



BELLEVUE EAST
TOM TOM



BELLEVUE EAST HIGH SCHOOL

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1401 HIGH SCHOOL DRIVE

*With the increasing amount of students owning technology,
BPS finds a way to incorporate the devices into classrooms.*



A New Way to Teach Sitting in Holbrook's third period, freshman Gabrielle Estep uses an iPad to learn. The class used the new BYOD initiative to further enhance education. "[The iPads] are cool; they're helpful. [Holbrook] helps us if we need help and walks around," Estep said. *Photo by Faith Wer*

Bring your own device initiative takes off in classrooms

Megan Miller
Sports Editor

Bring Your Own Device (BYOD), where students bring smart devices to the classroom, is a new initiative this year at Bellevue East and West designed help teach and engage students in the curriculum.

"BYOD is bring your own device and it is the idea that some districts are unable to go one-to-one, which means give each student a device, but they want to integrate more technology into the curriculum. BYOD is a policy that allows schools a cheaper way to integrate technology into the classroom because the district doesn't have to buy a huge amount of devices," district technology trainer Jeffrey Bernadt said.

BYOD encourages students to bring their smartphones or other smart devices to school to use in their classes with permission from the teachers. Stu-

dents can work on educational websites and activities in class.

"This means that students can use their cell phone, iPod, tablet, or computer in class with teacher's approval and guidance on educational activities," instructor Valorie Sailors said.

However, not every class uses BYOD. Teachers who wish to use it can have their classes participate in using smart devices. Currently, there are 20-30 teachers between East and West who are involved in the BYOD initiative.

"As of right now, the district is doing BYOD at both high schools and it's a completely voluntary initiative when it comes to the teachers. So, if a teacher wants to do BYOD in the classroom they can. If they don't that is totally okay as well," Bernadt said.

During BYOD, teachers use Kahoot, Schoology, Quizlet and other sites to teach their students. Kahoot and Quizlet are

websites for reviewing. On Kahoot, students can create and take quizzes as a class. On Quizlet, they can create flashcards and study them, play games with them and take practice tests.

Schoology is a website that can be used to access video lectures, activities and assignments. Schoology is especially useful in getting feedback from students, and having class discussions.

"I have used BYOD to have students create accounts in Schoology to access all of the class information for my Geometry, Algebra 2, and Calculus classes. We have also used it to participate in discussions in Geometry and take sample quizzes in Algebra 2 and Calculus. I have also used BYOD for students to participate in Kahoot quizzes," Sailors said.

There are some negatives of BYOD. Not all of the students have smart devices to use in

class and the network sometimes runs too slow to work on. With the slow network, the students cannot get online to do the activities. Teachers may have to come up with a different plan for the day if a problem with the network arises. Problems can also arise if teachers post homework assignments on Schoology, but forgets to tell their students.

"Teachers can assign homework without telling you and if you don't get it done and will say I assigned it why didn't you check. It seems like an unfair thing to do," sophomore Jack Buglewicz said.

BYOD is used to encourage and engage the students in what they are learning. It allows students to do work inside and outside of the classroom. They can access all of their work at home if they miss class, making it easier for students to get caught up on work and participate in class from home.

"So far all of my students are

very engaged in all we are doing with BYOD and these tools are helping students not only in school, but outside of school as well since everything we do in class is published on the web and students can access it, including video lessons, at any time. I have even had students that were absent participate in class discussions," Sailors said.

There are many teachers involved in the BYOD initiative at both East and West. Teachers from all subjects at both high schools are currently using BYOD. It proves as an easy way to share information with students and play review games.

"Right now we have classes at both East and West that are doing BYOD. It's science classes, math classes, social studies classes, English classes, business classes, special education teachers, or world language teachers using BYOD. It's really all types of teachers are getting involved in it," Bernadt said.

Changes in tardy policy, advisory affect students' lives



Staying Interested. In instructor Tim Bogatz's advisory, sophomore Nicolas Chaki draws on the board. The class played pictionary, keeping advisory exciting for students. "I love [Mr. Bogatz] as an advisory teacher," Chaki said. *Photo by Faith Wer*

Bobby Storck
Web Editor

East's tardy protocol and advisory program both changed significantly this year to combat student tardiness between classes as well as create more personal and helpful relationships between teachers and students in advisory. The administration now runs hall sweeps after every period, and students participate in smaller groups with the same teacher every year for advisory.

Dean Chad Holtz was in charge of the changes to the tardy and hall sweep systems. He noticed that students in the hallways after the tardy bell rang interrupted classes by coming in late and decided work with the other deans to institute some changes.

"A major change is that, between classes, if you're late then it's an automatic

hour. There's hall sweeps every period. We didn't do one every period last year. So, instead of on the fifth tardy you get an hour detention, if you're late then it's an automatic, hour detention," Holtz said.

Although the system changed for between classes, mornings will continue as they did last year. Students are checked in by the deans office, and, unlike the hallway policy, only the fifth tardy in the mornings will result in a detention. The difference between these two policies is a result of large numbers of students remaining in the hallways after the tardy bell between classes has rung.

"I think it's important that we need kids in class on time so teachers can start class and not have people walking in late that disturbs the whole instructional process. You have a bell ringer, and if half your class is coming in late, it's hard for that class to get started on time," Holtz

said.

As necessary as these hall sweeps are, many students still do not like getting ushered to class just before the bell rings.

"I don't really like that they do the hall sweeps every hour. I understand why they do it, but I don't like it how they sit out and scream at us and that's not very nice," senior James Casale said.

Even with hall sweeps, some students are still not making it to class and are being given detentions. The detentions are served after school, and doubled in length if the student does not show up. If a student is unable to attend the after-school sessions, lunch detentions and Saturday school are given out. The easiest way to avoid them is to be on time, Holz said.

"The main thing is if [students] are just on time. If they're on time and in class before the tardy bell rings then that's how students can uphold the tardy system," Holtz said.

The tardy policy is not the only system that has changed at East this year. As many students know, every Wednesday, instead of GPS, students participate in a relationship-building program called Advisory. Many students are not happy with Advisory because it cuts into their time to work on homework. They question why East has Advisory and what purpose it even serves.

"The main purpose for Advisory is to have a safe space for a small group of students to build relationships with each other and adults in order to get help on things they need throughout the year or in their life," instructor Tina Sonntag said.

