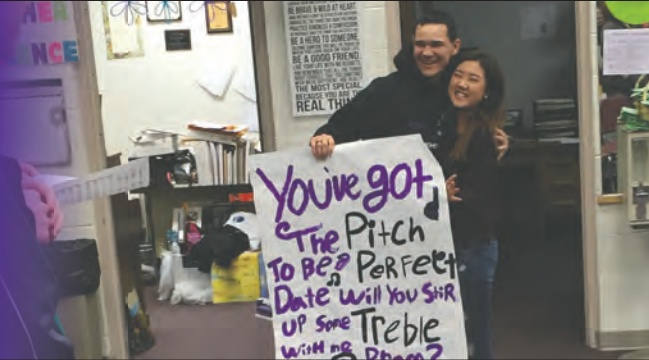


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BELLEVUE EAST HIGH SCHOOL

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1401 HIGH SCHOOL DRIVE

Students and staff participate, donate blood during the annual blood drive run by American Red Cross and student council at East.



Reverse Dracula Donating blood for the first time, school psychologist Kimberly Rausch waits patiently. “I wanted to donate since I was seventeen, and this time was the first time I was able to, so it was pretty exciting,” Rausch said. *Photo by Faith Wer*

Give blood, save lives, do not pass out

Nia Booth
Opinion Editor

Students from East donated blood through the American Red Cross on Friday, March 11. Participants gathered in the south gym and if they had permission to donate and met all requirements, they could give blood. For the 2015-2016 school year, 293 units of blood were collected.

“Anyone over the age of 16 with parental consent and 17 and above without parental consent [can give blood]. They need to make sure that they’re eating right and healthy and they need to hydrate. It’s very important that they do these things so that they have a posi-

tive donation experience. They need to understand why they are giving blood and what their blood type is and who gets their blood on the other side and just the importance of donating blood,” American Red Cross representative Fiona Sullivan said.

Each student that donated had their own reasons. Senior Liz Butts had personal reasons for why she chooses to donate every year.

“I’m O-negative and I can only have O-negative blood and so I’m a universal donor to anybody else out there, so everybody else can have my blood. but I can only have my blood and that was a big reason [why I donate] because if something happens

to me or my mom or my dad because we’re all O-negative, I want there to be blood out there if they need a transfusion. I also know people who have gotten into car accidents and they needed 5 blood transfusions and I’m sure some of my blood has helped somebody. So just helping somebody is important. I always look forward to helping anybody that I can,” Butts said.

Some students had anxiety about giving blood, but decided to donate this year anyway.

“The only anxiety that I really have is that they don’t pop my veins because last time they almost did, but other than that it’s a piece of cake. And [the reason why I’m doing it again is because] I’m helping people. Last

time I gave blood I got an email telling me how many people I helped and that’s a big reason why I continue to do it,” junior Ronald Thomas said.

Butts has advice that she gives her friends that have not decided whether or not to give blood.

“Don’t be nervous because there is no reason to be nervous. You’re probably not going to pass out. Everybody thinks they are going to pass out, but it’s most likely not going to happen if you do what you need to do. The needle does not hurt as much as everybody says it does. Don’t be afraid of the needle, it’s not really that big. And you’re not going to feel super loopy afterwards.”

Sullivan gives advice to students who are on the fence about giving blood.

“I think it’s important for them to realize why they are giving blood. I always give them information about local people that need blood like here in Bellevue there is a little girl named Emily Stevenson who’s about four years old now and she needs life sustaining blood every two weeks so it’s important to understand that the little bit of blood that you’re donating saves a life every minute of everyday to somebody. You’re truly saving lives and just by one donation, one pint of blood, can save up to three lives. So what to do is really, really important,” Sullivan said.

Activity cards generate revenue, will continue

Nia Booth
Opinion Editor

To help support sports programs within the Bellevue school district, students are now required to purchase an activity card before they are allowed to participate or try out for a sport. The requirement was enforced for the first time during the 2015-2016 school year for Bellevue East.

“The purpose of the activity cards was to offset dollars that had been cut out of the overall athletic budgets at both high schools. We were also trying to protect instructional dollars as much as possible by creating a revenue stream to still offer students opportunities to participate in high quality athletic programs. The last thing the district wanted to do was lose opportunities for student athletes to compete. Almost every Metro conference school currently has a similar policy in place,” Director of Activities and Grounds William Richards said.

Initially, some were worried that the price of the activity card would hinder some students from participating in sports, but it was quickly learned that students with free or reduced lunch receive either a discount or a free activity card.

“The activity cards have not restricted students from trying out/playing any sports. When the policy was developed we made sure that free/reduced lunch students would have every opportunity to complete a waiver that would allow them to participate no matter what their financial situation may be; reduced students would receive a card for \$25.00 and a free [lunch] student would receive a card at no cost.,” Richards said.

The reasoning behind the

the required activity cards was to help with the expenses of the sports. The money from the cards will not be split equally between East and West.

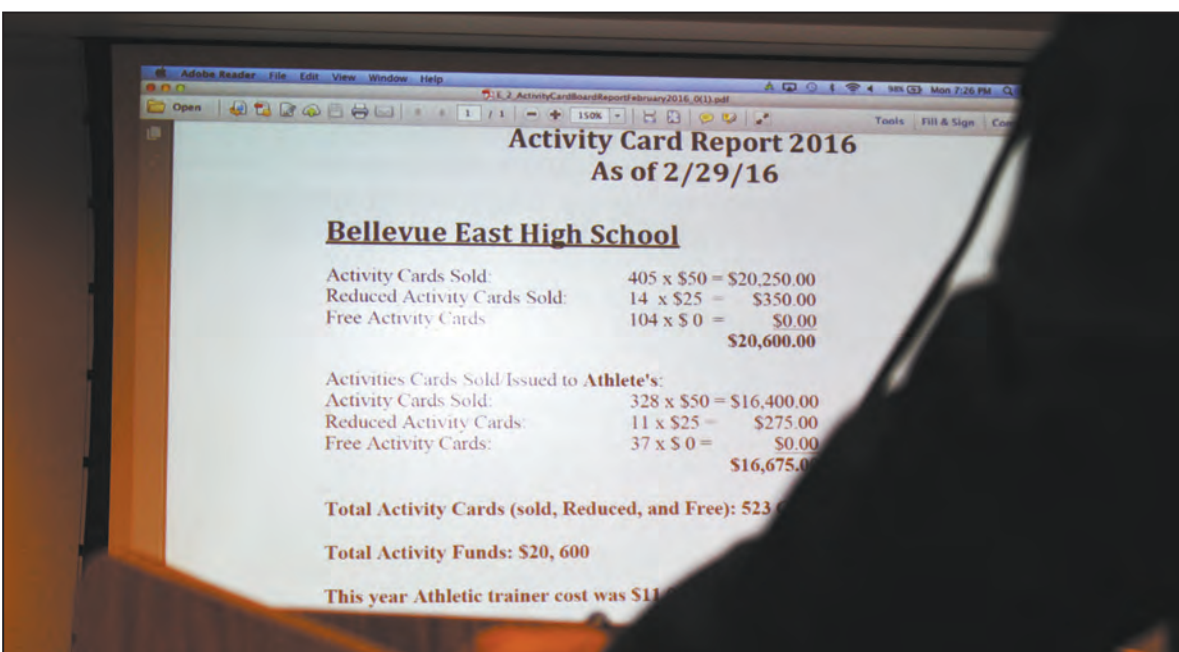
“The money from the activity cards is not split between the high schools. However, we are continuing to monitor for equity between the two buildings. Bellevue West generated \$26,650 and Bellevue East generated 20,600 in card sales for a difference of \$6,050. While this may not sound equal, Bellevue West does have more expenses to cover in their athletic department on a yearly basis. For example, Bellevue West has to pay \$4,000 more per year for an athletic trainer than Bellevue East (West pays \$15,000 and East pays \$11,000). Bellevue West also has two more football teams and one more volleyball team than Bellevue East. Expenses to provide uniforms, equipment/supplies, officials fees and additional coaches for those teams are very costly,” Richards said.

When the announcement was first made about the required activity cards some students were not in complete support of it. Sophomore Jon Garrett was one of those students.

“My initial reaction was that I thought that we should only need activity cards to get into games like football, baseball, and basketball not to actually try out for a sport,” Garrett said.

