kid Brings Warmth By Rachel Fuller

“You have taught me very important lesson, Xiao Dre. Life will knock us down, but we can choose whether or not to stand back up.” This quote is the focus of the movie *Karate Kid*, written by Robert Mark Kamen. In my home I was able to relax and enjoy this captivating movie. *Karate Kid* is a fascinating movie that has comedy, sorrow, love, and action. This is a great movie for everyone.

The storyline of *Karate Kid* is about a young boy named Dre Parker who moves to China with his mother. After Dre is beaten up by some boys at his school, he starts learning Kung Fu from Mr. Han, the maintenance man. The main theme of the film teaches how Dre and Mr. Han are able to help each other with their struggles. Both Mr. Han and Dre learn throughout the movie that life will knock them down but they have to choose to get back up.

The film has many emotions that people can relate to and understand. There is an aspect of sorrow because both Dre and Mr. Han have lost loved ones. Love is also felt in the film because Dre comes to love Mr. Han and his friend from school. Dre also feels lots of anger over moving to China because of the suffering he has faced since they moved. All of these emotions were portrayed well and will be felt by everyone who sees it.

The filming of the movie was very good and it enhanced the quality of the experience. In one scene where Dre and Mr. Han are practicing Kung Fu, there is a light shining on them creating a shadow on a wall. This use of lighting and shadowing added so much to the scene and the entire movie. There were many other technical details that were used to improve the quality of the film.

People should definitely watch the film *Karate Kid* because it encompasses so many parts of life such as humor, love, and action. The film has a wonderful story that will appeal to all ages. The film also gives the public a wonderful message about how even though we are knocked down by life we can still decide to get up and continue on.

## Get on the Band Wagon

By Julia Turner

If you have ever played an instrument, chances are you have been with many different groups. You also probably know how the sound of a group, as well as your personal experiences are affected by the people-musicians-surrounding you. A selective group, like those in all-county can perform highly technical pieces. But a smaller group, like our own BKW High School band can play emotional pieces because we know our own sound and we know our capabilities. In our own band we know what we are capable of mastering. That's why more people should sign up for the band. You should be a part of a group of world-class musicians.



[www.proctors.org/events/disneys-lion-king](http://www.proctors.org/events/disneys-lion-king)

## King of the Musicals Roars in Schenectady

By Kristen Bassler

Were you able to attend *The Lion King* at Proctors? If so, do you think this was one of the best productions you have ever seen? According to numerous people that attended the show, they stated their amazement, and were shocked with the many props used and character dedication. If you ever find the chance to watch this production, it is certainly worth it and your money will be well spent. By seeing this show I was able to appreciate more on how much actually goes into the production and see the amount of effort presented by each character.

Being in school musicals I know how hard it can be to put forth, however, I have learned an entirely new appreciation for large-scale productions. I was able to see props I have never even imagined, such as safari animals that were all engineered by the characters. The sets were all perfect for each scene, where in some scenes just a back drop was used. This simplicity absolutely worked and shows that props do not always have to be used. When I think of the *Lion King* bright colors definitely come to mind. The colors exuded throughout the production brought warmth and excitement to the audience. At one point in the show characters stood in the aisles, waving a colorful flag, which symbolized joy and happiness in the scene. This was one of my favorite parts, as it allowed the audience to see directly the characters' expressions and live the moment with them. Another important aspect of the play was the music, where African drums and other instruments were used. This made me feel as though I was actually in Africa and I knew each character personally. Overall, I believe everyone should get the chance to see this musical.

The energy brought forth by the characters was exceptional. Every aspect put into the show came together beautifully and created a show to be never forgotten. This was one of the best musicals I have ever seen and I highly recommend you see it. I would not change one thing, as it was memorable and allowed me to have a new appreciation for what goes into a musical production.