Sonntag was very influential in design-

ing how Advisory works this year. One of the major changes is that it is now more focused on small groups that are in the same grade. Additionally, Advisory is driven more by teachers than the administration.

"Last year [teachers] got a big calendar for the whole year of what we are supposed to do every single Wednesday, and I know this year we are getting emails weekly on suggestions of what to do," Sonntag said.

Advisory is an effort to focus on the individual rather than the whole. Most advisories talk about life skills such as self-respect and being oneself. Students will also have the same advisory teacher they have this year for the rest of high school to improve relations between the students and the teacher to make it easier for the students to talk to their teacher about life and possible problems they encounter along the way. Some students still dislike Advisory, but the recent changes have altered the opinions of some.

"Advisory is a good time for students to get to know the teachers that they are with. It allows them to have more time to be with friends," sophomore Dylan Paul said.

The teachers and staff who organized these changes hope that these changes will better benefit the students' learning opportunities. With them, they hope to better prepare students for the real world.

"It's just like work: a lot of kids here have jobs and they're not late to their jobs," Holtz said. "We're just trying to teach them the responsibility of being on time."



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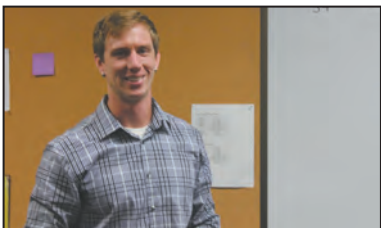

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Saying hello to new East staff members

Please join the Tom Tom staff in fondly welcoming new members of the faculty and staff. Each person will contribute to making Bellevue East High School into the best school it can possibly be through hard work and educating all students in each particular area.

Here are some fun facts To get to know each a little bit better. *Photos by Nia Booth and Luke Butner.*



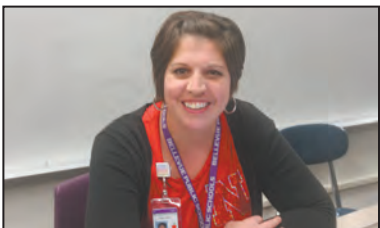
Jeremy Lenz
Algebra 2
From Sioux City
Attended college in Sioux City



Taylor Anderson
Business
From Omaha
Worked on her masters



William White
Music Education
From KC area
Went to UMKC



Robyn Warner
English 10
From Ravenna, NE
Taught at Millard West



Alexander Tyler
Theatre
From McPherson, KS
Taught theatre in Kansas City



Chas Busch
Geometry and Geometry Lab
From Council Bluffs
Swimming in high school



Jerry Geho
English 10
From South Omaha
UNO teaching degree



DeAnna Ryan
Special Ed (ISEC)
From Spencer Iowa
SAC Federal Credit Union



Tracy Baker
English 11
From Ohio
Subbed for OPS



Michael Tackett
Algebra 2 and Trigonometry
From Farragut, IA
Taught at Nishnabotna high school



Tom Horton
Lifetime Activities and Team Sports
Taught 5 years at Lewis and Clark



Gwen Steele
German 1 and 2
From Bellevue, NE
Taught German 1 and Introduction to World Language



Kendra Whisenhunt
Special Ed and co-teacher in Algebra
Taught at Lemay Elementary

Oudious Lee
History
Been in Bellevue Public Schools for many years
Taught at Bellevue West and in the Success Center
He is finishing out his last year at Bellevue East before retirement.

Bogatz wins Secondary Art Educator of the Year



Instructor Tim Bogatz won the NATA's secondary art educator of the year. "I had been nominated before and didn't get it so it was a really cool feeling to actually get that letter saying that I had won," Bogatz said. *Photos By Nia Booth*

Samantha Collison
Editor in Chief

Instructor Tim Bogatz was named Secondary Art Educator of the Year by the Nebraska Art Teachers Association (NATA) in July.

"I was really excited about it when they sent me a letter saying I had won. I had been nominated before and didn't get it, so it was a really cool feeling to actually get that letter," Bogatz said.

Lynette Fast and Allison Fees Varah, Co-Presidents of NATA, chose one art teacher (with the exception of the Prism Award) from the state for each of the

10 categories, including Nebraska Outstanding Art Educator of the Year, Art Educator of the Year for grade levels (Elementary, Middle School, Secondary, and Higher Education), and more. The awards were presented September 17-19 at the NATA fall conference.

"NATA is a professional organization whose mission is to develop and promote quality art education in Nebraska through a statewide professional support system, with opportunities for growth and development through leadership and service," according to the Nebraska Art Educators website.

Bogatz has been teaching for 13



There are different challenges every day and you have to learn to be flexible and be adaptable as a teacher.

years, 11 of those years at Bellevue East. He teaches Intro to Art as well as 2D art classes such as drawing and painting, which are typically full classes that are very difficult to get into. Those who have the privilege of being in classes taught by Bogatz speak highly of him, and especially about his skill when it comes to art.

"He always knows what he's talking about. Right now we're working on a colored pencil piece and I was having problems with the teeth and he knew exactly how I could fix it and now my teeth don't look ugly anymore," junior Elizabeth Thrall said.

He is also known by many students to be a very flexible, easy going teacher who tells lots of stories and keeps the atmosphere in the classroom light. However, he makes no pretenses about the difficulties of teaching teenagers.

"With high schoolers, every day is different, because you guys are moody.

There are different challenges every day and you have to learn to be flexible and you have to be adaptable as a teacher. You have to make sure that you can meet students where they are and help them with whatever they need because that's different everyday," Bogatz said.

Bogatz describes his students as some of the most dedicated and hard-working in the school and credits their success to their passion for what they do. However, his students give his unique teaching style and support a fair amount of credit.

"He lets most people do whatever with the art as long as it's on task and appropriate. It's given me a place to express myself through different styles of art and it's allowed me to come out of my shell," junior Alex Molnar said.

Even in the face of budget cuts, Bogatz has continued to teach to the best of his ability, including turning to parents and asking for donations to pay for supplies. Their generosity has allowed the department to continue to offer the same opportunities to students every year.

"One of the pros [of teaching the same subject at the same school for so many years] is that I get to see a lot of students for a long time. There are students that I get for three and four years at a time, and you get to see that growth and that development, and it's kind of fun to see multiple siblings from the same family and see the different personalities that come from that. As far as negatives, I don't think there really are any. I can see how it gets boring, but we have a pretty cool subject here and we're able to change things up a lot to keep it from getting too stagnant," Bogatz said.