Mink agreed with Garret that he would rather not have activity cards required to play sports, but he also sees that they are necessary for funding. He himself does not see an immediate difference in the sports programs.

“Not having [required activity card] would be preferable, but with the way that the budget



Activity cards were discussed at the school board meeting on Mar. 7. “The activity cards have benefited Bellevue East athletics in many ways...

The money has offset the costs of an athletic trainer, uniforms, officials for contests, equipment/supplies and NSAA fees to name a few. The money has been crucial for the athletic department to function as costs for each of these listed expenses continue to rise on a yearly basis,” William Richards said.

Photos by Faith Wer

has impacted our school I think they are a necessary evil. As a coach, I do not see any immediate positive or negative impacts of the activity cards although I am told that they are helping the sports programs stay afloat,” Mink said.

Overall the activity cards have been successful according

to Richards. The cards will also continue to be required for the near future.

“I believe the activity cards have been very successful at both high schools. At Bellevue East, we have sold 405 activity cards at \$50.00, 14 reduced activity cards at \$25.00 and issued 104 free activity cards for a total

of 523 cards. Total revenue at Bellevue East was \$20,600.00. The activity cards will continue to be required for athletes as long as budget dollars are a concern. I do not see a change in the foreseeable future and would expect this policy to stay in place indefinitely,” Richards said.

When life gives you lemons, make lemonade

Destiny Soto
Features Editor

If ever randomly struck by thirst, one could stop by one of the few lemonade stands that were dispersed through the halls of Bellevue East High School. Lemonade stands? That’s right. Roaming the halls, studnets may have seen one of these stands throughout the building. The kind that small children conduct on a hot summer’s day. Only this time, these weren’t little kids, but juniors and seniors who participated in a lemonade stand competition for Sports Marketing.

“This was the first I have conducted a project like this. I had my sports marketing class do this project so that my students had the opportunity to learn about marketing through a hands on experience,” instructor Andrew Werner said.

There were three main groups that participated in this

competition; Squeezies, ran by juniors Harley Zimmer, Levi Lariviere, and Zack Acamo; The Bearded Lemon, ran by seniors Scott Hedglen and Christian Walter; and Papa Timmins, ran primarily by junior Will Timmins.

“One of the objectives, from the beginning, was through the competition, they [the students] could experience something similar to what it would be like in the real world. I think that the competition made it a little more realistic. Their buy-in was a little bit greater and I think that, in the end, having that healthy competition gave it a little more meaning for the students,” Werner said.

The opportunity to participate in an activity like this provided a learning experience for everyone. The students who were given this chance had a takeaway that was different from what they expected.

“I learned that marketing a business and getting a business

going can be a lot more difficult than it seems. I think it taught us that there’s a lot more to operating a business and marketing it than it would initially appear. It made this made me more equipped to face real life situations involving marketing and business management,” Timmins said.

Not all of the students learned the same thing, though. The motivation to be successful in this competition was different for everyone. Students of the group Squeezies donated all of their money to the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

“I had a lot of fun. I liked going out there and making money. I was kind of doing it for the kids. Even though we only made 100 and something dollars, I feel like that could make a difference to some little kid. I really just enjoyed making money, but also, it feels really good knowing that some kid is \$100 closer to going to Disney World,” junior Harley

Zimmer said.

The lemonade was not store bought as a whole. Part of the experience was buying the needed ingredients and making the product. The groups had to follows the rules and regulations by not selling any products made at home. The lemonade was made on school grounds.

“The products themselves had to be lemonade based, but they could use store bought ingredients. Then they kind of put their different ingredients together to form their special flavor. They all had to bring in an example of their product before they sold it. They had to bring in a list of their ingredients and they also had to supply the cost. They had to tell me about their materials and what their booths would consist of,” Werner said.

Since the lemonade stand project was such a pleasant experience for the students, they are anxious to have another opportunity like this.

“I did have a lot of fun selling lemonade and it taught me how I could become an entrepreneur. Right now, we’re doing another thing like that for our Sports Marketing class. We are setting up a booth for pediatric cancer research for kids and we’ll be taking donations starting March 30,” Hedglen said.

Throughout this competition, student were provided with many learning opportunities and experience that Werner said will help them later on in life.

“I think that overall, it really emphasized a lot of the different principles of marketing a product. I think it was an enjoyable experience for the teams. In this case, they were able to learn by doing. Which helps cement some of the principles of marketing; product, price, place, and promotion. In the end, they were able to raise some money and kind of enjoy the thrill of competition at the same time,” Werner said.

Changes to test to impact 2017 NeSA

Bobby Storck
Web Editor

This year, 5,340 students across the state were locked out of the Nebraska State Accountability Reading Test as a result of technical failures. The Nebraska Department of Education has thus decided to enact changes to the software in order to guarantee a test to all participants of the 2017 NeSA Writing Test.

"I was observing in a school district on Thursday morning, January 21. Students who experience technology glitches have anxiety. Students are concerned that their work will be lost," State Assessment Director Valorie Foy said.

Although changes are to be made, what those changes are still have to be worked out.

"The discussion on possible changes in state testing has just begun and will evolve in the coming months. At this time, no decisions have been made on how testing will change," Nebraska Department of Education News Media Contact Betty VanDeventer said.

Making the test less prone to glitches is not the only change the NeSA test will undergo. BPS NeSA associate Laurie Hanna

said the reading test will also experience changes to the content of the test as well.

"The Nebraska Department of Education adopted new English Language Arts academic standards in September of 2014, so in order for the current NeSA Reading test to align with the state standards, there were changes to the test that had to be made. The changes to the standards involve increased rigor and a college and career ready structure, so test items needed to be written or revised in order to measure these changes. The changes right now only affect the NeSA Reading test, which will be known as the NeSA English Language Arts test beginning in the 2016-2017 school year," Hanna said.

These changes of the test are not necessarily to make the test more difficult, but to provide teachers and administrators with more information about that student's education.

"If the standards change, then the assessments must change to be in alignment with the standards. The purpose of assessment is to be part of the entire instructional process, to give educators information on student learning and to adjust instruction accordingly and to

give students feedback on their learning. If what we are teaching changes and we don't change the test we use to measure learning of what is taught, then we would be testing on things we were not teaching," Hanna said.

Alignment to the standards can be done by asking different questions, as well as adding different types test questions.

"The most noticeable changes that students will see are technology enhanced questions which include constructed responses such as 'drag and drop' text to construct responses and highlighting answers within a reading passage. There will also be multiple select questions that will ask students to choose more than one choice from the list of possible answers in addition to the traditional 'choose one answer' and multiple choice questions," Hanna said.

Instructor David Bossman agrees with the changes to the test. He has witnessed the NeSA test given for the past 14 years, and said the Nebraska Department of Education is looking at other tests as models.

"[The Nebraska Board of Education] are looking at the English Language Arts Test (ELA) that contains both reading and

writing components. I hope they do not get rid of the current test because it is the only NeSA test that requires the students to create something," Bossman said.

The technology problems have been a plague on the test for a few years now. A change large enough to fix this problem may affect the whole test.

"You're always going to have issues. [However,] it would be too [old fashioned] to go back to pen and paper. You're always going to have glitches, software can be improved, and the efficiency of that outweighs the negative things," Bossman said.

Junior Logan Wood also agrees with the changes to the test, believing a more reliable test will reduce anxiety.

"For the students getting locked out of the test, I think it is a great idea to change the way the test is taken so people can actually take their tests and are not anxious about it as much," Wood said.

However, like most students at Bellevue East, he did not have any problems getting into the test.

"I thought [this year's NeSA test] was really simple. I don't think I would really change anything. We went in, sat down, and started writing," Wood said.

Others like senior Jessica Harms agrees with the changes, but believes there are other factors that cause problems in test taking.

"I didn't have any problems with the organization of it. I don't think there is any way to design a test to be fair. There is absolutely no way you can make a standardized test absolutely fair in its organization because the wording of a question such an impact on how people answer things," Harms said.

These changes may just be another round of edits, fixing the test until new problems arise. However, this may also result in a massive change to the NeSA test, creating new challenges never seen by older generations. Take this as a warning freshmen and sophomores: be prepared.

"I do not know if there is a way to have the test formatted and take it. Usually people complain about the format of tests, but I think the real problem is just the fact that people think they can use a test to hold a school accountable. You can not make a test that truly represents their education in a short span of time that students take them," Harms said.