# *DRAMA CLASS PRESENTS...*

## *“A Midsummer Night’s Dream”*



*Lord, what fools these mortals be....*



*The Fairies sing Queen Titania to sleep*



# *THE BKW MUSIC DEPARTMENT PRESENTS...*

## *SOUTH PACIFIC*



*Rebekah Richardson*



*Alon Willing with Kristen and Carlie Bassler*



*The Cast*



# EDITORIALS

## Using Tech 'Toys' Helps Society

By Marley Furman

Today, almost everyone is dependent on technology. Many people today have electronics that they consider 'necessities,' such as cell phones, televisions, mp3 players, game consoles, and more. About twenty-five percent of each day, people are spending on the computer. About seventy years ago, computers were not available for people to spend twenty-five percent of their day on. The computers then took up an entire room and were not convenient to move around. Some people say that this dependency of technology is a bad thing. A large amount of society today uses calculators for very simple math that the common person should be able to do in his or her head. A new item that people are relying on is the smart phone. From one of these phones, a person can check the weather, social network news, music, and the time, as well as the normal functions of the phone like texting and calling. I do not think that people constantly relying on technology is bad because if we have it and it is available, why not use it?

## A Bitter Sweet Ending

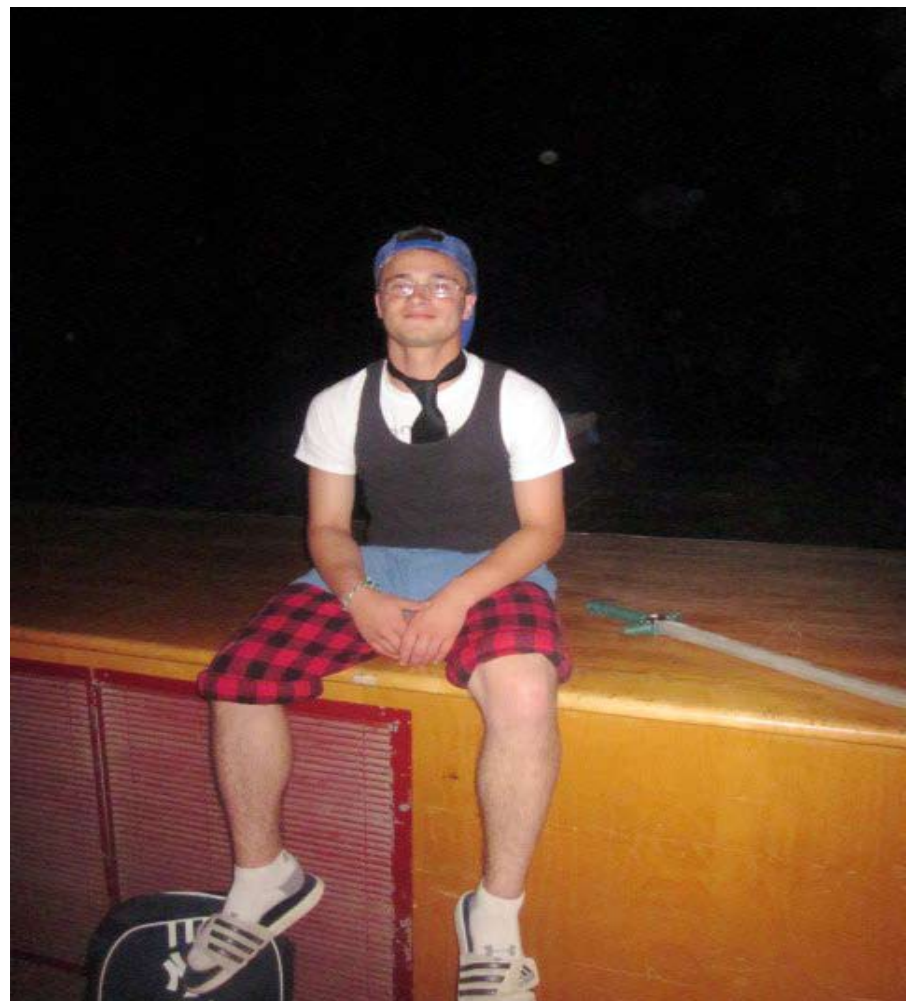
By Alon Willing

"I can't wait to get out of here" or "I can't wait to graduate." These are the two lines that I hear all the time from seniors. Sometimes I can see why people are frustrated with school, but most of the time I just don't understand. Your senior year should be something special and exciting. As for me, unlike most people in my grade, I am not looking forward to leaving high school.