Student council springs into action

Kaylee Robinson
News Editor

In room G03, Instructors Courtney Saffold and Rachel Schutt began the meeting with instructions and taking questions concerning each committee. As the meeting went on, the group of students broke out into smaller groups to discuss ideas.

“As sponsors, Ms. Schutte and I are there to guide the meetings and help get through the red-tape of everything,” instructor Courtney Saffold said.

Student council (STUCO) is a part of high school for decisions that involve dances and football games. The organization is also there to help leaders and people that make the big decisions, such as class officers.

“Planning for prom is our big goal; obviously that’s going to be a big job and you really need to put a lot of work into that,” junior Justinna Epting said.

To get a leadership position, the student must apply the year before and be chosen by teachers in charge of student government.

“To be in student council, they just show up to meetings,” Saffold said.

In STUCO, there are a few different committees, and each has a role that helps lead the school to be more successful.

“We have three groups: advertisers, social media and decorators. The advertisers are making posters and hanging them around the school, the social media group is all about posting things on social media about spirit week, when homecoming is, etc. And the decorators, which would be my group, are basically decorating the gym and halls for homecoming,” junior Bailey Birt said.

STUCO has meetings WednesdayS from 3:30-4:30 p.m. when they have an event such as school dances coming up . The leaders give announcements and talk about what is going on, and then split off into groups and do what is required for that day.

“We have meetings about once a month, except when we are planning for something like homecoming, then we have them about once a week,” Saffold said.

There are many reasons to have STUCO in school, but it is mainly to take care of any important decisions that are easier to take care of as a small group.

“ [STUCO] exists so that students can be a part of the school and make executive decisions. Imagine homecoming if your math teacher put it together? Maybe not so hot, huh? It really puts a student’s eye into some of the decisions in the school,” Birt said.



Preparing for the 2015-2016 homecoming, STUCO member, junior Ethan Wahi marks with his pencil. “We were measuing for our assignment, which was to assemble to the Eiffel Tower for homecoming. When we stood on the ladder to put the last piece on, I felt like this was going to be a great homecoming,” Wahi said.
Photo by Destiny Soto

Chieftains show support through #StandWithSyd



Thomas Casart
Opinion Editor

A student hefts herself up the stairs to the E-wing, backpack weighing her down, books in hand. In her attempt to pass the upperclassmen unnoticed, she catches again that one name, “Sydney Slie.” She has heard that name several times, and in several contexts. The name holds conversation for multiple reasons, including being a student at East and the

current situation that Sydney faces.

“Sydney is a very nice, popular girl in the student body. She’s been in varsity volleyball for all four years. She’s really involved with NHS. She’s in a lot of classes,” senior Della Wilson said.

This is how most of Sydney’s friends and acquaintances knew her until she was diagnosed with cancer; now they see her as much more.

Sydney’s specific type of cancer occurs once in about 37,000 people. She has Hodgkin’s lymphoma, the rarest type of lymphoma. Lymphoma is a cancer that affects the immune system and can be treated with chemotherapy.

“People already knew Sydney, so when they found out that she had cancer, they all rallied around her,” Wilson said.

Her situation was almost immediately responded to by some of her closest friends and family, and the hashtag “#StandWithSyd” was started to unite support for the uplifting of Sydney and to fund her treatment. She has a GoFundMe page, where anyone can donate and view her progress toward her donation goal. Her volleyball team have done their part in leading a lot of the fund raising.

“We decided as a volleyball team that we were going to do some kind of fund raising and some kind of t-shirt for her,” volleyball coach Karin Schmit said.

Schmit has also helped Sydney by participating in a run September 20 to collect donations for the #StandWith-Syd fund.

“We’re doing this for her; We want

to stand with her and support her,” Schmit said.

Other than donations, people have been contributing to her family by purchasing #StandWithSyd t-shirts and bracelets. All proceeds from these sales go to Sydney’s family. One upcoming fund raising event is a pancake feed on September 26. This event will be held at BJSA from 11am-1pm.

All of the support shows how much of a driving force the students and adults involved at Bellevue East can be when they are united by a central issue.

“Syd is a big part of Bellevue East, she’s positive, she’s very involved. With the Bellevue East community and how we stand together for certain things, I only figured the support would be huge for her,” Schmit said.

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Leadership Academy begins third year



Leadership Academy sponsor Sara Fjell speaks to the service project group about their goals for the next week. Academy members have organized into six different groups, which include: pep rally, Chieftain cup, calendar, student leadership and Chieftain of the Week.

Cailin Tomsu
Editor in Chief

Quickly walking down the K-Wing hallway, senior Kollin Crompton entered the Leadership Academy meeting. Selected juniors and seniors all gathered in the noisy Leadership Academy sponsor Sara Fjell’s room to discuss the plans for the meeting. Every student had a group to join and each group had a specific duty. The students squeezed into the crowded room together and talked over each other as they tried to give their input.

Crompton was in the group in charge of meeting with the principal and finding ways to improve the school, and fix current issues. Another group had to plan for the pep rallies and fun activities for the students. In senior Shayla Vilcinskask group, they were in charge of the Chief-

tain Cup, keeping up with the cafeteria calendar and coming up with creative ways to earn Chieftain Cup points.

“Leadership Academy is a group we started, Mr. Dunn and myself. This its third year, so we thought we wanted to do something where we could get kids together to work on the qualities of leadership, which we kind of follow a program we found that we think works well. Also, it’s kind of the group that’s in charge of school spirit and making sure that the student body is getting more involved in our building,” Fjell said.

Leadership Academy meets every Wednesday during advisory. The academy is available to eligible seniors and juniors who want to improve leadership qualities and get more involved in their school.

“A student can join Leadership Acad-

emy in one of two ways. The first way is Mr. Dunn and I send out an email to all club sponsors, coaches in the building, any major activity and then that coach or sponsor emails us [the names of] two to three people that they feel like are leaders in their program. And then once we get that list of kids we email out them ‘would you like to be a part of Leadership Academy.’ If they say yes, they are in. We also have kids that will want to be in that didn’t get nominated and all they have to have if they want to be a part of it - they just tell us why and then they have to get a recommendation from a teacher,” Fjell said.

