

THE BUZZER

Primus Inter Pares

Hastings High School
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The Voice of Hastings High School



HASTINGS' HOME HISTORY



Photo courtesy of Julia Morris

by Lena Rubin
Managing Editor

You may think you know all that the small town of Hastings has to offer, but a visit to the supremely underrated Hastings Historical Society just might change your mind.

Located on the Draper Estate just next to the park of the same name, the society's home base is the cottage where astronomer Henry Draper recorded some of the first photographs of outer space in the 1860s.

Inside the cottage you'll find even more Hastings history in the form of found and donated artifacts and photos. When I stopped by, I got to take a look at some archived maps, showing what our village looked like as early as the 17th century.

Sue Smith, president of the Historical Society, explained, "Understanding the history of our small village, as well as the nation and the world, provides a good footing to move into the future... at the society, we make out bit of this historical story come to life."

Besides collecting artifacts and researching the history of our town, the Society displays exhi-

...continued on page three

TEACHERLY TRADITIONS

by Arianne Siegel & Lara Feder
Contributing Writer & Senior Staff
Writer

With Hanukkah over and Christmas and New Year's on the way, it's easy to find students eagerly anticipating the holidays and participating in social events like Secret Santa. What may be surprising, though, is the fact that many teachers also engage in holiday-related events with each other—which doesn't just mean sitting at their desks, grading assignments, and throwing on candy cane stickers.

According to Spanish teacher Katie Sellick, her department doesn't give each other gifts, but does celebrate birthdays with teachers "taking turns to bring in cakes."

Peter Scotch spoke for the English department, noting that the "big event of the year" which brings his department together outside of school is the end of the year party.

Melissa Shandroff said that while fudge cookies are pretty much the extent of the science department's holiday related

...continued on page four

READING HABITS OF THE MILLENNIALS

by Dave Dorsky
Contributing Writer

In a world overflowing with Instagram photos, tweets, and status updates, one may wonder: whatever happened to the book?

Well, according to a survey filled out by 30 Hastings High School students, it hasn't fully disappeared. 73% of the students surveyed have read a book for pleasure in the past year. As a well cultured person might suspect, the remaining 27% all had the same reason for not reading: they preferred to play video games, watch T.V. or use social media.

On the other hand, 75% of these non-book readers claim to read magazines or web articles, in comparison to the study done by the Pew Research Center, where they found that 47% of teenagers read this form of literature.

Of those who do read, just 45% of Hastings students say that they utilize their public library while Pew Research concluded that 60% of young Americans make use of their city's book haven. Many readers (41%) state that Realistic Fiction is the genre that

they enjoy the most over Fantasy/Adventure (23%) and Mystery/Suspense (18%).

It is interesting to note that while technology is thriving immensely in the social world, 100% of surveyed Hastings High School readers prefer to use print books rather than "e" or audio books. Also, while the majority of the students surveyed have recently read for contentment, many of them (45%) read for just 10-20 minutes a night and just 15% read for at least 45 minutes.

On a different note, it has been proven that SAT scores and the amount a student reads are directly linked. While 61% of book readers said that they were aware of this, just 37.5% of non readers claim to know about this correlation. So while the majority of Hastings students might be in good shape, those members of the 27% might be in trouble come test taking time.

The Wifi Revolution Comes to Hastings

by Thomas Gelfars
Senior Editor

In today's burgeoning information age, there are certain rights and privileges that individuals have to come to prioritize in order to satiate their technological needs. Among the foremost of these rights is universal Wi-Fi. Nobody is exactly sure what Wi-Fi is or means; all that we know is that it is an intangible force that allows us to access the internet. In recent years, Wi-Fi has come to be offered in all sorts of establishments and locations – fast food restaurants, coffee shops, malls, airports, cargo vessels, police stations, power plants, et cetera – but most recently, the Wi-Fi trend has come to our very own high school.

If you were wondering what in the world those suspicious white prisms with blinking lights on the ceiling were, you no longer need to fear for your safety and security. Those seemingly creepy boxes are dispensing the vital energy that is Wi-Fi. Invisible beams of information shoot out of these boxes, penetrating your device of choice and imbuing it with the ability to surf the web. How cool is that?

Unfortunately, the Wi-Fi Hastings High School now provides comes with some ramifications. First of all, it necessitates a log-in and password to access it. Laziness

...continued on page three

WHAT'S INSIDE...