That feeling that I have is almost bitter and sweet. The sweet feeling because you feel a sense of accomplishment and the bitter feeling because you know your time here is coming to an end. Knowing that everything you do as a senior, like running Cross-Country, playing basketball, or being in a musical, is the last time you are going to do these activities. It is a sad feeling. Things that you don't want to end will end and the only thing you can do about it is just remember the good times you once had.

For seven years I have been in the school's musicals, and now that I am a senior, I know that it's the last time. The same goes with Cross-Country. Those two events that I participated in have made me who I am today, and it's a shame that this year is my last. When Cross-Country ended, it was one of the saddest feelings I ever had as a member of the team. Although I did have a feeling of accomplishment, it was still sad.

So my message to all of you is to not focus on the problems of our school, but enjoy the ride through your remaining high school years and squeeze as much sweetness out as you can before your time is up.



## **AP Classes Are Important**

By Keely Duffney

AP classes make colleges look at students and like them for challenging themselves and being able to handle an AP style course. Now imagine not having those classes on your transcript, which makes you less desirable to a college with another student who could take those classes. With the budget, we will possibly lose teachers, classes, and have already lost some AP classes. This does not give a student the same opportunity as others applying to colleges. I think taking away advanced and honors classes is one of the stupidest things to cut. I know everyone in a class like AP strives for something amazing in a job to help society in some way. We need to make sure we allow opportunities for kids who really deserve it.

## **Planned Parenthood Offers**

### **Knowledge**

By Jessica Seaburg

Most people think of Planned Parenthood as just a place to go to receive a free abortion. If you knew about it more, then your perspective would change. Is it right to take away the funding of Planned Parenthood just because they give a free abortion?

The debate over pro-life or pro-choice has been raging on for years now. But regardless of whether you are pro-life or pro-choice, Planned Parenthood is there to help. Margaret Sanger founded Planned Parenthood, but during that time, most of the population was poor and working in factories. She had told the poor to use different types of birth controls to keep the number of children down, because it was children they could not afford. Planned Parenthood became a place for women to go when they needed help or advice for her family.

You may be thinking that Planned Parenthood basically is just an abortion clinic, but they offer much more information than that. Planned Parenthood offers different types of birth controls. It also offers sex education to educate teens about sex, abstinence, birth controls, STD's, and pregnancy. For pregnant women, it offers advice to you and the father, and if you are a pregnant teen, they help you come up with a way to tell your parents. Planned parenthood is more than just an abortion clinic, but most people do not know that.

There are many ways to address the debate going on about whether or not to take away funding from Planned Parenthood. I think that it is not a right to take away the funding because this program can be beneficial for everyone. It has helped millions of people, and when I think about it, it is just a more in depth health class.

There is not enough time in one school semester to cover everything health related. Sex is one of the more important topics in health but the class does not penetrate too deeply because there is much more to talk about. Planned Parenthood specializes in this and they can answer any questions you may have.

If it were up to you, would you take away funding from this helpful program? Planned Parenthood has helped millions. So what if they offer a free abortion? They also offer help to those who want it or need it. In your opinion, is it right to take away this program's funding?

# EDITORIALS

## Go The Speed Limit

By Brittany Ayers

Have you ever been behind a car that was going under the speed limit? How does this make you feel? It annoys me most of all.

It is dangerous because the person behind you will try to pass you and that could cause an accident. Another reason why it is dangerous is because it causes road rage which is when people become angry, and in turn, very aggressive. There are also senior citizens who drive below the speed limit and personally, I think if you are older and cannot reach the speed limit, you should not be driving, you are putting people in a situation to get in an accident. It is not just a complaint, it is also against the law to drive excessively under the speed limit.

There are many other reasons causing people go under the speed limit, like using your cell phone. This is not just unsafe for other drivers, but it is also unsafe for you as well, because twenty-five percent of all accidents are caused by cell phone usage. This percentage has risen to over thirty-six percent in two years. Also, new drivers go under the speed limit because they are unsure of themselves, but that means you should stop and let people behind you pass because it is less dangerous for you and the other drivers. When people do not go the speed limit, it can slow other people down when they have to be somewhere, and you could be the person slowing them down.