Many students at East have been unaware that Leadership Academy exists, mainly because it was started three years ago and it is for juniors and seniors. However, Leadership Academy can benefit a

student in many ways.

“I do think that more people should learn about Leadership Academy and all that we do because we do a lot of activities that are fun for the student body and that help people become leaders within the community,” Crompton said.

Leadership Academy is still a growing program. Any students wanting to benefit from the program to better themselves and their school can try to join.

“Leadership Academy 100 percent benefits me. We’ve done seminars on how to become a better leader; we’ve learned qualities of good leaders. It helps us plan big activities and helps keep us organized. It helps us create better traits for ourselves,” Crompton said.

Crompton was one of the many students chosen for Leadership Academy. He and everyone else in the group find new, fun things for students to do in the school and they even team up with other clubs and organizations.

“I think it’s a great way to get people involved. We do a lot of work and put in a lot of effort,” Vilcinskask said.

Leadership Academy proves to an easy way to get involved in the school and build up a high school resume, which helps students make themselves more appealing to colleges.

“To me, Leadership Academy is another thing I can look back on and say I was a leader in this group, in this committee,” Vilcinskask said.

Leadership Academy now meets in advisory once a week, every month. Students have set time to plan activities and discuss topic in the smaller groups.

“I wish we still had the morning meetings from last year; I think that was good seminar time. I think what we have now is really good, too. I just wish our seminars were more in the morning. We met at 7 [a.m.] last year. I think the seminars would be good in the morning rather than once a month during guided personal study time, so that during gps time we have more time to organize events and create a better community within Bellevue East,” Crompton said.

Many students in Leadership Academy strive to help get students involved and make Bellevue East a more fun place. The students are driven by their leadership skills.

“A lot of the kids that are in Leadership Academy want to be a part of school spirit and school culture, making Bellevue East a better place,” Fjell said.



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Kindling Kindness in the Community

Smith carries a simple message



Cailin Tomsu
Editor in Chief

The students of Grand Island's Northwest High School crowded into the school auditorium. It was an important day. DUDE. be nice spokesman Mike Smith was coming to speak to all the students and staff members. First, Smith talked to the faculty of Northwest Public Schools, and because of his inspiring speeches, he was asked to come back and speak to the students.

"Initially we had him come and speak to our teaching staff on one of their inservice days. Mike shared his compelling story and it was something that really resonated with our teachers," Northwest Superintendent Matthew Fisher said.

Smith's speeches were so compelling and relatable he was asked to come back and speak to all students at Northwest Public School 6-12 grade. Smith travelled to all four Northwest elementary and middle schools along with the high school. He spoke at each school for about an hour and spent the whole day travelling between the schools.

"When Mike was here and spoke to our students he really connected with them. His appearance and his delivery style are quite a bit different from most speakers who address our students. Because students relate to him, they are much more willing to listen to and internalize his message," Fisher said.

Smith not only took the time to speak to the students at all the schools, but also he had a meet and greet at Runza. The meeting gave students the opportunity to personally talk to Smith.

"That message 'Dude, be nice' pretty well sums up Mike. He has dedicated himself to finding ways to help other people. Whether that is skateboarding around Lincoln, giving socks to homeless people, or building a

we've honored greater than 10 individuals in our school community who serve our students, but ask for no recognition (but deserve it). The list includes a bus driver, elementary and middle school teachers, a school counselor, a supportive parent, a dance team captain, custodian, and the list goes on," Sehome High School instructor Kevin Johnson said.

Smith benefits the communities he visits and leaves an impression. Communities continue to internalize Smith's message and use it in their daily lives. Smith is driven by passion. He reaches out to others and finds ways to involve everyone.

"He's super caring, especially about the community by going out, helping those in need. He found me when I was at a skate contest and then he came and asked about me helping out with The Bay, which is a non-profit skate park," East sophomore Gabe Reed said.

Smith tries to connect with people on their level. He also tries to spread the "DUDE. be nice" slogan by encouraging anyone to help out in their community.

"I'd be like him. He's a good person, he's genuine. He's a role model," Reed said.

Smith seems dedicated to benefitting those around him. He has a special vibe about him, and he projects it onto others. Smith was a senior in high school when he realized he wanted to make a difference in the world around him. He began his work in Imperial, Neb. and since then Smith has founded two nonprofit organizations and is also a motivational speaker.



"A good friend of mine helped start the company and wanted to have an impact in the lives of teenagers. It felt like a great partnership - I mean, who wouldn't want to be part of something called "DUDE. be nice," Smith said.

Smith is the Executive Director for The Bay (a nonprofit skate park) and Skate for Change. Smith works with young people encouraging them to live their lives to their full potential.

"I think anytime you inspire people to treat each other with kindness, it's going to have a direct impact on the community. All the kids I speak to love the message behind 'DUDE. be nice' and everything the brand stands for," Smith said.

Smith goes around and inspires people to be their best. Smith has skateboarded across Nebraska to raise money for different organizations three years in a row.

"Inspiring others to be kind to one another has always been a passion of mine, whether it's through 'DUDE. be nice,' Skate for Change, The BAY, The Har-

bor, or my speaking career... It never gets old," Smith said.

When Smith speaks to people, he said he really speaks from the heart. Smith is not the average motivational speaker.

"While other professional speakers struggle to remain current, Mike stays relevant by talking about what he's doing, not what he's done. While other professional speakers talk about their past, Mike talks about his present," according to his website, Mikesmithlive.com

Smith specializes in speaking about bullying, substance or drug abuse and following one's dreams. He leaves a positive imprint on the communities and schools he visits.

