



BELLEVUE EAST
TOM TOM



BELLEVUE EAST HIGH SCHOOL

BELLEVUE, NE

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1401 HIGH SCHOOL DRIVE

Stuco holds another successful blood drive

❖Student council holds second blood drive of the 2016-17 school year. A total of 82 pints of blood from 96 donors were collected during the March 10 drive.

Brooklyn Anderson
Reporter

Bellevue East hosted a blood drive in the north gym on March 10. The drive was ran by the student council ensuring that it ran smoothly.

"Student council is mostly responsible for everything related to the blood drive," Student Council sponsor Rachel Schutte said.

Student council signed students up during first and second lunch and made phone calls to past donors. Student Council is responsible for checking students in when the drive starts and making sure that donors have snacks and beverages.

"Student council advertise for the blood drive, create passes for students that are delivered the day before the drive, and retrieve students that didn't make it to their appointment," Schutte said.

The blood drive allows students to lead and plan and also serve Bellevue East and the Bellevue community. The local American Red Cross is responsible for taking, processing, test-

ing, storing and distributing the blood appropriately to people who need it the most.

"My first time donating blood felt weird because I got light headed and my vision went dark," sophomore Jason Alexander said.

The process of taking blood takes about 8-10 minutes. A staff member puts a new sterile needle into a vein, takes approximately a pint of blood, and then places a bandage around the arm of the donor. After the donation, the donor should have a snack and a beverage.

"I think it's a good thing to donate blood and I know a lot of people who do donate blood," Alexander said.

When students donate blood they have to meet a certain criteria. Students must be at least 16 years old (with parent permission) or older. They have to be in good health and feel well before giving blood. The weight and the height have to meet requirements for male or a female donors because of blood volume. Staying hydrated before and after is important as well.

"I would definitely donate blood again just because it helps people in need," Alexander said.

If someone is unable to donate blood, they can always try again next blood drive. If that does not work, they can spread the word and do volunteer time at a blood drive. Another way to



Block Out The Pain Donating at the blood drive junior Angel Walker uses her phone to distract herself. "This was my second time giving blood and unfortunately they couldn't find the right vein. The first vein used was too small and she was moving the needle around in my arm so I told her to take it out because I was crying. I tried to use my phone to distract me," Walker said *Photo by Carly Regnas*

help besides donating blood is a financial donation. Those wishing to donate financially can go to the American Red Cross website at <https://www.redcross.org/donate/donation> or mail in a do-

nation to American Red Cross at P.O. Box 37839, Boone, IA 50037-0839.

"Giving blood has a huge impact on someone else's life and being healthy is such a bless-

ing and knowing others may be struggling with injuries and illnesses and that we can help with the recovery and healing is very reassuring and rewarding," Schutte said.

College Possible makes college probable

McKayla Vermeer
Reporter

As of the 2016-2017 school year, a program called College Possible was started at East to help juniors and eventually seniors with the college process.

"I think it's helping students just kind of get more knowledge about college because the college process can be kind of intimidating, and a lot of students have obviously never done it before so they don't know what to expect," College Possible coach Sarah Birnbaum said.

College Possible was started in 2000 by Jim McCorkell in St. Paul, Minnesota as a way to encourage and help low-in-

come students get into college. In 2011, College Possible was started in Omaha and spread to schools in the area before it started at East. Birnbaum says that she thinks that East was an ideal school to start the program.

"I think this is a really supportive school to be in, so that's awesome, and I think there's a lot of students here who could benefit from our support," Birnbaum said.

College Possible was started at East by Dr. Wagner, who knew about the program from working at Westside. Through College Possible, students are able to receive help in college applications, scholarship applications, and ACT test strategies. Students also get assistance in

choosing the college that's right for them.

"We get some practice on ACTs which will help on our scores, which will help us get into better colleges," junior Jermi Loetz said.

This year only juniors are able to participate in College Possible at East, but the program follows students from junior year and even through college. As juniors, a lot of emphasis is put on taking the ACT and seeing college options.

"Since we're juniors, we spend all of our meetings preparing for the ACT, so we have workbooks and we go through and work on commonly missed problems and techniques," junior Naomi Fiala said.

In order to join College Possible, there

are a few requirements. Someone interested in joining would have to have a desire to attend college and the willingness to meet after school and put time into the program.

"It's Tuesdays and Thursdays for two hours, but their schedules are really flexible and they'll fit whatever you need," Fiala said.

In the future, College Possible will be available to both juniors and seniors at East. For now, focus is being placed on recruiting students to join next year and getting current members to continue on.