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East, West get together to learn about leadership

Nia Booth
Opinion Editor

I watched as students from East and West made their way into the auditorium on Offutt Air Force Base for the Leadership Pathways seminars after filing out of yellow school buses.

I sat on the right side of the room with the rest of the East students and the other students from West to my left as the first speaker approached, adorned in his green camouflage uniform.

“It was nice for the students to get on base and see some of the officers that are leading in different positions within our base community. I really enjoyed the messages on ‘If it’s lonely at the top you’re not doing something right,’ and ‘you need to build up the people you are leading,’” Leadership Academy sponsor Sara Fjell said.

Offutt Air Force Base’s Top Three Association hosted the Leadership Pathways seminars with Bellevue East’s Leadership Academy and Bellevue West’s Air Force JROTC programs on Feb. 25.

The speakers, my father, Senior Master Sgt. Demetrius Booth, Senior Master Sgt. Wesley Poindexter, Senior Master Sgt. Gloria Weatherspoon and

Tech. Sgt. Andrew Schuetz, tried to teach those who came about leadership and its qualities.

“Our purpose was to build a partnership with Bellevue East’s Leadership Academy and Bellevue West’s JROTC. The intent was to create an environment that would allow us to give insight and perspective to the next generations of people who will lead the world,” Booth said.

Each of the speakers had their own way of engaging the students and staff. Poindexter had a unique way of connecting to the youth at the seminars that was absolutely hilarious.

“My favorite part was when Poindexter got one of the students to get up and teach him how to do the Whip and Nae Nae, and what I took from that was he asked him to teach him how to do it to show that anyone can be a leader even if it’s just a fun dance,” junior Donovan Cunningham said.

The school staff that attended, sponsors Anthony Dunn and Fjell, enjoyed the seminars just like the students. Fjell had her own favorite part of the event.

“I liked how they interacted with the students and also tried to connect to how each person is a leader because everyone

has influence over at least one or more people. I always like hearing different people’s perspectives on leadership and how important leadership is in a variety of fields,” Fjell said.

Each person in attendance took away their own life lesson. Cunningham’s lesson was focused on leadership qualities.

“What I took away from the seminar is that you have to be able to lead yourself before you can lead others and that when making your way to the top make sure to make and create relationships, otherwise you’ll be lonely,” Cunningham said.

East and Leadership Pathways have already started com-

ing together to schedule another event, this time, at East instead of Offutt. Personally, I’m excited to learn more from these seminars.

“We are going to invite them to come deliver some of their talks here at Bellevue East for our Wednesday seminars,” Fjell said.



Now Watch Me Whip Dancing with Senior Master Sgt. Wesley Poindexter, senior Cameron Dacanay shows the him how to “Whip.” The two danced at the Leadership Pathways seminars on Feb. 25. “It was definitely my favorite part. Being up there, I wasn’t really nervous, it was a really cool time and a good experience to just put myself out there,” Dacanay said.

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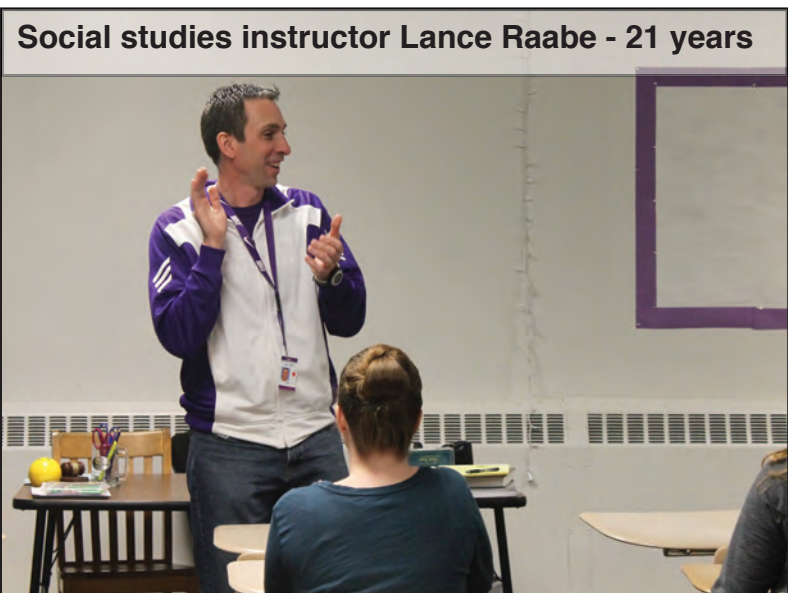
Long time teachers tell their tales



Science instructor Phil Alocer - 23 years



Science instructor Jerry Lovell - 25 years



Social studies instructor Lance Raabe - 21 years

Instructors Phil Alocer, Jerry Lovell, and Lance Raabe have been teaching at East for over 20 years. “The best thing about teaching at East is knowing that when you work hard and get students and athletic teams to achieve success, you really have a sense of accomplishment because you know that there’s been a lot of kids overcoming a lot of things to earn that success,” Lovell said.

Samantha Collison
News Editor

It’s 7th hour, which is plan period for instructors Jerry Lovell and Lance Raabe. Many teachers spend their plan period in their rooms grading papers or writing lesson plans, but on most days, Lovell and Raabe can be found in the science office. They both have been teaching at East for more than 20 years, and they would emphasize the importance of collaborating and relationship-building.

“The best this is, if you interviewed a teacher who taught in almost any school, they would say that this job is unique, it’s not like anything else. It’s about relationships; it’s about coming down and talking to Mr. Lovell during my plan period, or just conversations that you have with students. If you’re asking about people who have been here for a long time, it’s making long-term connections, because that is what teaching and education is about,” Raabe said.

Bellevue East is an old school compared to others in the district and many of its teachers have been here their entire careers; teachers who have been here for more than 20 years said that although this school has it’s challenges, they wouldn’t teach anywhere else.

“Probably the worst thing about teaching at East is seeing some really good kids having their reputations tarnished because of rumors,” Lovell said.

Raabe said that one of the reasons why students being bullied affects teachers so much is because they form those connections with students, especially for teachers who have students in their class, on their team, or in their organization multiple years in a row.

“When you are a long-time teacher, in a way you kind of feel like you are a parent to some kids in the building, and I will tell you one of the most difficult things I have experienced while being a parent is seeing your kids struggle. So, the hardest

thing about being here is I sometimes see students struggle for a lot of different reasons over a lot of different obstacles and that’s very emotionally draining for a teacher,” Raabe said.

Instructor Phil Alocer mentioned the politics and bureaucracy among teachers and administration as being a challenge, but not all challenges are bad. Some challenges lead to personal or professional growth.

“Teaching here has been good for me because it stretches me. I’m generally an introvert, and the social part can be draining sometimes but it also stretches me and helps me and helps me to grow which is really positive for me,” Alocer said.

Similarly, there are two sides to the “being like a student’s parent” coin. As well as having to watch students struggle, teachers get to see their victories.

“I have had everything from students who have aced an exam and been in tears and it about brought me to tears because I know how hard they worked. I have had former students that have said hello to me and then I find out that they’re an assistant district attorney. I’ve been to weddings of former students. I have taught kids of my former students. It is a very humbling experience; it makes me feel even more ancient. I think if you teach in any place long enough, you’re going to see it all, and I have seen a lot,” Raabe said.

Lovell said that seeing students succeed is the best part of teaching and that teachers get a sense of accomplishment from helping students overcome obstacles. Another thing he enjoys about teaching at East is the culture of the students.

“The one thing that I have always appreciated at East is, for the most part, students will keep it 100 percent real and I can name numerous occasions where a student told me exactly what he or she was thinking with no filter and those are great stories to tell when other teachers and coaches get together,”

Lovell said.

However, the challenge that long-time teachers still deal with is teaching the generation with technology and information constantly at their fingertips. The entire world of education seems to be in a period of transition and teachers are still learning how to deal with it.

“The Internet and cell phones have changed all culture, but especially when you look at a building that used to have traditional teaching and now instead of doing book research for your papers, now that research is on your phone. To get connected with kids who have an entirely different way of communicating than the way we were brought up to communicate as teachers has been a challenge. Probably the toughest thing at East is not every kid has the same access to that knowledge as others so when you ask kids to look on their cell phones or do computer research, not every kid has access like you’d think or wish they would, and so there’s a definite ‘have-and-have-not’ aspect to teaching here at times,” Lovell said.