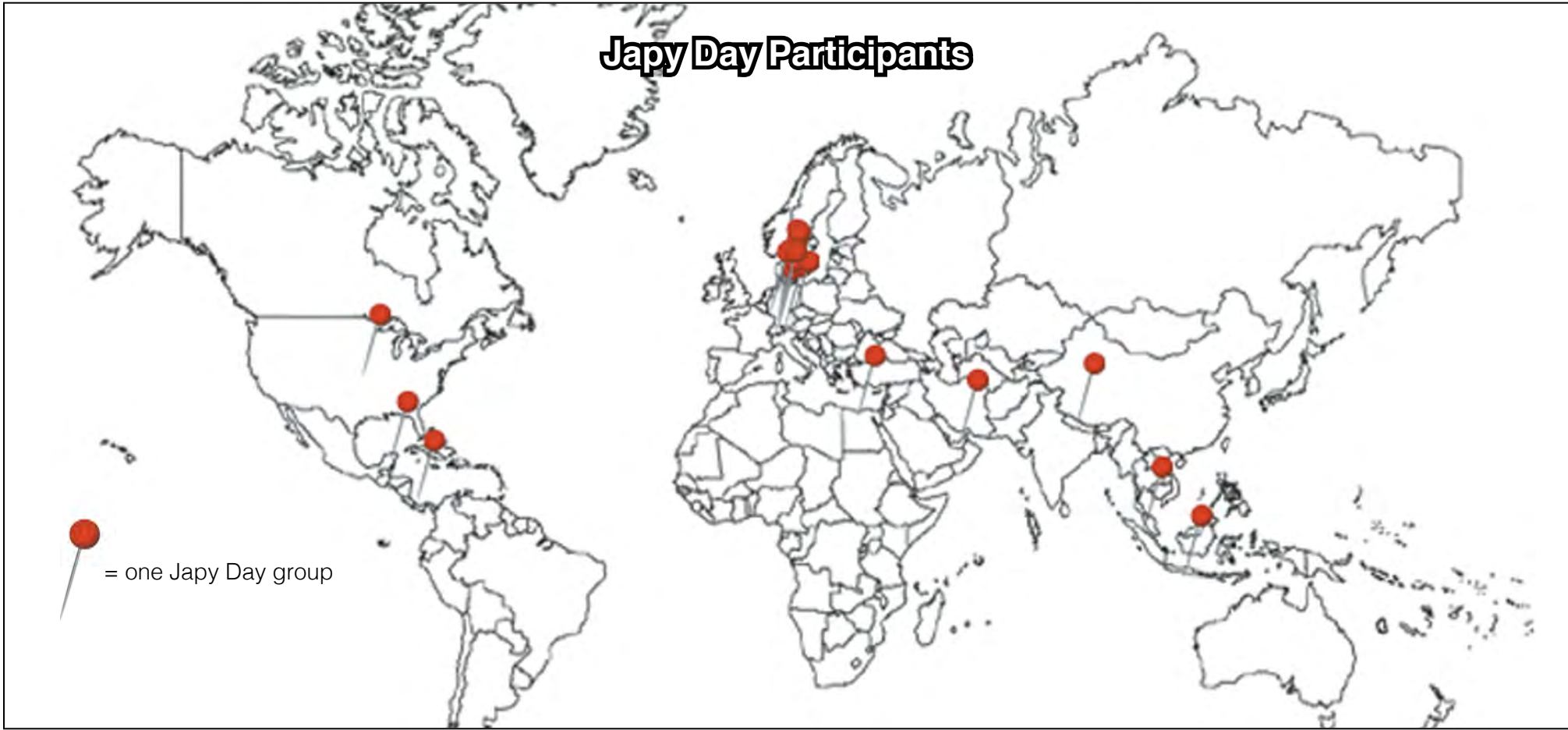
"I do think we're making a difference. After thousands of comments, emails, or conversations I've had with students, they really do believe in the power of kindness and the message that DUDE. be nice spreads," Smith said.

Smith is an example of someone wanting to make a difference and doing it. The 'DUDE. be nice' program is one of the many examples of how Smith gives back to his community.

"DUDE. be nice' is more than just a clothing company - it's apparel that means something. I think we all want to be a part of something bigger than ourselves, but we often just end up settling for the status quo or going with what we think our friends think is cool. We're out to show that being kind is cool and it's easy to be kind to each other," Smith said.

Smith is just an average person doing above average things. He followed his dreams and made a life for himself by doing what he was passionate about. In doing so, he has benefited communities, schools and normal everyday people.

"Mike Smith coming to our school to tell us we can do better was the single most awesome unexpected experience in the last ten years at Sehome, and if you haven't had the pleasure of meeting/hearing him, you are missing out," Johnson said.



Students find a common cause

Destiny Soto
Features Editor

A group of students, and many other people, were hard at work as they emptied boxes of all sizes and organized them to ease sifting through and finding the desired items. These boxes consisted of anything that could possibly be donated to help the homeless. Some boxes were soaking wet from the rain and others were torn with broken glass or other liquids on them, but the group shuffled through each individual box to salvage anything that could be useful.

"We started off just by going through boxes that needed sorted and then sorted things out based on whether it was cloth-

ing, toys, sheets, house wares appliances, shoes, books..." senior Brandon Smith said.

These students were from Bellevue East and West high schools (with instructor Amanda Messerschmitt), and on Aug. 29, they took time out of their Saturday schedules to give back to their community, along with the 100,000 others around the world.

The day originated when a small group in Germany decided to raise money and resources for their community, and as people joined them to help, the Germans decided to establish a day each year for helping their community, which became known as Japy Day, based on the initials of the original members.

In Bellevue, when students gathered at the local Open Door Mission, they prepared for the day of taxing work that followed. They started to work at 2 p.m. and continued for three hours.

"It got to a point when we didn't have anything to do anymore, so we got signs and staple guns to go around to make sure labels were correct on all the boxes so that they [other volunteers] could come through and get all the garbage boxes and do whatever else they needed to do," Smith said.

During the few hours spent at the Open Door Mission, these students and teacher witnessed many different kinds of people. Seeing the help they could provide and how they could make a



Instructor Amanda Messerschmitt joins students from East and West high schools to participate in giving back to the community. "I hope that our actions inspire even more students to do good deeds and be kind to others in our community, not just on Japy Day, but every day," Messerschmitt said. Photo by Destiny Soto

positive impact on the community pleased everyone involved.

"The best part of this opportunity for me was developing some strong connections with others - with my own students, with the Be-Japy organization, with the Open Door Mission, and with the strangers whom I helped," Messerschmitt said.

The positivity and energy did more for everybody, especially those who got to help. Japy Day provided people with more than just an experience, it provided them with some humility.

"It's always been a dream of mine to help people. I take every opportunity I can to help people. I took this opportunity because it just seemed like a really nice thing to do. It's nice to be a part of this and help people get what they need," junior Haley Herzberg.

The day of hard work is paid off for these few with just a simple smile and thank you. Along

with that and the ability to give back to their community, participants said it was an overall good experience for these volunteers.