Instead of waiting for them to pass you, you should pull over and save that person from getting annoyed with you and save yourself from an accident. This proves that going under the speed limit is not safe for you and other drivers, and you should stick to the normal speed limit unless otherwise indicated.

## Budget Cuts From a Student's POV

By Christina North

With today's difficult economic times, have you ever thought about how tough it would be to decide what is going to be cut from a budget? We have all heard about the national and statewide debts and clearly this lack of money is making each day difficult. Being in a small district with a small community, it is really hard when the state has to cut our funding. People get really upset about certain things that are potentially getting cut from the budget. We need to step back and take things in perspective.

The administration is not cutting things to upset people, but it is their job to decide what resources and programs are most important for the entire school. It cannot be easy for them to make those decisions with people constantly complaining, but they cannot please everyone. We should cut our administrators some slack because they are just trying to do what is best for us and they are doing their best to balance the wants and needs of the students in such a tough economic time.



# SPORTS AND CLUBS

## No Couch Potato When You Dance

By Ashley Bub

“Dance is the only art from which we ourselves are the raw materials.” Dance is an absolutely amazing sport and activity and is my favorite activity to participate in outside of school. My choice of dance is hip hop, but there are many other kinds such as jazz, tap, ballet, lyrical, Irish step dancing and many more. I believe that dance allows you to express yourself in ways that nothing else can. Whatever your style of dance, you can express yourself and emotions through dance. Dance can also be helpful as therapy for some people. Dance allows you to be crazy, silly, serious, funny, athletic, happy and much more. For me, it provides a joy that nothing else does. When I dance, I don't feel embarrassed or nervous because I don't care what others think. I dance for myself.

I am currently taking classes at Eleanor's School of Dance in Colonie. I enjoy taking this class because I love my teacher and I truly have fun dancing. I am able to let loose, release all my emotions and have fun all at the same time. It also allows me to stay active instead of sitting on the couch watching television. Many people often think that dance is just dance and it doesn't take a lot of work. Well, those people are wrong. Dance takes an amazing amount of work. If you have a recital to perform and work towards, you have a deadline. This means that you have to focus and work on getting all the steps exactly right. This involves constant practice and having fun, but also realizing when your deadline is and focusing when you need to really work. There is no set amount time of practice that is needed. If you are part of a class, you have to practice on your own as well as in class because you can't review the same steps every week. The groups need to know their steps when they come to class so that they can move on to the rest of the dance.

My particular dance is composed of many different parts of songs. My dance instructor makes up dance moves on the spot to teach us and we usually end up

doing a minute of each song. She has cut each song so that they fade in and out so that when we perform them at the recital, they will all be right after each other. I am excited to see how our entire dance comes together because we are still not finished adding new songs and new steps.

Dance is a very serious sport and can even be taken at the competition level. Anyone who says that dance is not a sport is wrong. You work very hard when participating in dance. Also, you don't have to be in a class or club in order to dance. Dance at parties, with your siblings, friends, in front of your mirror! I do all the time. Dancing allows you to release things and express things that can only be done through dance. It's also enjoyable. Find the style of type of dance that's right for you and dance! It will help keep you active, allow you to express yourself, and let you have fun while being either goofy or dancing for competition. Whatever your style, just dance.