Not only do teachers have to adopt new teaching methods to keep up with the influx of new, constantly changing information, they also have to compete for students’ interests. If students are not engaged with a lesson, they have instant access to the world outside the classroom that they can easily be distracted by.

“Teaching with cell phones, I would call it a competition for interest. We are competing with our students every day, and they are challenging me to do something up front that is more interesting than what they can do if they tip their head and look at their phone. If you can get to the point as a teacher where you don’t have to tell the kids to put their phones away because they know that what’s going on ahead of them is more interesting than what’s going on down in their hands, then you’re going to win,” Raabe said

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Cyber security continues to test protection of information

Bobby Storck
Web Editor

Many people think that hacking is one of the scariest crimes imaginable. Unlike normal robbery, hackers can steal passwords, millions of dollars, or even someone's identity without even having to leave their homes. People can be attacked anywhere and at anytime, and most of the time they never even see who is doing the robbing. This is why it is so important to know how to protect oneself from online hack-

ers.

"Hacking is breaking into a computer or network to compromise data or find weaknesses in the system. I do not formally teach hacking in my classroom, but I do take a group of students to a one day hacking competition in the fall. The students learn about hacking in a safe environment," IT instructor Ronda Aken said.

As much as IT instructors tell their students that hacking is not the correct way to use their talents, many former IT students

join groups such as the hacker group Anonymous to take part in illegal activity. They claim it is to expose frauds and combat the online essence of real terrorist organizations such as ISIS, but their activity is often just as illegal as physically breaking into homes to retrieve information.

"I personally have not been a victim of hacking, but if you know your system has been hacked, you can contact the authorities because a hacker will leave a digital footprint.

Identity theft is the main reason why you should protect yourself online or offline," Aken said.

Although you may have called the authorities, that doesn't guarantee people will get their belongings back, nor does it guarantee the hacker will even be caught. Mark Lanterman, CTO of Computer Technical Services said that less than 1 percent of hackers are ever caught for their crimes.

"You're looking for a needle in a haystack of needles, if it even exists.

The really good hackers understand the evidence they're generating and they work so they don't generate that evidence," Lanterman said.

Not only are hackers good at covering their tracks, they also sometimes do not even live in the United States. Bloomberg.com said most of the hackers in the world come from Russia, Turkey, the US, and China. Not all hackers are bad, however. The JROTC club Cyber-Patriots competes in competitions to teach students

about servers and other online functions.

"When we go to competitions we compete in three to four categories. What we do with servers is answer forensics questions about specific servers and then prove how much we know about that specific server. You also learn about more complicated versions of how to handle IP addresses and how to connect them with different things," junior Zach Correll said.

JROTC cadets are not the only ones who partici-

pate in hacking competitions. 2015 Alumni Nate Brown attended several hacking competitions while in high school, and continues to take IT classes at the University of Nebraska Omaha.

"A hacker is somebody who tries to learn more about an application than the person who made it. They usually use that knowledge for bad. There is the classification of white hat hackers, grey hat hackers, and black hat hackers. A white hat hacker means you are working

with an organization and you have their expressed permission to do anything you want [with their software]. You are not actually going to harm real people and you accurately report all the findings to the people who hired you. A more greyish person is somebody who sees a software application, finds a vulnerability in it and then reports it. Most grey hat hackers work because they're bored and most don't have any financial motivation. Black hat hackers hack into somewhere and try

to steal money, try to steal sensitive information, steal government secrets, compromise people's identities, and stuff like that," Brown said.

As technical as hacking sounds, most hackers get information just through social engineering. They pose as techsupport and try to convince people to give them their passwords and information, thus compromising anything their victim was a part of. This is how Target was hacked in 2013. Hackers got a password for the company that

does Target's heating and air conditioning, which had admin privileges across the network.

"Some of the easiest ways of getting access is to find the weak link in the organization, usually this is physical. For example, if you call someone on the phone and say 'Hi! I'm the password guy for your organization. Your password's got a problem. Can you tell it to me so that I can fix it for you?' If someone doesn't know any better and gives it to you, then you're in," 2015 Alumni

and hacking competition winner Cathy Storck said.

The best way to not get hacked is to not reveal important information online. Hackers are opportunists. They see an opportunity and jump on it, then exploit it until it is no longer useful to them.

"People always ask if one can hack a large website like google or facebook. Not really, because these websites usually know what they are doing. On the flip side, someone can hack you on Google or on Facebook, because

your account is only as secure as you make it. Someone can look at say your Facebook profile, and figure out your first dog's name, your mother's maiden name, and stuff like that. They go after this information because they're betting that these are their answers to your recovery questions. So they can pretend to be you and say they forgot your password, and once they know the answers to those recovery questions, they are free to run rampant in your account," Brown said.



Image courtesy of hywards at FreeDigitalPhotos.net

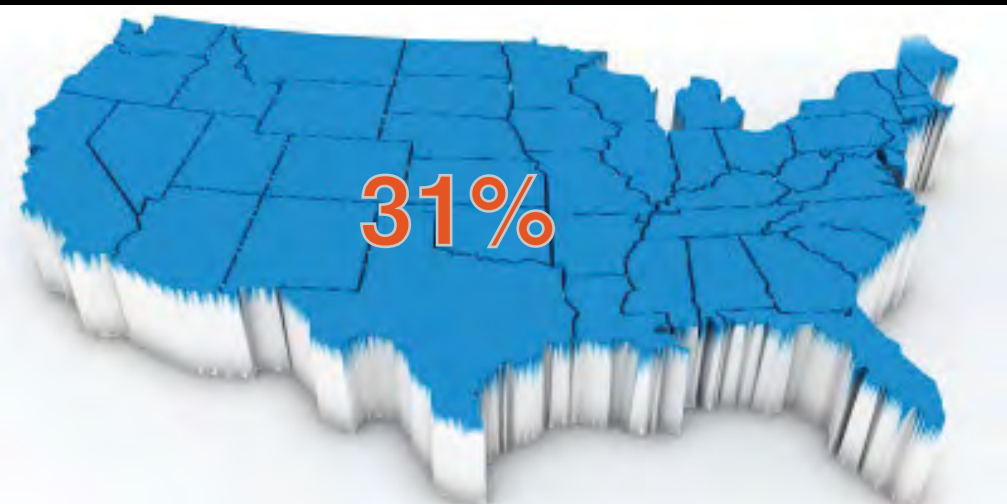


Image courtesy of David Castillo Dominici at FreeDigitalPhotos.net

1/3 of all hacks originate in the United States, more than any other country. According to attrition.com



Image courtesy of hywards at FreeDigitalPhotos.net

30,000 websites are hacked into everyday. According to Forbes.com

How cyber safe are you?

\$1 TRILLION

Total value of property stolen from businesses by hackers around the world in 2008. According to propublica.com

Almost **3/4** of people have been a victim of a cyber crime. According to undoc.org

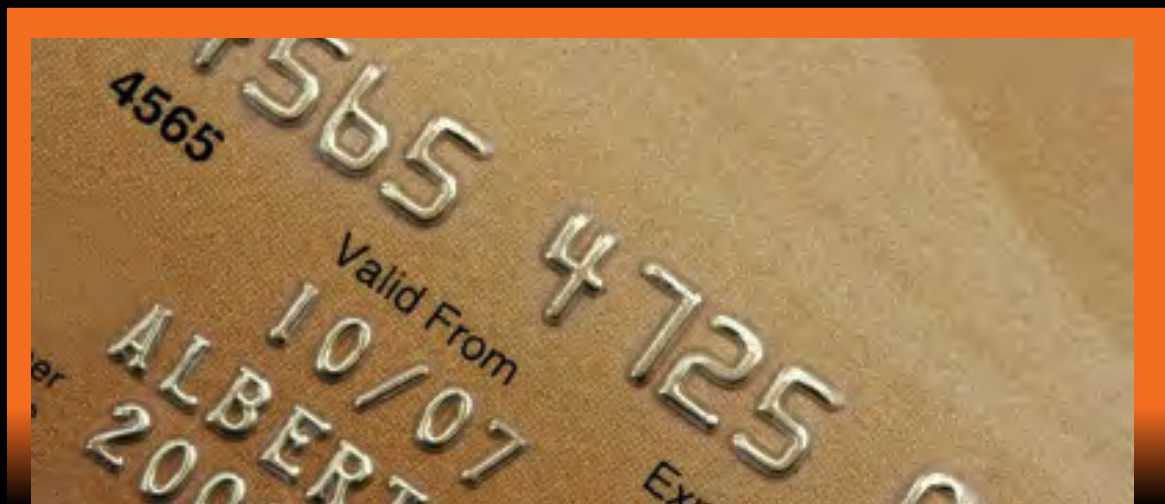


Image courtesy of Gualberto I07 at FreeDigitalPhotos.net

31.8 million credit cards were hacked in 2014. According to creditcard.com

Image courtesy of hywards at FreeDigitalPhotos.net

15 million people have their identity stolen per year. According to identitytheft.com

46% of data breaches in 2014 were related to identity theft. According to nasdaq.com



Student hacker compromises BPS network

Cailin Tomsu
Editor in Chief

Cyber security continues to be one of the biggest challenges faced today. With the increasing technology, and growth of programs that allow hackers to gain access to information, it is not uncommon to see more and more identity theft, and the increase in creation of firewalls.