Sport Injuries

What's up with all of these broken bones? Stupid kids or stupid system?

page three >

Praise the Lord! Or At Least One of Them? Saturn Maybe?

Learn more about the Latin-fest, Saturnalia and what you missed out on the other day!

page four >

Science Research: A Class Perfect For Science Lovers

Find the cure for cancer, or maybe study a set of twin, it's your decision with this often overlooked class

page four >

2013 Holiday Gift Guide

Still haven't purchased all of your gifts for the Holiday season? No worries, with this comprehensive guide, you'll be set!

page four >

EDITOR'S PAGE

DICKENS or DICKINSON?



When The Buzzer walked into the English office to ask some questions about what authors we read in class, the resounding majority of the teachers seemed to have anticipated the topic.

A sampling of assigned literature from Hastings High School English classes shows that there are more male authors represented than female ones.

"I think there's a lot of anxiety over whether the boys will like the book choice," said Ms. Walters, a 10th grade English teacher, "which has driven a lot of the decisions."

Walters added that a lot of the literature written by females that she teaches is in the form of a poem or a short story, which, she worries, marginalizes the significance of these female authors.

Mr. Blum, who teaches English 9 and AP English, agreed with Walters, stating that his curriculum incorporates a significant number of short stories and poetry written by female authors. But it seems that there is far more to blame than just the English department. The Common Core suggested English curriculum features more than four times the number of male authors as it does female authors in the 11th-12th grade category, and more than five times the number of male authors as it does female authors in the 9th-10th grade category.

With all of this information, you'd think the students of HHS would have something to say about what seems like a problem. However, many students we spoke to reported being indifferent about the issue of gender representation in the English curriculum.

Some think that paying too much attention to who wrote the books we read just shouldn't be a big deal.

"I think it's about the content and not the creator," said senior Zach Linn.

Adam Deutsch, a junior, added, "I think that the English [teachers] choose the books that they find most intriguing, and most of these authors happen to be men."

There's also another reason why the English curriculum appears to be biased toward men.

"Most of the classic novels were written by men, during the classical era in which female writers were repressed," said Daisy Mitchell, a senior in AP English. "However, I do think that certainly this year, there has been more of a balance between female and male [authors]."

Mitchell added that "during junior year, it is particularly hard to teach classic american literature written by female writers since the themes are so male-oriented with the American Dream."

Noah Mazer, a junior, said that "it's probably due to the fact that men had more prominence in literature until somewhat recently, so the books we consider classics are usually going to have been written by men."

Junior Adam Willson agreed with Mitchell: "I don't know much about literature in general, but I do know I've heard of a lot more male writers than female, so maybe that's a possible reason for the curriculum being so male-oriented."

On the other hand, though, plenty of students do feel that the curriculum could use a stronger female voice. The predominantly female editorial staff of The Buzzer agreed almost unanimously that it would like to read more female authors in class.

Junior Leila Hirschfeld agreed: "I think it's important to hear from more female voices."

Whether gender representation in the English curriculum is a pressing issue or not, The Buzzer would like to take this opportunity to make a few suggestions to anyone who feels the need to diversify their reading.

To students who are looking for more female authors: the English curriculum does not pose any restraints on the types of books you can read outside of the classroom. While English teachers must select books that specifically tie into their curriculum, we as students face no such limitations in our independent reading.

Inside the school, it's ultimately more important for teachers to choose works of literature based on their content and what fits their classroom. Content aside, however, it would be beneficial to students to see more female authors represented in long form in the 9-12 English curriculum.

A greater balance between male and female authors would lead to a greater diversity and variety of perspectives in the literature we read. While gender representation is not the only issue of diversity, it is certainly a place to start.

The Editors

TEENS Join Us for
Yoga Class

Thursdays at 5PM

We're here to
inspire and support
your yoga practice.

Happy Holidays &
See You On Your
Mat!



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The staff of The Buzzer would like to make it clear that this publication is a newspaper written for and made open to everyone in the Hastings High School community. We would like to encourage every student to feel able to contribute to the paper, whether that be by writing, taking photographs, or discussing the issues presented in the content. The Buzzer is an interdisciplinary resource, and everyone is encouraged to take advantage of it.

You may have noticed some changes in The Buzzer this issue - in order to offset printing costs and create more issues, we've started placing advertisements in the paper.