"Helping others gives me strength in my day-to-day living because doing so gives me hope that perhaps my ideas and my actions can evoke positivity in the lives of others. Smiles are contagious and seeing others smile brings a smile to my own face," Messerschmitt said.

The day of hard work is paid off for these few with a simple smile and thank you. Along with the ability to give back to their community, the volunteers said it was an overall good experience.

"I've been happy with making people happy, so it's been a really good experience to help people out and see their expressions and see them in a good place. I take every opportunity I can to help people," Herzberg said.



Football players recieve new uniforms

Bobby Storck
Web Manager

East's varsity football team received new uniforms this year, as it was time to get new jerseys. Head Coach Anthony Dunn was one of the driving forces behind the new designs.

"The biggest thing is instead of being purple, our home jerseys are black. We've also added some Chieftain headdress feathers on the shoulders and our jerseys say BEAST," Dunn said.

These new uniforms made their debut during the homecoming game against Omaha Bryan on Sept. 11. Most players enjoy their new athletic wear.

"They're tighter, they're cooler, and I like the black jersey anyway," senior Jesse Farland said.

These fancy new uniforms do not come cheap though. Football players had to conduct massive amounts of fund raising to afford the jerseys.

"I wanted new uniforms for the kids, so we fundraised ourselves to get them. Ultimately, the old ones we've had for three years, so it was time for us to get [new jerseys], but we couldn't through the school, so we had to fundraise ourselves,"

Dunn said.

The hard work payed off because the football team now has jerseys for the next three years. Players said they hope these new uniforms bring a new round of style and success for Chieftain football.

"New Coach, new swagger. These new uniforms match our new style," senior Austin Black said.

With their new found strength and optimism, the Bellevue East Football program will compete for victory in black jerseys with BEAST sewed across their chests.

"If you look good and you feel good and you like what you're wearing, it adds a bit of juice," Dunn said.



Players assisted coach Anthony Dunn in choosing the new black uniform. He also said he chose them because "the black makes the purple and silver pop." *Photos by Trevor Cornell*



The white jersey is for away games and the black one is for home. The spears on the uniform originated with coach Jerry Lovell a few years ago and other teams now associate it with East. The feathers represent the Chieftain headdress and their leadership, according to Dunn.

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JV football faces rival Bellevue West



During the East v. West JV game, freshman Justin Chaney runs with the ball. “We can fix our mistakes, and if we verse [West] again, it’s a guaranteed win for us,” Chaney said. *Photo by Faith Wer.*

Kaylee Robinson
News Editor

Players and coaches met about an hour and a half before the game began to get uniforms and go over the two depth charts for each unit. Each player prepared himself for what may have been another loss or win; in this case though, it was a loss for East JV football players to Bellevue West.

“Sadly, the score was 0-46, but it was a good game overall. We had Joey [Walther] catch a 25-yard pass to almost get a touchdown. We also had an interception by C.J Semanko,” sophomore Aaron Davis said.

No matter how difficult it got, each player kept their head in the game and continued to give it their all for their team, school and selves. JV head coach Aaron

Taylor expected to get everything the players had, no matter how disappointing the score was.

“Win or lose we expect to compete every game,” Taylor said.

Some players felt the game was unfair, or felt that the other team got away with more than they should. Although referees have the final call, some palyers felt they also can mistakes and do not always make the right call, which led to some stress for the team and coaches.

“I felt frustrated because the refs were throwing flags on us and not the other team,” Davis said.

For future games, the team can look back at this game and see where things went wrong and what can be improved upon. There was a lot to learn so each player can improve and they can get better together.

“Hopefully, we can learn from our mistakes and make plays when we get the opportunities,” Taylor said.

Players expected more out of themselves as well. Although they put their all into it, it was not quite enough to beat West.

“I was expecting to win by at least two more touchdowns,” Davis said.

Despite the loss, joining together as team was a piority for East. Each game and practice will give the players and coach more opportunities to work on their strengths and weaknesses.

“We don’t have ‘star’ players; we try to tell to our players that we will win and lose as a team. We need everyone on our roster to improve during the season so we can create some depth for our varsity team,” Taylor said.

Dunn takes over as head football coach

Megan Miller
Sports Editor

Players stand waiting for practice to start. Varsity head coach Anthony Dunn comes out and brings the team into a huddle. The rest of the players warm up as he talks to the group. Dunn is in his first year as East’s head football coach.

“I became head coach because I care about the kids, I care about the school, and I thought that I could help out the kids and the program,” Dunn said.

Dunn took over for former head coach Jerry Lovell. According to Dunn, he and Lovell have similar coaching styles. They both try to do what is best for the players.

“Nobody bleeds purple more than Lovell does. He is Bellevue East. I think we both just try and do what’s best for kids,” Dunn said.

Dunn has made a few changes to the program. The team has new uniforms and he has brought a distinct upbeat tempo to the team, including new traditions, like the tackle box and sledgeham-

mer, which reward players for doing well in different areas.

“Coach Dunn is really young so he is a lot more energetic than coach Lovell was. He’s bringing a lot of new flavor to the team. We’re doing more modern, fast paced stuff instead of the old traditional stuff,” senior Cameron Dacanay said.

Having a new coach has affected the team in many ways. Dunn has brought more energy and has given a modern take to the team.

“Hopefully in a positive way, we want

to be tough, fast, and disciplined,” defensive coordinator Michael Troy said.

With change, the team may perform differently than they have in previous years. Coaches are hoping for a positive outcome this season.

“We want athletes the school, fans, and community can be proud of on and off the field,” Troy said.

Students feel the same.

“I think the change will be good for us. We’ll see where it takes us,” senior Dillon Hike said.



Monte Evans

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Showing respect: An observance of dignity

Staff Editorial

Most students at Bellevue East have seen disrespect. It comes in many forms, from stepping on the Chieftain head, to bullying, from disrupting class, to mistreating teachers, and from blasting rude music, to fighting with peers. We as the Tom Tom staff think that more students should learn to respect themselves and those around them.

First and foremost, one of the biggest problems at East pertaining to respect is stepping on the Chieftain head. The Chieftain head is the mascot and symbol for the school and it is a tradition for anyone attending Bellevue East High to respect the Chieftain head, and wear it with pride.

Because individuals feel so strongly regarding protecting the Chieftain head, any perceived disrespect causes a reaction that has lead to disruption of school. When school is disrupted, students feel uncomfortable and they are less likely to concentrate on lessons, and this can have a negative effect on a student’s grade. It is not fair for any student to infringe upon another student’s right to learn.