There was a security breach at Bellevue East by a student about three weeks ago. Bellevue Police Detective Roy Howell is investigating the case, but cannot comment on the subject. All of the student's electronics are being looked through and Howell is assessing the damage. Bellevue Public Director of Facilities and Technology Greg Boettger explained the Bellevue network.

"We use firewalls, network scans, virus protection etc. We also monitor and limit what sites can be accessed and what can be downloaded onto computers," Boettger said.

Since the hack, Bellevue Public schools are not restructuring the network, but asking the staff to change passwords, to make them more secure. According to Nebraska law, if any personal information of the students or staff was released, the student body and faculty would need to be notified. So far, no notification has been made to the students, only the staff. That notification was made via email.

"Today our technology staff discovered a compromise of our district network. We are working with the Bellevue Police as they continue to investigate. At

this time we have not confirmed if any personal information was accessed. We will notify affected employees if it is determined that personal information was compromised. As a precaution we are forcing a password change for all BPS employees. On Monday, February 22, you will receive an email with the subject line "REQUIRED COMPUTER PASSWORD CHANGE". This email will contain information about changing your district computer password. We will provide an update when more information becomes available," the email stated said.

This email was followed by another email stating that all staff are required to change their password, with instructions on how to change them. "We have many processes in place to protect the network. The main way to secure anything is with an effective password. We have had staff members change their password. We limit rights to accounts on the network so they do not have administrative rights," Boettger said.

The police are still investigating the issue. The damage of the hack is unknown, along with what charges the student faces and what the student had access to. "This case is still under investigation by the Bellevue Police department. They will let me know their findings one they have completed it," Boettger said.

The hacker can be charged with unauthorized use of computer and network and unauthorized access, and depending on what information the hacker gained access to, and

what he or she does with the information, the charges can change in severity.

In Nebraska, unauthorized use of computer that causes a risk of public safety, unauthorized access to a computer that compromises the security of data, unlawfully accessing a computer to gain access to personal information, and accessing without authorization or exceeding authorization are all considered misdemeanors, just with different classes. It becomes a felony when someone gains access with the intent to take information and use the information.

"There's different hacking points, point of sell, credit cards, not just getting into someone's network or getting into someone's computer," Howell said.

There are many different ways to hack into someone's personal information and still be charged. The charges do not change based on age, but the courts can decide to reduce or increase the charges due to severity of accusation.

"There's legitimate purpose for hacking. It's called testing, but you have to have permission to do so. All good things could be used for bad. As long as they have permission from the person that owns that network, they can test it, so they can build stronger firewalls and secure it," Howell said.

Those who test networks can continue on to make lots of money in the future, to help business make their networks more secure. The difference between hacking and testing, is that testing is done legally with authorization,

or permission. Hacking is done without permission and that is when you can be charged with crimes.

"If they have access to personal information, but don't use it, it's a misdemeanor, if they have access to it and use it or cause a great enough amount of damage, it can be a felony," Howell said.

When information, especially personal information is leaked, it is very hard to control and limit the damage. Computer science instructor Ronda Aken takes any students that are interested in learning about hacking to a hacking competition, where the students compete but also learn about different programs, and methods of hacking. There is currently no class at East that teaches students about hacking, but there are programs out there, that are available to help make hacking easier. There are also programs specifically designed to recover from these hacks.

"I recommend for all people that use online banking and stuff like that, if you have a password make your password at least ten characters, it has to have one capital letter and it has to have a type of special character and a number, because if you do that it takes a long time to hack your password. Right now there is not a program or computer with enough storage to hack a password with ten characters and a special character," computer science instructor Ronda Aken said.

It can take many months for a hacker to break a password that unique. It helps protect not only computer and online accounts, but credit cards as well.

There are some people that will place skimmers at gas stations where people can slide their credit or debit cards to gain access to your credit card number. Some banks are now encrypting cards, so that the number will change while the card is being used, therefore the skimmers cannot catch your card's real number. There are laws and acts set in place in Nebraska and many other states to protect everyday people from incidents like these.

"Anything that a hacker does, there is a digital footprint. They can tell you step by step what a hacker did because of the digital footprint," Aken said.

When personal information is stolen, a person may fall victim to identity theft, credit cards being stolen, and items bought under that person's name. If the hacker does anything with the information, like sell it, then it becomes very hard to get that information back, and lawyers may be involved.

"It [the program used to hack] would have to be some type of program that they can download. Also, if they have really good DOS command skills, but usually they have to have administrative rights," Aken said.

DOS stands for disk operating system, and is used to get into the highest level of an operating system, this way hackers can manually type in their codes to gain access to information in the system.

"There is software out there to recover. There are companies out there that will do data recovery for you, most companies will have a backup somewhere," Aken said.

East competes at Concordia Bulldog Challenge

Interviews with
varisty athletes on Mar. 19 meet

Freshman Lainey Patrick

Q: What events did you participate in?

A: "I run the open fourhundred, the four-by-four, and long jump."

Q: How did it feel competing?

A: "It's really nerve racking and then you get in there and you try your hardest."

Q: At the first meet, how well did you do?

A: "I placed second, right behind the girl who was in first."

Q: How did the team do?

A: "We all did really great and we all tried our hardest."

Q: What was the atmosphere of the competition like?

A: "You could feel the tension, and everybody's nerves, being scared, but everybody was cheering eachother on and trying to make sure everyone did their best."

Sophomore Meghan Heuler

Q: What events did you participate in?

A: "I did the 300 hurdels and then either the 400 or the 200."

Q: How did it feel competing?

A: "It's kind of nerve racking because you're going for your school."

Q: How well did you do?

A: "I did pretty good. I felt proud."

Q: How did the team do?

A: "I think we did good."

Q: What was the atmosphere of the competition like?

A: "It's pretty intense. Everybody's cheering for you and when you go to run it gets really quiet, so you're like what's everybody thinking. And with the people next to you who are going to un, there's just a lot of apprehensive pressure."

Q: How do you think your first track meet go as a whole?

A: "For a first track meet it was pretty good."

Junior Aaron Cobbs

Q: What events did you participate in?

A: "I did long jump and triple jump."

Q: How did it feel competing?

A: "I was disappointed 'cause I scratched on all my jumps in long jump and in triple jump I only got one jump in."

Q: How well did you do?

A: "In my opinion, I didn't do the best, but I did pretty good."

Q: How did the team do?

A: "I think we did pretty good actually."

Q: What was the atmosphere of the competition like?

A: "It was nerve racking 'cause everybody's watching you and seeing how good you are."

Sophomore Nia Booth

Q: What events did you participate in?

A: "I participated in long jump, open 200, and the open 400."

Q: How did it feel competing?

A: "It felt amayzing. Nothing compares to doing what you love while competing against other people who love it, too."

Q: How well did you do?

A: "I didn't do too well. It's was the first meet though so I'm trying not to beat myslf up too much about it. There is time to improve."

Q: How did the team do?

A: "I think we did pretty well. I know at least one of my team mates, Ethan, got first place."

Q: What was the atmosphere of the competition like?

A: "It's invigorating and inspirational. The sportsman ship is mindblowing. To know that everyone on your team is rooting for you really does charge up the environment."

Wrestling state duals results

Cailin Tomsu
Editor in chief

The wrestling team made history, after a pin at districts led the entire team to state duals for the first time since they were introduced five years ago. For the individual duals, 11 out of the 14 wrestlers made it to state.