Buzzer Perspectives

What are some of your favorite fall trends?

by Anna Heubert-Aubry



Freshman Wing O'Casey complimented the oversized sweater trend saying, "They're both comfortable and cute for fall."



Sophomore Sanne Wijnands talked about button down shirts, saying, "They are comfortable and you can wear them with things like jeans, leggings, and scarves to accessorize."



Ms. Chang, a student teacher in art also rocked the button down trend, saying, "I like their patterns and colors."



Junior, Maxine Lim wore patterned leggings and stated that the pants "are not only comfortable, but slimming."

OPINION

The Wifi Revolution Comes to Hastings Cont'd



by Thomas Gelfars
Senior Editor

has prevented some, like myself, from ever utilizing the Wi-Fi, for finding out the log-in information has proved too difficult an obstacle to surmount for the sake of connecting to the internet.

The most controversial aspect of the new internet capabilities, however, is the blocking of certain websites that are deemed inappropriate for school usage. These uncouth sites are restricted for a variety of reasons, ranging from "games" to "racist" to "adult". The controversy stems from the fact that some of the blocked websites do not seem all that bad, even arbitrary at times.

Many students are happy with the new addition of Wi-Fi throughout the building, but at the same time are discontent with the blocking system that has prohibited many from viewing sites they are used to having unlimited access to.

"It's sick. It gives me lots of opportunities to look at things that excite me during school hours that I would not

have otherwise been able to look at," said senior Timothy Spenser. "But it really bums me out that so many websites are blocked. In my opinion, the internet is a free space for an individual to express themselves without being held back by others. I think the school has no right to control our internet."

Mr. Spenser is certainly not alone in his discontent towards the school's censorship of the web. Some students claim that the blocking of sites borders on impeding their scholastic success. "I like that I'm able to go on the internet, on a positive note," said senior Emily Linn, "but I do wish

some websites weren't blocked, like Google Translate."

While the student body may not be entirely enthused with the cutting-edge additions to internet access in the school, it is unlikely that there will ever be a point where no websites are blocked. After all, there is a lot of really weird stuff out there, and the line must be drawn somewhere. Either way, Hastings High School has taken a step towards the future in offering Wi-Fi. Who knows what's next? Robot janitors? Telepathic lessons? Escalators? Only time will tell.

by Lyra Fuchs
Senior Staff Writer

Torn ACLs, Broken Legs, and Concussions! Oh My!

This year, the usual racket of students in the hallways seemed to be accompanied with the clicks of crutches. At fire drills, an almost comical amount of students sat patiently on the bench outside the school, waiting for everyone to reenter the school.

"There's absolutely been a rise in injuries this year," nurse Joanne Cipollina said. "There are a lot of kids in crutches, or having leg surgeries, or both. We call them the crutch club."

The health office couldn't come to a consensus on the root of this problem.

"Maybe bones are getting weaker," Cipollina joked.

But there's one problem that threatens Hastings' student athletes even more than their weak bones. The health office has also seen a rise in concussions—students are becoming concussed more often, getting diagnosed more, and taking longer to return to sports. Concussions have become a nationwide focus. In August, the NFL paid \$765 million to once-concussed players who were suing. But it's also an issue for varsity players. An estimated 300,000 high school or college student athletes get concussions per year.

"Not only are concussions diagnosed more frequently based on symptoms, there's been a push to recognize concussions earlier," Cipollina said.

And they have certainly been recognized. There have been so many student concussions of late that the School Board created a concussion policy. The health office, athletic department and school physician all must

make sure that the student follows set guidelines before the student may return to a sport.

Junior Olivia Selemon is very familiar with these guidelines—and, in fact, the health office in general. She's had so many injuries that she has trouble recalling them all, including sprained and fractured ankles, a broken finger, a dislocated ACL, NCL, and meniscus, broken cartilage in her nose, and a broken toe. And, of course, a concussion protracted last year in a soccer game. After the concussion, she had to do a week of concussion protocol with the athletic trainer, Kathy Schindler.

"I had to answer a set of questions, memorize words, write words out while doing other things. Just little tests like that to test my brain. [Schindler] is really great. She also wrapped my toe every day when I broke it freshman year," Selemon said.

But even so, Selemon is yet to recover. Her knee is still hurt, and she still struggles with getting around the school, which is not forgiving to those who have trouble walking.

"The elevator, if you need to take it, is really not accommodating for high schoolers because it's in the middle school. It's really not useful—you still have to walk a lot. Once I was struggling with my crutches and my backpack was so heavy it pulled me down the stairs," she said.