"I would tell others about it, like this is so amazing and it has helped me a lot so far, so it could help you too," Loetz said.

East sets up recycling to help save planet

Cailin Tomsu
Editor in Chief

Recently there has been much controversy in the news when it involves the topic of the environment. It is not unknown that many people are wasteful and things are discarded without a second thought to better alternatives such as recycling. Bellevue East has some systems in place to help reduce the amount of food and supplies that are thrown away, but there is still room for improvement.

“ISEC students pick up recycling in classrooms. The recyclables are put in a special dumpster outside the cafeteria. Recyclable trash cans are placed around school. I know of one in the cafeteria and one in the freshmen commons,” instructor Cynthia Seeba said.

Seeba teaches an environmental science class in which she tries to inform the students on the harms to the environment and how they can each be more proactive in reducing waste. She is a very big advocate herself for saving the Earth.

“I would like more students and teachers to use the recycling available. Probably just as important (or MORE important) is for teachers and students to reduce the amount of single use plastics that we purchase,” Seeba said.

Plastic is one of the leading products that is wasted or thrown away on a day-to-day basis. It takes hundreds of years for plastic to degrade and only approximately 5 percent of plastic is actually recycled. The best thing to do to help reduce the amount of waste is to use recycled products or reusable products.

“One major environmental concern of mine is the use of styrofoam trays in all BPS schools. The styrofoam is not really recyclable and will never biodegrade. If it doesn’t end up in the landfill, it makes its way to waterways and breaks down into smaller pieces that are consumed by wildlife. Also, the Sarpy County landfill closed at

the end of last year and is now a transfer station. This means all of our trash is now shipped roughly 65 miles to be disposed of in David City. Round trip, that is over 120 miles just to get rid of our trash. As a school and district we need to work on limiting our waste production. The excessive number of vending machine products, styrofoam trays, and plastic packaged utensils all have a large carbon footprint for one-time-use items. Every student and staff member can make simple changes that would add up to a large impact. It starts with being aware of the waste you produce daily,” instructor Rachel Carraher said.

Like Seeba, Carraher is an advocate for the Earth and environment. She is a biology teacher and does encourage her students to be more environmentally friendly. East, as a school could improve upon this as well. There are not many systems in place to reduce the waste created by the school, aside from recycling bins.

“From the beginning of the year, I make it know to my students that recycling is important. But, the true lessons on recycling are in our last unit of the year. During EO9, which is ecology and the environment, we examine human waste production and the importance of waste reduction, including recycling. I show a video called ‘Bag.’ It focuses on waste reduction. I also have my students collect waste from their daily lives and they have to turn it into art. This year I want to do a daily waste journal to track how much each student uses one-time-use items. They’ll look at what is truly recyclable and what is not, along with how much they actually use,” Carraher said.

Carraher wants to see better community and school involvement when it comes to being environmentally friendly. She believes East could do a better job when it comes to this as well. She thinks it would make sense for East to apply for grants that would allow the installment of

reusable trays and utensils for the school. She is not the only one either, junior Grant Knox agrees with her.

“I would like to see small communities getting together to clean up a neighborhood or even just a street. I would like to reduce the amount of plastic that is freely “exploring” the world. Plastic bags are thin enough to blow away in the slightest breeze. They also claim the lives of more sea animals because they look like jellyfish when floating in water” Knox said.

The main advocates for recycling are the science teachers in the building, if any information is needed they would be the ones to talk to. It is beneficial for all members of the school to know the negative effects of being wasteful.

“I started with recycling. That is a great jumping off point. However, recycling alone is unfortunately not enough. Some of the plastic that gets recycled gets thrown away at the recycle

center because it is not cleaned out properly, or is a non-recyclable plastic. Some of the plastic gets shipped overseas to be processed at plants for less money in less than favorable conditions. Some of that ends up getting thrown away as well. The best thing to do is reduce product consumption. I bring my own lunch everyday in reusable containers. I bring my own utensils. I refuse to buy bottled water. I bring my own water bottle everywhere. If I want coffee, I bring my own cup. I bring my own bags to the grocery store and never use plastic produce bags. I try to limit the amount of pre-packaged products that I buy. I politely ask for no straws at restaurants. I compost food and lawn clippings in my backyard. Two of the most important things I do are, educating future generations on the importance of caring for our environment, and being active and informed on local community efforts to protect the environment,” Carraher said.