"I thought we competed hard. We were young and green and had to face two of the best teams, so I would have liked to win more matches. I told them next year that were going to go and make some noise," Coach Todd Porter said.

State duals have only been around for five years. Making it to state assured that the wrestlers were in the top ten wrestling teams in the state.

"It would have been nice to see Jacob Packard win his very last match. Everybody tried hard. It gave them another week of practice and to get ready for next year," Porter said.

Senior Jacob Packard is the cocaptain of the wrestling team, with senior Jessie Rotundo, and is the heart of the team. At state, he was interviewed by Nebraska Prep Zone, for being a great wrestler, and holding the team together.

"It feels amazing. It's the first time that we have actually ever been there and just walking in there it felt like a giant achievement that I've always wanted to make," Packard said.

Packard did not know state duals even existed, and he said he was very nervous. He said the meet was like walking in a room with all eyes on him, counting on him to win.

"It's been something I've been working on for two or three years and being there is something I

will never forget," Packard said.

Packard will not wrestle in college, but wants to come back and help coach the team, to watch the team make it to state again. The wrestling team continues to improve year after year, and one of the 11 qualifiers, was freshman Clayton Dillon, who also made varsity his freshman year.

"I'm pretty happy I made it to state as a freshman. It was amazing," Dillon said.

Dillon wants to work hard to make it to state and place next year. Sophomore Jakody Rezac has made it to state his sophomore year and freshman year and placed 6th both years. He has been wrestling since he was young, and throughout middle school.

"It feels good because I am the only one that placed" Rezac said.

Rezac's goal is to win the state championship. He will work for this the rest of his high school career.

"I will improve for next year by working on the off season" Rezac said.

Rezac will not wrestle in college, unless he gets a full ride. Porter has different options available for the wrestlers to improve in the future, like different workshops and working on moves.

"Were going to have a lot of opportunities for growth during the spring and summer," Porter said.


Overall, Porter said he is proud of the team. He plans to improve on techniques, and moves for next year, and again make it to state as a whole team.

"Just being able to represent Bellevue East with a team that wins. Beating West at West felt good. We're proud to be at the forefront of athletics at Bellevue East," Porter said.

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Omaha chosen for Olympic swim trials once again

Bobby Storck
Web editor

Omaha has once again been chosen as the host of the 2016 Olympic Swim Trials because of the restaurants, hotels, and local support the city offers. The trials will be held in the Centurylink Center in Omaha from June 26 through July 3. “USA Swimming looks for the best possible environment for the athletes with it comes to events like the U.S. Olympic Team Trials – Swimming. This includes the venue, convenience of hotels and restaurants and local support for the event. Omaha offers a terrific combination of all these aspects. Omaha was a fantastic host city for the Olympic Trials in 2008 and 2012, and the city does a great job hosting sporting events of all kinds. The combination of the venue, the hotel and restaurant situation and the local support for the event make Omaha a great choice once again in 2016,”

USA Swimming Sports Communications Manager John Martin said. Omaha had also been the host for the trials in 2008 and 2012. Both the USA Swimming Association and the Omaha Sports Commission are to thank for this recurring event. “Along with USA Swimming, the Omaha Sports Commission plays an integral role in the planning of the Olympic Trials. After Omaha was selected as host, USA Swimming formed a joint venture with the Omaha Sports Commission, and we work hand-in-hand to plan and execute every aspect of the event with equal input,” Martin said. The locals, too, enjoy having the Olympic Swim Trials in Omaha again. Physical education instructor Jennifer Carda thinks this is a fantastic way to support swimming in the metro area. “I think the trials being here in Omaha is wonderful for the city and for the growth of the sport of swimming in our

area. I believe that we were chosen to host again because we were able to provide a secure venue, a positive crowd and atmosphere and that this city and area really provides a great backdrop to the Olympic lead up,” Carda said. Carda is expecting to see some veterans of previous Olympics, as well as some new faces. She said this is an “awesome event,” whether watched from home or seen in person. “I think the trials this year will see some new faces break onto the scene. You always have the perennial powerhouses like Phelps and Lochte, but I think there will be some new names that will surprise people. There may even be some upsets. It will be a fantastic event to be part of as a spectator, volunteer, or as a television viewer,” Carda said. Local swimmers also enjoy hosting the trials. Senior Justin Goodwin believes this is a great opportunity for Omaha businesses.

“I think it’s really cool that the trials are in Omaha again. [The Omaha Sports Commision] has done a very good job with all the people that come in [to help]. There are a lot hotels that make a lot of money off of it as well. The Centurylink Center is really big, and they get the pool up really fast,” Goodwin said. Goodwin was one of the four swimmers from Bellevue East that went to state on February 27. He is planning on going to the Olympic Swim Trials and he hopes to see East students there, cheering on America’s top swimmers. “A swimmer I look up to is Caeleb Dressel. He just broke the NCAA record for the 50 meter freestyle. It’s so cool because he’s a sophomore in college, so he’s really young. I think he will be going to the Olympics on the US team because some of our sprinters are getting kind of old, and Caeleb is some young blood for the sprinting community in the United States,” Goodwin said.

Missing school for golf tournaments impacts academics

Megan Miller
Sports editor

Golf players miss multiple days of school a week to compete in tournaments. “It’s a necessary part of the job. We can’t hold any invites on the weekends because the courses don’t allow any high school invites so they all have

to be during the week,” coach Lance Raabe said. Missing school for sports means that students have to talk to their teachers. If they do not talk to their teachers before missing school, golfers can get behind on their work and be confused. “It depends on how much effort you are putting into it be-

cause I know some kids, they won’t even mention anything to their teachers before, and some talk to their teachers before so it all depends on if you’re communicating,” senior Justin Rowley said. The students grades can suffer if they do not communicate well with their teachers. If their grades get too bad, players

will be withheld from attending some tournaments until their grades are better. “It doesn’t really affect my grades. I just stay caught up on my work,” senior AJ Siders said. When they miss school, they have to take time on their own to make up their tests and homework. “I lose a lot of free time just

to get caught back up,” Rowley said. Missing school also affects the coaches. They miss a lot of school and have to have a sub a few times a week. “I have had to, over the years, be very organized with my lesson planning, and part of what has helped is having a consistent sub,” Raabe said.



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Don't be a litter bug

Staff Editorial

We have one Earth. One planet. Earth is our life source, so why do we treat it so badly? Why do we not care for the Earth? Once it's gone, so are we. People need to be aware of the impact they have on the environment, how much waste they create and where that waste ends up. We as the Tom Tom staff think that more people should learn to recycle, buy less and take care of the environment.

The amount of trash a person creates has a negative effect on the environment. In the United States alone, 14 percent of all food ends up in the trash, this includes food that wasn't even opened. This is perfect example of being wasteful. If there's leftover food in your house that no one will eat, or unopened food, you could give it to a shelter of some short, to benefit those in need, or try to buy less next time you visit a grocery store.

According to the United Nations, worldwide, there are 3.5 million premature deaths because of household air pollution, and 3.3 million deaths because of outside air pollution every year. That is a total of 6.8 million deaths every year because of pollution. Some of this is caused by factories or cars, or gas emissions. Anyone could help this issue in small ways, like walking places when it's nice outside, and trying to decrease the amount of gas emissions they put in the air.

According to Ecoclean, the average person generates 4.3 pounds of waste per day. This number has grown by 1.6 pounds from the 1960s. On average, 55 percent of the 220 million tons of waste produced, ends up in one of our 3,500 landfills. The United States as a whole will create 246 million tons of waste every year. Try to use less plastic, throw away only what needs to be thrown away and try to reuse bags as much as possible.

Each person usually sends 20 gallons of sewage through the drain sys-

tems. This adds up to 567,575 gallons over a person's lifetime. To deal with this the United States has had to build over 16,000 treatment centers across the country. To help with this problem, anyone could turn the water off when they are brushing their teeth, use less water when showering or bathing, and try to use the bathroom less frequently, only when needed.

Each year, Americans will throw out 11 million tons of glass bottles. That is the same weight as 440 Titanic's, or 30 Empire State Buildings. Every second we throw away 646 plastic bottles, adding up to a total of 60 million every day. The amount of waste the united States produces is crazy.