Even besides the elevators, the school can prove harsh for those with serious injuries. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that concussed students should schedule rests in the health office, be allowed more time to get to classes and even leave classes early, and wear sunglasses.

Teachers are largely accommodating on this front. Jack Campson, who is on crutches for the second year in a row, for the same torn ligament in his knee, says that he's "allowed to be a little late, al-

lowed a little leeway."

He too, has the same frustration as Selemon with elevators. He opts to take the stairs, where at least, "people are polite."

Both students, unfortunately, were told to sit out of sports because of their injuries. Selemon managed the soccer team instead of playing this year. Campson sat out of baseball last year, but is hopeful for this spring.

"Safety is our top priority," Pollina said. The health office wants the students to play, yes, but first the nurses must make sure that the students are healthy. This year is presenting even more challenges than usual.

"We have great programs [for injured students]," Pollina said, "but sometimes it's just nature at play."

Hastings History Cont'd

bitions frequently. Last year, the High School Photography Club participated in an exhibit called "Hastings Serves: At Home and Abroad" by photographing many Hastings veterans.

Natalie Barry, part of the board of trustees for the Historical Society, emphasized that the Society looks forward to more collaborations with the local community.

The current exhibit on display is entitled "Hastings Artists: A Rich Legacy." It features the artwork of more than forty late Hastings artists, in various mediums, from watercolor painting to woodworking.

The Society has recently expanded its weekday hours to the first Saturday of the month from 2 to 4 PM. Visitors are always welcome (and usually offered tea and cookies). So make sure to stop by if you're into art or history or looking to gain a deeper understanding of what this little town has to offer.

BUZZER IN BACK

Roman Festivities

by Rosie Moss
Contributing Writer

For years, Saturnalia at Hastings High School has been a small, in-class event for Latin students only. However, this year, Latin students, members of Classics Club, and Ms. Aleiner decided it was time to make it a much bigger event.

Saturnalia was an Ancient Roman festival in honor of the deity Saturn. During the holiday, public banquets were held, gifts were exchanged between friends, and there were plenty of games and festivities.

According to Ms. Aleiner, "this is a chance to share importance of the Latin curriculum with the whole community. We want everyone to see that Latin can be a fun, creative class and hopefully Saturnalia will encourage people to take Latin in future years."

Saturnalia took place on Wednesday, December 11, from 6pm-8pm in the cafeteria, open to all Hastings High School students, 8th graders and their families. Admission was \$5—unless you were dressed up in a toga, in which case it is free of charge to enter.

During Saturnalia, the high school jazz band performed marvelously and lots of delectable food was available.

Leila Hirschfeld, a junior who takes Latin 3 and is the event planner for Classics club, said, "We're really excited because this year the band played and it was after school so Saturnalia was much more open to the public, and even to students and faculty!"

Latin 2 performed a Roman skit and Latin 4 presented an exhibit about Ancient Roman inscriptions. For their part in the festivities, the Latin 3 class made a movie, starring such award-winning actors as Noah Mazer and Julia Morriss.

In addition, there were activities for children involving mythology, word activities, and much more. Georgia Simchick, a sophomore, said that she was "excited for the food and also to see the performances and projects made by the Latin students."



Album Review: "Berzerk" by Eminem

by Dave Dorsky
Contributing Writer

In the opening bars of "Berzerk", the lead single from Eminem's new album, *The Marshall Mathers L.P. 2*, the legendary M.C. hollers, "let's take it back to straight hip hop and start it from scratch." Coming off two mediocre albums (2009's *Relapse* and 2010's *Recovery*),

2013 Hastings Holiday Fun Gift Guide

by Rhys Perih
Contributing Writer

HAPPY HOLIDAYS, EVERYONE. I'm truly in the HOLIDAY spirit right now, aren't you? You practically have to be. Say you are.

So I was sitting here in my HOLIDAY Den doing HOLIDAY things, such as covering objects with all-natural popped corn. There's a fire in the fireplace, and the cat's wandered into it numerous times, but that's okay because it's the HOLIDAYS and everybody gets a second chance during the HOLIDAYS and cats probably have nine lives or something like that anyway. I'm piping in HOLIDAY music through speakers placed in my windows, and the neighbors seem to love it. They've been leaving discarded plastic bags on my front lawn, and I've gotten used to the smell of whatever's in them.