Reduce and Recycle “Every piece of paper we recycle is a step closer to a better world,” junior Mary Johnson said. *Photo by Briana Benak*

Mu Alpha Theta introduced as new honor society

Amya Hamerla
Reporter

Mu Alpha Theta, a new honor society thought up by math instructor Valorie Sailors and sponsored by math instructor Melissa Ziegler, joined Bellevue East this school year to allow students the opportunity to go into more math-centered career fields.

“We started it because we wanted to build kids’ interest in math, and try to get kids more into math fields in the future,” Sailors said.

Students get the chance to help others in Mu Alpha Theta. They can tutor other students that need the help. Mu Alpha Theta helps students to know what it is like to volunteer and help other students.

“We have kids helping in guided study

after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays,” Sailors said.

Students also get a chance to see how they compare to other schools. They can watch as their scores improve and understand what they need to work on.

“Every first Thursday of the month we take these math challenge quizzes. They take the top few and send it off to this competition and you can see where you rank against other high achieving math students across the country,” senior Kelly Speltz said.

Students need to meet certain requirements to be able to join Mu Alpha Theta. They give students who meet the requirements an application to allow them the chance to join. Students get to see and understand new things with math and can advance themselves more for

career fields.

“You need three high school years of advanced math and have precalculus or higher. It is only for the upper kids and you have to have a B average,” Sailors said.

Mu Alpha Theta helps students who want to help others. They can get the chance to give other students the help they need. Mu Alpha Theta gives the opportunity for students to pursue math in different ways than what is being taught at school.

“It is all up to you. If you are really interested in math and want to pursue it and help other kids then you should join. We encourage kids to join just so they can get that volunteer experience that we are giving here and maybe have some other activities along the way,” Sailors said.

Mu Alpha Theta also can help improve math scores. Students get the chance to join in a contest and see how they have improved based on the scores of other school.

“We have contest, too. I have all of the kids in Mu Alpha Theta even though they did not initially sign up to do so. I am making them now come and do the contest,” and it has actually improved our scores,” Sailors said.

Mu Alpha Theta brings many things that help students as they go on in school. They have rewards, such as cords for graduation, that motivate students to join. Mu Alpha Theta lets students see that there is more to math.

“I joined Mu Alpha Theta because we get a cord at graduation and I get to explore more with math,” Speltz said.

The SAT vs. ACT, which one is better?

Hailey Hendry
Reporter

Preparing to go to college is one of the biggest steps to ever take in life. Going from living at home with your parents to living in a dorm in college, for the most part, and having to make almost every decision of your life from there on out can be difficult for most.

There are so many colleges in the United States, but how to choose which one will be the best to go to? That's where taking the ACT and/or the SAT comes into play.

Every college and university in the United States take the ACT, but will take the SAT score, as well. In the Midwestern region, however, it is more common to take the ACT over the SAT since it's offered more in high schools, while on the East Coast, it's more common to take the SAT over the ACT.

According to the New York Times, ACT, Inc. said, "The ACT is accepted or preferred by more colleges and universities, including all of the Ivy League colleges, than any other entrance exam."

The question is, what would taking the SAT over the ACT do when trying to get into college.

"There again, SAT versus ACT, not a big difference," guidance counselor Michael Chudomelka said. "Either score around here will work. It's really the Ivy

League schools where you have to take the SAT."

According to the New York Times, Marilyn McGrath-Lewis, director of admissions at Harvard college said, "Either is fine with us, and we don't have a feeling that either favors students with any particular profile."


As far as differences in the two tests, there really is no major difference. To register to take the SAT, it's \$54.50, and registering to take the ACT is \$39.50 or \$56.50 with the optional writing portion. The SAT, however, has a writing portion, but it's not optional to take.

"Other than that, they're scored differently. For the ACT, the highest you can get is a 36 and the SAT, the highest you can get is a 1600," Chudomelka said. "So the scores are different as far as what you're tested over; math and science; English, reading. The SAT, I think, actually tests you on grammar, so it tests you a little bit differently."

Basically, all of the schools in the Midwestern region will take either the ACT or SAT. There are schools that do require the SAT test to be taken, however. If going to one of those colleges is the plan, then do follow up research about the test and what the minimum score to enter is.

The next SAT test date is May 6 and the last day to take the SAT this school year is June 3. To register, go to <http://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/register>.

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Students try out for Bellevedettes

Nia Booth
Co-Edior in Chief

Standing in the front of the gymnasium junior Grace Wilson moved her legs in preparation for doing a double pirouette. Once the turn was done and she slapped her hands down on her thighs to signal another technique completed, hands of the spectators behind her shot up ready to ask every detail about how she did it so they could replicate it.