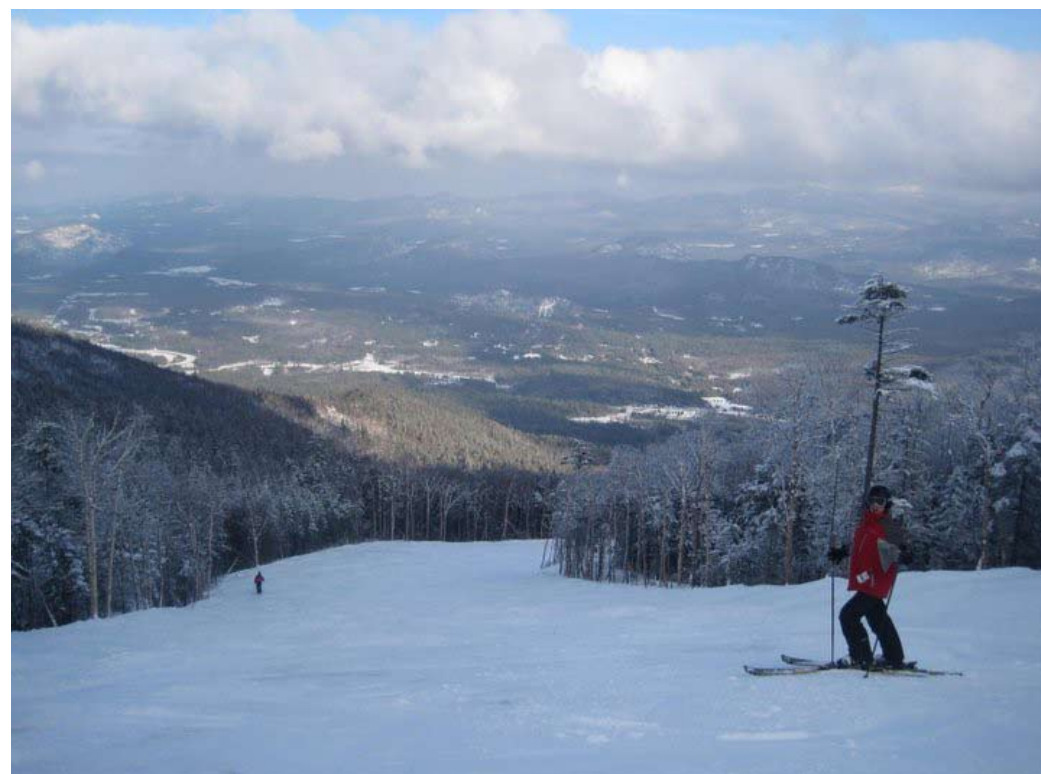


# ***SPORTS AND CLUBS***

## **Are you involved?**

**By Rachel Fuller**

There are many clubs and programs at Berne-Knox-Westerlo that support different causes in the world. These clubs include Students Serving Society, Key Club, National Honor Society, National Junior Honor Society, and many others. During the month of March, Key Club raised \$1,350 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society with the help of the school. This money helped to pay for the dreams and the treatment of kids fighting cancer. The National Honor Society collected old cell phones for women in shelters and recently completed a project where they made origami swans. For each swan that was made, a piece of clothing was sent to a needy person in Japan. Many other projects like these have been done to help better the lives of people around the world. These clubs can always use your support. Have you done your part to help someone this week?



## **Skiing To New Heights**

**By Connor Devine**

This past February, I had the opportunity to go skiing at Whiteface Mountain in Lake Placid. My dad, his friend and Annie Choiniere drove up early in the morning in a snowstorm of about four inches, which meant they were probably getting five inches at Whiteface. I was so excited to ski this mountain.

Whiteface is said to be the number one ski resort in the eastern U.S. by Ski Magazine, with 3,430 feet of vertical drop, also the most in the east, and the site of the Olympic Games, I couldn't hold myself together once the mountain came into view. I had never skied on such a big and challenging mountain before. We had the most beautiful day to spend on the slopes, with five inches of fresh powder and a temperature around 35 degrees. When we reached the top of the mountain, we were 4,386 feet above sea level, the highest I have ever been in my whole life. The slopes were on the challenging side. The blue squares there were like black diamonds at most mountains. Some of the runs looked so challenging I decided not to do them. My favorite trail was Wilmington Trail, which was 2.1 kilometers long!

Skiing at Whiteface Mountain was the best experience I have ever had in winter. I can't wait to go back.

# POINT BREAK

Dear Anonymous Donor,

Thank you very much for providing us the opportunity to attend the Point Break program. The eleventh grade class definitely had much fun and now, we are closer together than we were before. At Point Break, I learned so many things about my classmates and I learned new things about my friends, too. I learned that we all have our own 'baggage' and that we all carry a burden on our shoulders.

I learned that we all feel pain; some just feel it greater than others. Even people who we normally think of as mean or bullies feel pain and have been hurt in some way. They hurt others and they bully others because they think that if they hurt somebody else, they will feel less pain in their hearts. They also hurt others to hurt to protect themselves. By being mean, they think that they will hurt less.