But then I said, "What if I helped all my fellow Hastings friends/people decide what to buy for their families or themselves? That sounds like a good idea!" (Keep in mind I actually said all of this, out loud)

So that's what I'm doing here. I don't know what else you wanted. You didn't tell me.

- **Sony PlayStation 4:** This is for all you gamer boyz and grrlz (or perhaps even "grrrlz") out there, who like their Christmases to be a little bit extreme, or, dare I say it, X-TREME. This Sony PlayStation 4 comes equipped with all the things you could ever want in a Sony PlayStation 4, except for of course food for starving children in Africa. Just think of them when you spend \$900 on this.

WHO WOULD YOU BUY IT FOR?: Your father or younger brother, but we all know you want it yourself. You're not fooling anyone.

- **Inflatable Shark:** If you look "inflatable shark" on Amazon (the extent of my research for this article) you will get a whole page filled with almost nothing but just that. Inflatable shark. Miles and miles of it. The inflatable shark industry is booming. Everyone (probably) has one. Don't you want one too? You can name in Johnny and take it on adventures, and make dinner for it, and blame it if you ever commit a major felony. But you have no use for an inflatable shark, you say? Okay, I can't argue with that.

WHO WOULD YOU BUY IT FOR?: Again, everybody already has one but you. Maybe you wouldn't feel so left out if you spent money on this.

- **Silky Feel Poly Solid Color Tie by Dabung** (Available in Royal Blue, Brown, Navy, Aqua

this was certainly a good time for him to return to his roots, and his decision paid off.

With this new album, Eminem is able to combine the loose, funny style portrayed in his early days with the aggressive, serious approach rendered in his later albums while also adopting new methods.

The album has many great moments, including "Rap God," a track in which Eminem raps a mind blowing 97 words in 15 seconds over a slick robotic beat. "Survival" is a catchy rap-rock anthem sure to be heard in sports arenas' across the country. The

Green, Beige, Black, Burgundy, Burnt Gold, Cobalt Blue, Copper, Coral, Dark Brown, Dark Gray, Fusia, Gold, Gray, Green, Hot Pink, Hunter Green, Executive Brown, Lavender, Light Brown, Light Yellow, Mint, Mustard, Off-white, Olive, Orange, Periwinkle, Pink, Purple, Sage, White, Yellow, Turquoise, Taupe, Red, and I only made one of these up, see if you can guess which one): Guys, you'll sure impress the ladies in this keen silky feel (it only feels like silk, God knows what it actually is) tie! If it's garish enough it will certainly draw their eyes away from your stupid face! Buy two, and you'll waste your money, you can only wear one tie.

WHO WOULD YOU BUY IT FOR?: You, you need a tie. Your mother is disappointed in you. When are you going to get a job? Then you'd have to wear a tie.

- **Tim Allen:** Slightly respected actor/comedian who you may have seen in such classics as *Galaxy Quest*, *Wild Hogs*, and *The Santa Clause*. See, the man IS Santa Claus. He practically vomits holiday cheer.

WHO WOULD YOU BUY IT FOR?: I'm sure Tim Allen himself would appreciate one of these.

There. All the holiday shopping, the waiting in line, the wrapping, the deciding what to get for a foreign cousin you've never met, all solved by me. Well, I certainly can't think of any other items that I'd conceivably give somebody for a winter holiday. Can you?

No, you can't. Take my advice, and take my gift ideas. You know they're better than yours. You didn't write a whole newspaper article about yours.



Teacherly Tradition Cont'd

events, many science teachers recently attended Marc Zelmanowicz's wedding.

Shandroff also added that "it's nice to get together as a group socially outside the workplace," something most teachers seemed to agree on.

The teachers that seemed to have the most holiday enthusiasm were by far the ones in the history department. Greg Smith spoke of "a very very spirited Secret Snowman," in which names are chosen out of a hat and clues are given prior to the final celebration. According to Smith, there is one small gift given on two separate days, and then a final gift given when the history teachers go out for dinner.

The best part of the history department's Secret Snowman, though, is that the involved teachers actually bet money, albeit only a dollar, on who is whose Snowman.

Smith concluded, "It's extremely important, not for just fun – it makes us better teachers because we are in a friendly working environment that we all love."



Have an opinion?

The Buzzer accepts Letters to the Editor or op-eds, and always welcomes your feedback.

Send your thoughts to
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