“I’ve been on the team for two years going on three. I tried out because I love dance and always wanted a close knit group of friends that shared the same passions as me. I’m really happy with these girls [who are trying out]. During tryouts you get a lot of stuff thrown at you and they’re all taking it really well. They seem to be catching on to the dance really fast and seem like they’re having a lot of fun,” junior Grace Wilson said.

The 2017 Dance team tryouts were held at Bellevue East High School where anyone currently in grades eight through eleven had the chance to make the team. The date was chosen specifically to best match student schedules and to make the induction process as quick as possible.

“Tryouts for the 2017-2018 Bellevedettes were held on March 17, with the tryout clinics on March 13-16. I work with the activities office at East to find a good fit time, as well as working around the school calendar taking breaks and other activities into consideration. Another piece in the tryout date selection includes uniform fittings because these must be completed as soon as possible to make sure we have our uniform items in time for our summer dance camp,” Bellevedettes

coach Kristin Wheeler said.

Being on the team the previous year does not guarantee a placement on the team and requires a new tryout like anyone who has not been on the team. Though being on the team previously does offer the opportunity of a leadership role as captain.

“New members and returning members have to go through the same process for dance team tryouts. Returning members have to earn their position on the team just like a new member would have to. The only difference is when a returning member is interested in trying out for a team captain role. This is a separate piece to the tryout process as the role of a captain is a very demanding job,” Wheeler said.

Audition for the position as captain requires additional requirements. Four veterans of the team tried out for the position including Wilson.

“I am trying out for captain. This will be my second year trying out. Last year I was fortunate enough to be captain and I hope this year I will get the opportunity again. For the tryout you have to write an essay explaining why you should be captain, interview with the judges, and create a 1 min dance that can be used during the year,” Wilson said.

For majority of those trying out this year it will be their first time doing so. Sophomore Quiana Logans is one who is trying out for the first time.

“This is my first year trying out. I had wanted to tryout to be on the team for freshman and sophomore year but I didn’t have time. This year I’ll definitely have more time and it seems like a lot of fun,”

Logans said.

There are many requirements during the tryouts to make the team. All of which are worked on during the clinic before.

“Requirements include tryout application sheet, grade sheet, teacher recommendation, tryout routine (usually a 1-2 minute routine that incorporates different styles of dance and technique that we will use throughout the season). This routine is taught by senior members graduating that year or alumni members. This is another step to show that returning members and new members all go through the same tryout process by learning and perfecting a dance in four days. All members tryout with a partner or in a group of three,” Wheeler said.

In addition to technical skills, a positive attitude is looked for in prospective members. It is something that is important according to Wheeler.

“Future and current team members need to have a positive attitude, good grades, and a strong work ethic. When you are a Bellevedette you are representing Bellevue East High School as well as the Bellevue community by being an ambassador for the school and promoting school spirit. It is a very time-consuming activity, but also a very rewarding one. Our team has a high level of respect for one another and they work together as one unit to achieve our goals,” Wheeler said.

The tryout process has setback and breakthroughs for many who attended. But with so many things worked on it’s easy to find what you’re good at and what you’re bad at.

“The hardest part of trying out is getting

the dance 100 percent perfect because it goes really fast, but I think I’m doing a good job learning the different leaps and turns,” Logans said.

There was a significant difference in potential candidates for the team compared to last years.

“This year’s turnout was significantly better than last year. We had about 12 last year and this year we have 25 girls trying out. I think the turnout was better because people really noticed us this year. I’m really glad because that many girls gives the judges more of a selection for the team,” Wilson said.

The girls in the try outs this year came from different middle schools within the area as well as East. The attendance was due to promoting and word of mouth.

“We had a great turnout for tryouts this year. We really advertised our team through the school announcements and our team Twitter page. The returning members communicated with the rest of the student body about our team and what we are all about. We can’t wait for another great year of representing and supporting Chieftain Nation,” Wheeler said.

After a week of practicing on March 17 the names of those who would be on the team next year were posted on the gym doors. A total of 15 girls who tried out made the team.

The 2017 - 2018 Bellevedettes are: junior Alyssa Black, junior Nia Booth, sophomore Caitlyn George, junior Megan Heuler, dance captain junior Abby Higgs, eighth grader Micayla Lane, eighth grader Jaya Lozano-Faison, freshman Savannah Lucas, freshman Stefanie Mills, eighth grader Nebtom Nda, dance captain junior Maranda Saltzman, eighth grader Jessica Sunclades, freshman Libby Walls, freshman Macie Waring, and dance team captain Grace Wilson.