We, everyday people, could help stop this by recycling our plastic bottles and bags and paper, taking an interest into things that are reusable like water bottles that can be washed, bags that can used more than once. We can turn off lights and water when we are not using them. The Earth and all of its resources should not be taken for granted, instead the Earth should be taken care of.

One way we could help take care of the environment is by educating everyone on how much waste they produce and how to produce less. There could be seminars held in communities, for those specific communities to set goals on how each person could produce less waste, or initiate recycling rewards programs for kids, where they will earn prizes for recycling, and teaching habits like turning water off when brushing teeth, how to take quicker showers, but still get all clean.

There could be pushes in schools to use more recyclable or reusable products during lunch or in the classrooms. They could also give students a brief but clear lesson on the impact they have on the environment and what they can do to help. Like the communities, they could have reward programs for students or classrooms as well.

Enforcement of dress code remains inconsistent



Megan Miller
Sports Editor

I believe that the way you dress expresses who you are. In choosing what you wear, you influence what people think about you. The school dress code tries to help make students presentable and helps improve the impressions students leave on teachers and other students. Many people get away with violating the dress code at Bellevue East. Not all teachers enforce the dress code and I believe that the dress code should be enforced more heavily.

In my experience, there are only a few teachers that really enforce the dress code. When it is enforced, it is usually just certain teachers and I don't always see enforcement on an administrative level. It is also not enforced for every student. Additionally, for those who are caught, I have observed that the students who have gotten in trouble for not dressing correctly have more curves than other girls. Two girls could be wearing the same outfit and only one of them gets in trouble, and it often appears it is because she has more of a figure than the other girl. It is in cases like these that the dress code is administered unequally.

In the past, whenever somebody stepped inside they took their hat off. Now, people get away with wearing hats all day. In the Bellevue Public Schools handbook there is a list of items which are banned and includes: "The wearing of outdoor clothing such as hats and coats within the classroom." Taking your

hats off when you come inside, I believe, is done out of respect, and all of these students wearing hats are disrespectful. Hats being considered disrespectful is an opinion that many people disagree with, but it goes back to the 19th century. Hats were removed because it was a social etiquette. It is also a safety concern. The faculty needs to be able to see people's faces in cases of an emergency.

Another example of a dress code violation that is seen a lot is people who wear clothes with profanity or inappropriate pictures on them. Clothes with profanity or inappropriate things can be offensive to some people or distracting to other students. I have seen a lot of boys who wear shirts with naked women or cuss words on them and their teachers do not say anything to them about it. I understand that some phrases teachers may not understand are inappropriate or recognise the meaning of it. For example, some students wear shirts that say Molly is my number one girl and teachers do not recognize what Molly is. Belly shirts and short shorts are other types of clothing that are considered inappropriate and distracting in a school environment. Girls are seen walking around in short shorts with their butts hanging out, and nothing is said to them.

While some students may feel the need to wear the latest fashion fads and trends, dress code violations affect everyone. The student who violates the code gets negative attention from people. Students talk about them behind their backs and judge them. The other students and teachers are distracted from their teaching and learning by the hats or inappropriate clothing. In class, if a student is wearing inappropriate things on their clothes, everybody has to point it out and half of the class period is wasted because of someone's clothing choice.

One thing that could be done to help solve the problem of students not following the dress code is for teachers and administration to enforce the rules. If the teachers would just enforce the dress code, fewer students would violate the dress code. Another solution would be to inform the student body about what the dress code is and why public schools have rules for types of clothing students are not allowed to wear

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EDITORIAL POLICY

The role of the Tom Tom is not only to promote the accomplishments and highlights of the school, but also to inform the Bellevue East community of events and issues that will affect the students, faculty, staff, administration, and community. Its primary focus is to serve Bellevue East High School and cover issues that affect teenagers today. The Tom Tom does not necessarily represent views of the Bellevue Public Schools and strives to support itself through advertising. In order to achieve the optimum learning situation, as well as serve its audience to the best of its ability, the staff believes that the decisions should rest primarily with the adviser and editors, according to standards of journalism. Material judged to cause significant psychological harm, or that violates the privacy of a person, or that is libelous will not be printed. Obscenity or profanity will not be printed in the Tom Tom. Stories in the Tom Tom will be based on substantial facts with quotes clearly attributed to named sources whenever possible. The Tom Tom will not run gossip or stories or columns founded on rumor without facts. Any student appearing at a public event such as a sports event or music concert may be photographed, and that photo may be published without violating the privacy of that individual.

Dang East, back at it again with the white vans

Bobby Stork
Web Manger

The Bellevue East art department was sent several pairs of blank shoes from the popular shoe company Vans in February of 2016, while taking part in the national Vans Custom Culture contest. This involves art departments across the nation decorating the blank shoes and sending them back to Vans in order to be judged.

“It’s called the Vans Custom Culture contest and basically Vans sends us four pairs of shoes and we design them around different themes: arts, music, local flavor, and sports. Students will paint, draw, or sculpt on the shoes according to each theme. This is a nationwide contest to see who can come up with the best or most creative and most well-done pair of shoes and you can win a bunch of money for your art department,” art instructor Tim Bogatz said.

Bellevue East has participated in this contest in past years, but has never won anything or made it into the top 50. Most of the students participating are seniors in the upper level art classes. They have until April 8 to create these shoes and send them in before the shoes go through a series of judging.

“Each school will design their shoes, then pictures are uploaded online and judged. The top 50 schools move on to the semi-final round and there’s a bunch of online voting. Finally, the top five schools are finalists and are able to fly out to California for the finals where they

announce the winner and that school wins \$50,000,” Bogatz said.

Vans has been hosting this contest since 2010 in order to promote creativity through art in high schools. Over 3,000 schools are participating in this year’s competition, and it is also a way to advertise Vans shoes to high school students.

“Vans has always been a great supporter of creative expression and our canvas shoes are the perfect vehicle to allow for that expression. This competition was created to give students a platform to express themselves and allows them to showcase their creativity to their community and beyond. By giving back directly to high school art programs, we are helping to further student’s passion within the arts and provide for their #RightToArt,” Vans Custom Culture Program Manager Megan Klempa said.

If East’s shoes pass the first round of judging, they will be subject to an on-line vote which students can vote on the shoes they like the most.

“Currently the schools are designing their shoes and will need to be submitted to Vans by April 8. Vans internal voting period will narrow down the entrants to the Top 50. Then, the public has the chance to select the Top 5 finalists by voting online at vans.com/customculture April 27 through May 11. Our final event is held in Los Angeles on June 8, with the \$50,000 winner being selected on that day,” Klempa said

Many of the art students participating are very enthusiastic to raise



Creative thought Sitting in the art room, senior Jordan Roberts starts thinking of a design for her shoe in the Vans contest. “For most of the shoe we’re doing a map of Omaha. Then on the front we’re doing trees and flowers for Arbor Day and the Lauritzen Garden,” Roberts said. *Photo by Maria Mwita*

\$50,000 for their art program. This will be junior Elizabeth Thrall’s first time working on the shoes, but it is not the first time she wanted to.

“I am participating in this contest because Mr. Bogatz asked our sculpture class if we would be willing to try and decorate shoes. I wanted to participate last year, but because I wasn’t in the right [art] class I wasn’t able to,” Thrall said.

With the right work ethic, talent, and a bit of luck, Bellevue East’s art program will make it into the top 50 and maybe even the top five. If they truly create art on their products that the judges like, they might even bring home \$50,000.

“We are going to do a sports theme for our shoe. I think that we haven’t decided exactly how we are going to do the shoe yet, but we are leaning towards an All-Terrain-Vehicle (ATV) course,” Thrall said.

Students, staff enjoy fun of March Madness

Maria Mwita
Reporter

Sixty-eight teams, 63 games, six rounds, four regions, and one winner. This is March Madness, one of the craziest sports tournaments in the United States men’s and women’s college basketball. So what does a high school in the middle of nowhere have to do with all of this craziness and excitement? Well, some teachers in the building let their students go through the whole experience.

According to those who follow the bracket, the competitiveness is the most endearing part. For those who don’t know, many people fill out the National Collegiate Athletic Association bracket, more commonly known as NCAA. Both men’s and women’s basketball have a lot of competition amongst the teams. Anything can happen in March Madness. That’s why people love it so much.

Jerry Lovell, former head football coach and freshman biology teacher, has been letting his students fill out a bracket since the first year he was at East in 1996 and awards prizes to the winners.