However, reacting to someone stepping on the Chieftain head in the form of bullying is also disrespectful. Bullying anyone is harmful and in no way funny. According to stopbullying.gov any student who is bullied is more likely to experience depression, anxiety and increased feelings of loneliness. This then, makes a student not want to come to school and it creates a stressful environment for that student. It is not fair, nor is it right to bully anyone.

Another issue regarding respect is for teachers, authority figures and peers. Honestly, if students dislike a teacher or dean or someone in the building,

then they dislike them. However, no one really wants to see them put on an act and throw attitude at a person who is only trying to better one’s education and even teach life skills. When people express bad attitudes toward a teacher or another student by throwing a fit or making a scene in class, they waste learning time and that affects everyone around them. Not everyone feels unhappy with teachers, and most people do not want to sit in a class and listen to a student sass mouth the teacher or start a fight with a friend. Many students actually want to learn when they come to school and disrupting the classroom infringes upon everyone’s right to learn when any student decides to be rude and disrespectful.

Another one of the more annoying cases of disrespect is when students blast their music while walking down the halls. No one else wants to listen to loud, often inappropriate, music at school. Please put in headphones and let everyone else do their own thing.

The bottom line is, when any student is disrespectful to anyone in the school building, the disrespectful incident becomes a major distraction. As we said before, some people do come to school to learn and get their lives together. There is more to do in life than causing problems, especially causing problems on purpose. Privileges are taken away from everyone else, not just the offender, which does not make that person cool at all. Everyone would rather be able to enjoy themselves and get through the day without dealing with disrespect.

The solution for these problems are for everyone to improve their manners and gain respect for themselves and others. It would create a peaceful learning environment and make East a better place.

Put athlete safety first



Nia Booth
Reporter

It’s the end of the season and she’s made it. The track athlete that spent every day after school pushing herself to cut down her time has finally done it. The state meet was in two days and she’s was at practice to make sure every part of her form was perfect. Half-way through the practice she started to feel a slight pain in her right calf, but she ignored it, just like every other time. Except this time wasn’t like any other time. Any other time she would have ran toward the hurdle and landed without any problem, but today was the day that she collapsed after landing on the ground due to agonizing pain. It’s situations like this that makes me believe that athletes should be given mandatory sports medicine education.

According to the Safe Kids Worldwide organization, 1 in 3 of the 46.5 million children participating in sports every year in the United States is injured seriously enough to miss practice, which is a lot of kids. Statistics from Stop Sports Injuries shows that nearly half of those injuries are a result of overuse, meaning that they could have been prevented.

Overuse injuries, injuries that affect the muscles, ligaments, tendons, bones, and growth plates, are a result of repeated athletic activity over time that isn’t allowed enough rests to repair. One specific overuse injury is a stress fracture. The American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons explains it thoroughly. Bone is in a constant state of turnover—a process called remodeling. In this process new bone develops and replaces the older bone. If an athlete’s activity is too great, the breakdown of older bone occurs rapidly, and the body cannot make new bone fast enough to replace it. As a result, the bone is weakened and stress fractures can occur—most often in the shinbone and the bones of the feet. Basically, athletes aren’t giving their body enough time to heal before they continue to play. I feel that if they knew this they would take it easier.

The good news is that overuse injuries can be prevented. There are four basic things to do to make sure athletes stay in tip top shape.

First step is to strengthen the muscles. It is very important that athletes strengthen muscles before trying to jump head first into a sport.

Second, stretching is vital to reducing chances of tears.

Third, take breaks from the sport. This could mean a short break in the middle of practice and the recommended one day break a week.

Fourth, and possibly most importantly, stopping all activity if there is pain. A lot of athletes make the unwise decision to keep playing because they do not want to miss a meet or a practice, but in the end it is not worth it. In the beginning stages of injury, I.C.E (ice,compression, and elevation) can help the injuries until professional help can be sought.

Along with teaching students about listening to their bodies and treating injuries, it’s important to make sure that they understand that they won’t be thought of negatively when they address the injury. It’s understandable that students don’t want to be seen as a disappointment or dead weight by their coaches or teammates, but it’s important that they see their health as a priority. It is better to be temporarily out of the game rather than be permanently injured for the rest of your life.

In the end, I feel that high school athletes should be informed about the dangers of trying to “power through” injuries. Classes taught by coaches or groups like Safe Kids Worldwide should be recommended for athletes before they permanently injure themselves. Unwise decisions come from being uninformed, so why not erase that problem all together? Athletes should know about the risks that they have and how to prevent them.

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EDITORIAL POLICY

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Student council makes Homecoming a reality

Adrienne Bruner
Entertainment Editor

The line led up the sidewalk and through the south gym doors. Girls in flamboyant dresses and boys in fancy suits waited to get in. The gym was decorated with lights and a handmade Eiffel Tower. The commons had decorative gas lights, city skylines, starry skies and lots of sparkles. Students packed into the gym to dance and hang out with their friends.

“There are indeed a lot more students participating in student council this year and that truly is exciting. Due to the increase in ideas, planning homecoming has been easier in various ways. I really cannot wait to see our final product,” senior Alex Larsen said.

East Student Council (STUCO) worked from the beginning of the school year to plan Homecoming. It is among the first major events of the year, and many students attended. With new advisers and plenty of students to help, STUCO members were the people who worked behind the scenes of the Homecoming dance.

“This year’s Homecoming theme is ‘Midnight in Paris’ so the decorations will be very sweet and romantic with pops of

bright color here and there. One stand out thing we are having that night is a 16 foot tall Eiffel Tower, and on top of that we, of course, are having Orange Leaf and a photobooth like we did last year,” Larsen said.

Instructors Courtney Saffold and Rachel Schutte are the new STUCO sponsors. They had to overcome the challenge of putting together Homecoming for the first time.

“Difficulties in planning homecoming would include trying to plan everything after school, yet not staying too late, and the short amount of time between the first day of school and homecoming. One of the challenges of being a first-year adviser is trying to add our own ideas while keeping with tradition,” Saffold said.

There were more students in student council this year. This is both beneficial to STUCO and can cause problems. Members had to decide what would work.