The most important lesson that I learned is that we all wear masks and that sometimes what we see when we look at people is their mask. We do not really see the real person behind it. Again, thank you very much for the opportunity. You have made a difference in our school and you helped us greatly. The program was a success and thank you again.

Sincerely,  
Maria



Dear Anonymous Donor,

Thank you so much for donating the money for the Point Break field trip. I truly believe that the Point Break field trip will help our grade become better students and people. Point Break allowed me to examine myself so so I can learn how to be a better person and friend. This field trip allowed the eleventh grade students at Berne-Knox-Westerlo to learn more about each other and how to "be real" with each other. Thank you again for being so gracious to donate the money for the field trip. It is great to know that we have someone in our community that cares about us. Thanks again!

Sincerely,  
Rachel



Dear Anonymous Donor,

I would like to thank you very much for the opportunity you gave to my junior class. Point Break allowed students and teachers to build stronger relationships with one another and achieve a higher level of understanding. When the Point Break program was first described to me, I thought it would basically consist of adults telling teenagers not to bully, and that they would maybe share some of their own stories to show that they could empathize. I had no idea that we would become so personally involved with this program. My views and opinions of my classmates and teachers have been changed forever. I now realize that, even though there is a considerable age difference between us, teachers have gone through, and still go through the same problems students face today. I now know that many other kids are going through at least one problem in their life and that no one is perfect. The Point Break program has allowed me to think more openly and be more considerate towards other people. Your donation has helped change my perspective on life and appreciate my classmates and teachers more than I ever have. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Erin



Dear Anonymous Donor,

Thank you so much for the great experience that you provided at the Point Break program. I know that everyone enjoyed the different activities we participated in, whether it was the chair activity in the beginning or the group discussions. Thank you for providing our class with such a bonding experience where we learned about one another.

This program has taught me not to judge another person's actions because he or she could be experiencing many problems that I am unaware of outside of school. There were many different personal secrets that were told in our group that answered my questions about why these people are quiet or sad or insecure. During the time I was at Rock Road Chapel I not only learned about others, I learned more about myself. When the man talked to us about being real I realized that sometimes I am too real. I am sure people are sometimes overpowered by my honesty and goofy personality. There were many realizations about life and how I want to live my life and the way I want to interact with others.

This was a wonderful experience that our class enjoyed immensely. We are now a closer-knit group of people that interact in a positive way, trying to disregard the bullying and negative actions. Thank you again for this wonderful opportunity to improve ourselves!

Sincerely,  
Abby



Dear anonymous donor,

Thank you many times over for providing us with the opportunity to attend the Point Break field trip. It was a complete surprise to me because I was expecting something way different, but I really enjoyed our time there. I think the whole junior class actually became closer, which I never would've expected to happen. I can tell I was not the only one who enjoyed it because my friends and I were talking about it for the rest of the day. I thought about it on my own, and I actually saw comments on Facebook about the field trip. Yesterday, we all learned information about our peers that we may or may not have wanted to know, but it gave us an opportunity to grow more sensitive to what others are going through. I think we all learned something yesterday and without it we would all still be blind and unaware of the major problems that our own classmates are experiencing as only teenagers. So thank you for making this field trip possible to our class and hopefully to more classes in the future.

Sincerely,  
Annie



Dear Anonymous Donor,

WOW! Thank you so much for the donation you have made for our junior class. Point Break was literally the best field trip I have ever been on. Everyone in our entire class experienced an amazing day and had a wonderful time learning more about classmates and becoming closer to one another. I feel badly for the people that could not go because they definitely missed out on a great experience.

I personally would like to thank you now. I was truly moved by everything that went on at the Point Break field trip, and seeing other people change also was extremely moving. The tears and laughter we all shared brought us much closer and I am so grateful for that and also for the men and women that led the workshop. They were really amazing and really helped us all dig deep down and realize some things in our lives that we did not understand or know about before. I realized that it is so easy for me to encourage the people that are constantly being pounded on by bullies and peers. But what about the actual bullies? I realize I need to put myself out there to help them also because that way the hurt is more likely to stop.

So, thank you, Mr. or Mrs. donor! I had a wonderful experience all because you cared for the students here at BKW. We are truly blessed because of you.

Sincerely,  
Rebekah