“In the past I have given out candy, bathroom passes, a no homework pass, and a high five.” Lovell said.

The bracket is basically the list of all the teams who qualified to be in and who the teams play the first round; from there the person decides who wins, loses, and plays which team next. In most cases, whoever is the most accurate gets some sort of a prize. Not many students who have Lovell as a teacher know that

Lovell is going to do this with their classes. Those who do seem to like it.

“It’s kind of cool because you don’t see all teachers doing that,” one of Lovell’s students freshman Hannah Madison said.

Lovell is one of the few teachers in this school that does the March Madness bracket. Students in the past have said that they are happy they had Lovell because it’s hard to get teachers that do those things and that are interested in March Madness.

“I think it’s fun but I don’t know much about it,” freshman DeAnn Marr said.

Not everybody has to know about March Madness or basketball to have a good time doing this. Most students in some classes don’t have any idea or know the first thing about basketball, but are still participating.

“I am so upset that Baylor lost, that is so ridiculous,” freshman Justin Chaney said.

The tournament can also cause some despair. Like mentioned earlier, anything can happen, and many students take this very seriously. March Madness tends to have a few big upsets every year. For example, Purdue lost to ULAR. Baylor lost to Yale. An upset is when a team beats another team, usually higher ranked, and it was unexpected and seems irrational.

“I was very disappointed to see Purdue lose in the first round. They have three 7-foot gentlemen. They should have one, I don’t even want to watch the tournament anymore,” instructor John Campbell said.



‘Deadpool’ does not meet expectations

Cailin Tomsu
Editor- in Chief

He’s witty. He’s sarcastic. He never shuts up. He’s Deadpool. From comic book to movie star, Deadpool is taking over the TV screens. He is known as the “talker” of all the superheroes, although he doesn’t refer to himself as a superhero. There has been much hype about Deadpool, since he’s one of the funniest characters of Marvel. Because of this, I decided it wouldn’t hurt to see the movie. I thought the movie was great, but did not live up to the expectations that people had set.

Deadpool is directed by Tim Miller, who is known for the opening sequences of “Girl with the Dragon Tattoo” and “Thor: The Dark World.” The writers are Rhett Reese and Paul Wernick, both known for “Zombieland.” The star of it all is, of course, Ryan Reynolds,

whose comedy and personality shines throughout. Last, but not least there is Ed Skrein, who plays Ajax, the bad guy.

The movie begins with Deadpool fighting these bad guys on a bridge. He is trying to find Ajax, whose real name is Francis. Deadpool was diagnosed with cancer and it was life threatening. He gets a mysterious offer from a man saying he will turn Deadpool, known at this time as Wade Wilson, into a superhero and cure his cancer. At first, Wilson just shrugs it off and makes sarcastic remarks about it, but as the cancer gets worse, he leaves his lover, played by Morena Baccarin, to go meet this man. He is taken to an abandoned warehouse of some sort, where there are many other men just like him. This is where he meets Francis. Francis is the main doctor. He thinks that if the human body goes through enough pain and

torture it will mutate, curing any disease and making that person a super hero. Nothing works on Wilson at first, and he continues to be snarky and sarcastic. Francis hates to be called Francis, he only wants to be known as Ajax. Wilson, rips off Francis’ name tag for the laundry and calls him by Francis. This enrages Francis, and he sticks Wilson into a tube, that will decrease the amount of oxygen that gets inside until Wilson’s body mutates, or he will die. Wilson’s body does mutate but now his skin is completely covered in these gross sore looking things. Wilson escapes the tube and the warehouse, after fighting Ajax. Wilson then becomes Deadpool and has amazingly fast healing powers. He can grow back entire limbs. However, he hates the way he looks and thinks only Ajax can fix his skin. On the bridge, Deadpool is interrupted and Ajax gets away

and later takes Deadpools girl-friend hostage, who thinks that Deadpool died from cancer. The movie follows his journey to hunt down Ajax and save his lover.

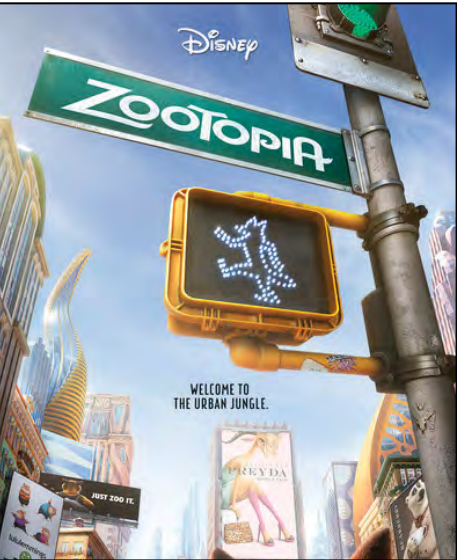
The first scene with the opening credits was not my favorite. The credits themselves, were hilarious. Instead of saying the actors real names, it said things like “that hot guy.” I was definitely laughing during these. However, the clever credits became hard to read. The opening scene was Deadpool in a car full of bad guys that he was going to fight. The car was spinning throughout the air in slow motion and the camera was spinning with the car, showing every angle of the spinning car. It made me very dizzy, and my laughter eventually stopped. Deadpool broke the fourth wall many many times, and even commented in the movie about breaking the fourth wall while

breaking the fourth wall. It was effective most of the time, as it added to Deadpool’s well known humor. However, sometimes it would break the feeling of watching a movie.

Overall, the movie was very humourous, it was definitely a comedy. I think it was talked up a lot, so I had very high expectations, some were met, some were not. I would rate it a solid 8. It was very funny, and had plenty of jokes. I would recommend it to a friend. However it is rated R, so make sure you have permission to see the movie, there is some nudity, and vulgarity.



‘Zootopia’ teaches life lessons for all ages



Nia Booth
Opinion Editor

Animation is not new, especially when you think of Disney, so what is so great about them releasing another cartoon family film? This time it is filled with mystery, real life problems, and an adorable sloth named Flash. It’s so good that it beat out “Frozen” for best opening weekend by \$6.3 million dollars with a total of \$73.7 million.

Rated PG, the new movie was released on Mar. 4 from the creators of “Tangled” and “Wreck-It Ralph.” The main character of the film Lt. Hopps, voiced by Ginnifer Goodwin , is a farm raised bunny who is the first “prey” to make it into the police force. She moves to the glamorous city of Zootopia and along the way she runs into Nick Wilde, voiced by Jason Bateman, a sneaky fox with a traumatic past. Together they set off to solve the mystery of why predators around Zootopia are are returning to their savage ways. Zootopia was filled with twists and turns as every answer to

the problem turns into a dead end until the surprising culprit is caught.

There was a lot of depth in addition to comedy within the movie. Subjects such as sexism and “animalism” in place of racism were apparent and addressed. Wilde, even as a child, faced discrimination because of the reputation that foxes have. The message that he shouldn’t be judged based off the actions of other foxes could be translated into real life problems of marginalized groups. Hopps also ran into a situation faced by marginalized groups when she meets the receptionist and he calls her cute she responds with “You probably didn’t know, but a bunny can call another bunny cute, but when other animals do it, it’s a little...” This connects to how within certain cultures and races certain words are acceptable by others within that group, but not individuals outside of the group.

In another instance Wilde is petting the hair of Bellwether the lamb, voiced by Jenny Slate, and while doing so is chastised by Hopps because it’s not okay to touch a sheep’s wool. This seems to be the same as how it is not polite to go up to an African American and randomly start feeling on their hair. It is specifically a problem for this community because their hair texture is unlike any other race and because of this sometimes people try to touch it. Because of these moments, Zootopia is a great movie to help start conversations with younger children about the reality of the world. It gives better exposure to sensitive subjects unlike many other family movies.

There were situations where characters had to look at the way that they treated other animals that they considered friends and brings to light what is and is not healthy in relationships. In addition to that there were references that an older audience is more likely to understand, particularly one with a memorable mob boss. A special singing guest star also makes an appearance throughout the movie.

“Zootopia” overall was very entertaining. It was filled with tons of references from famous movies that were absolutely hilarious and adorable animals such as the DMV employe Flash, and the sloth whose slow responses to everything are impossible not to smile at. It’s a definite go see. “Zootopia” gets 9 out of 10 stars from me.

Bellevue East High School

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