“As I noted before, we have a lot of creative minds in our group which can sometimes work against us. We may stumble across a few ideas we really love but have to simply pick one. Besides that, student council also has to make sure that decorations are put up in an orderly fashion without disturbing anyone else who is in the area,”

Larsen said.

Members of STUCO looked forward to planning Homecoming. They met at regular meetings and outside of school to plan the dance. The advertising committee made posters for the dance and ticket sales. Larsen is co-president of STUCO and has participated in student council since she was a freshman. Larsen looked forward to Homecoming as a senior as well as putting it together.

“To me, I think everything is fun about planning Homecoming. You get to feel all the passion and enthusiasm radiating from STUCO members as they work on putting all the components together. The fact that we can turn a few small ideas into something grand and entertaining is quite a rewarding achievement,” Larsen Said.

The theme this year was “Midnight in Paris.” STUCO set up the decorations before the dance. There was a 16-foot tall Eiffel tower that council members made themselves and twinkle lights were put up. Members met to make their decorations and set them up before the dance. They were also responsible for cleaning up afterward.

“We are decorating with twinkle lights, sparkles, and hopefully a huge Eiffel tower. This year,

we are planning on a tailgate before the football game instead of a pep rally,” Saffold said.

Future Business Leaders of America organized the tailgate party before Homecoming game on Friday, Sept. 11. It began at 4:30 p.m. and lasted until the game started. The event was held outside of the stadium, with music and food. The chapter decided to do the tailgate party to both add to the atmosphere of the evening and to raise funds for their chapter, according to instructor Andrew Werner.

“I think it will be a good experience for everyone. Hopefully we will have a good turnout to

support our program and show their ‘Chieftain Pride’ for our athletes,” Werner said.

Homecoming was a success for STUCO with many people enjoying the dance and the football game.

“I am looking forward to the Homecoming night as a whole and certainly the football game the day before. Being a senior, I really want to experience the laid back, fun atmosphere with my friends and reminisce about the previous years that we have prevailed through together. Obviously, immensely thrilled to take some silly pictures, too,” Larsen said.



Assembling a lamp for Homecoming is senior Sandy Griffin. “I was helping set up for Homecoming and unsuccessfully trying to assemble a lamp. It was a lot of hard work and a lot of hours were put into setting up for this year,” Griffin said. *Photo by Destiny Soto*

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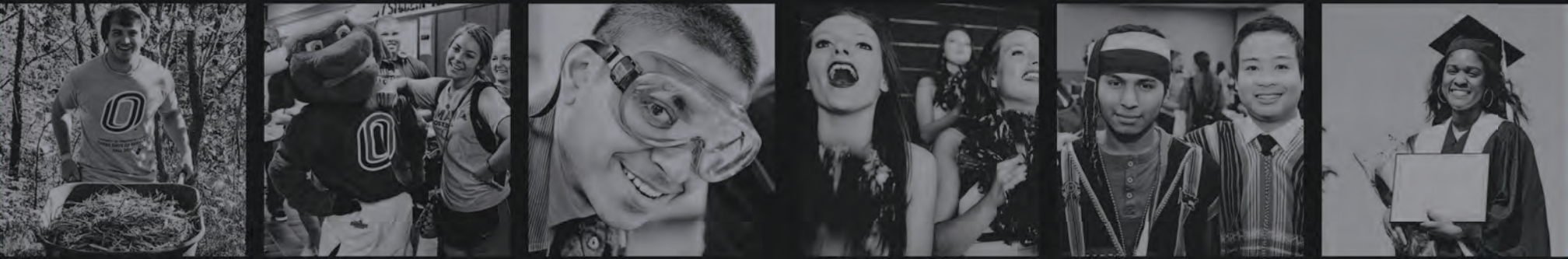
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Moving with the music at the 2015 homecoming is junior Trevor Ratzburg. "It's homecoming; who cares who sees me dancing like an idiot? You just let loose. Even if you don't know how to dance if you look like you do, like me, then maybe it looks good," Ratzburg said. *Photo by Destiny Soto*



Surprise! Surprise! At Homecoming 2015, senior Sydney Slie is crowned along with senior Colin Crompton. The whole school took part in choosing the king and queen, who seemed quite pleased as they danced away the night. "[Becoming queen] felt good, I was surprised," Slie said. *Photo by Faith Wer.*

What's up with Wattpad



Nia Booth
Reporter

There is a place out there, a digital one, where worlds are created and explored. A place where thoughts from minds full of color, galaxies and characters are delved into by those who love to find ways to escape the everyday life that they live. It was 2006 when Allen Lau and Ivan Yuen came together to make that incredible world, "Wattpad," possible.

People may wonder what this great world is. "Wattpad" was a free website created in 2006, which became an app in 2009. It gives 35 million people so far the ability to either share their writings or read the stories of others. Along with the reading and the writing side of the site, there is a social part to it as well. "Wattpad" offers the ability to interact with fellow readers and writers all over the world. There are clubs and forums that can be used to talk with others who enjoy the same genre of stories, or to bounce ideas off of others to write the perfect story.

The ability to share on this site is open to anyone with a computer or smartphone. With the choice of 50 different languages, it opens the door of writing possibilities for countless people. Along with that, "Wattpad" offers many opportunities for writers to get recognition, scholarships and sometimes even cash prizes

for their work. Every summer Wattpad's employees host a contest for all writers, new and old, of all genres of writing to enter in hopes of winning. Winners are given promotions by all social outlets connected to "Wattpad," giving it attention from possible publishers. In 2012, Beth Reekles won the Watty Award for most popular teen fiction and then received a book deal with the Random House Children's Books Delacorte Press imprint. Outside of "Wattpad" many companies use the site to offer contests of their own. The makers of Sour Patch Kids, Switch press, and the movie Age of Adaline, Project Almanac, and The Duff have all had writing contests on "Wattpad."

The site and the app are both easy to navigate. With a built in search engine for authors, genres, and the completion of stories, it is easy to find the type of story you're looking for. For writers, uploading a story is effortless with the ability to transfer documents from any device or type it into the My Works section part of the website. Finding ways to communicate with others is easy, too. There are tabs to direct users to the forums and to privately message those on the site.

Ultimately, I would give "Wattpad" a five out of five rating as a website and app. It gives countless opportunities for writers of all ages and thousands of stories for the occasional and the frequent reader. I think "Wattpad" is the best writing and book site and app out there.

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