Theater brings the beauty to BEast

Samantha Collison
News Editor

It was the part of the show that everyone was waiting for: Belle entered the stage wearing the iconic yellow dress and the audience audibly gasped. From start to finish, Bellevue East’s production of “Beauty and the Beast” was a community favorite.

“I learned from this show that things always end up coming together. I was scared at first that things weren’t going to fit together nicely, but when you put in the time and effort, things eventually take shape,” senior Ryan Campbell (Gaston) said.

Beauty and the Beast had its unique challenges, but the directors and the cast felt that it came together well.

“I love ‘Beauty and the Beast’ so much and I was just so excited at the beginning of the year when I found out this was the musical; I couldn’t wait to audition to be Belle,” senior Claire Tweedy said.

All of the leads were fans of the original animated film and wanted to audition because of it. Senior Josh Schmidt auditioned for the Beast because it was his favorite character, while Campbell chose to audition for Gaston because he liked the character’s vocal range and thought playing a villain would be fun. Directors Dr. Marjorie Simons-Bester and Joseph Hamik had a number of reasons for casting the leads the way they did.

“We were looking for who could handle the workload as far as acting and singing and who could really bring those characters to life,” Hamik said.

Simons-Bester said they also considered vocal ability, vocal range and dancing ability. She said the biggest challenges for the leads were illness, fatigue and working around busy schedules.

“It seemed to me that there were more choir members in lead and supporting roles this year, particularly East High Singers members, and so I found myself thinking, ‘They have to have their lines memorized by this certain time, but this person is also in show choir or vocal jazz or they have Singers music that they’re trying to memorize,’ and so while it was awesome having more choir members in the show, especially some of our more involved students, because they were involved in so many things, it was additionally taxing for them,” Simons-Bester said.

Each lead had differing challenges with their roles. Campbell said his biggest challenge wasn’t the lines or the songs, but becoming the character. Schmidt said he had the most trouble with memorizing music, while Tweedy said the opposite.

“The most challenging part was definitely memorizing all the lines because that was new to me. I’ve done musicals before, but I’ve always just been in

the ensemble, and so I had to memorize music but that comes naturally to me being in so many choirs. Learning lines was a whole new thing,” Tweedy said.

Schmidt said what he learned from being in the show was that each mistake is a learning experience. The biggest lesson he learned was keeping a positive attitude through all of it to keep the process moving.

“I thought the biggest lesson that the cast learned from the whole process is how to work and cooperate together in order to make something great,” Hamik said.

In spite of the challenges and the long hours, the cast and the directors were proud of the show they put together. Hamik and Simons-Bester chose “Beauty and the Beast” especially because it appealed to the community because it is well-known and the movie remake premiered around that same week. The show sold well and was received well by the student body and the community.

“I think it happens once in a blue moon, but I think that with this show--in my mind--everyone who should’ve been playing a specific character was playing that character. I thought that the casting was as near to perfect as it could be. Everyone who was a part of the production, we were very lucky to be in the same place at the same time working on this project together,” Simons-Bester said.



Senior Josh Schmidt found his inner Beast as he furred up to play the Beast in this years musical. “I was really focused on what the character was feeling, but really just throughout the show hearing the audience and hearing their reactions, the best word I can put to it is satisfying to know that they are enjoying it,” Schmidt said.



Senior Claire Tweedy impressed the audince as Belle in the musical “Beauty and the Beast.” “The musical opened a lot of doors for me in the theater room because I’ve done musicals before but I was always in the ensemble and so I have a lot of music experience, but this got me more experience into memorizing lines and actually acting, and so I feel like I now am more ready to do more theater things rather than just choir things,” Tweedy said.

Take II takes fifth at Clash of the Titans

Samantha Collison
News Editor

Late in the evening, Take II members, exhausted from performing twice that day, waited in anticipation for final awards to begin. After scoring high enough earlier in the day to make finals and performing again, the group felt that they had left it all on the stage and could not wait to see if their work had paid off. When the emcee called out Take II's name for fourth runner-up, the group forgot their exhaustion and leapt to their feet to clap and cheer.

"We had been working very hard up until then and that day when we had the choreography session, it felt really good, and we all were working as one unit, so I think that we finally hit our groove and we were working well together," Dance Captain senior Liliana Delgado said.

At the Lewis Central "Clash of the Titans" competition on March 4, Take II varsity show choir raised their score enough from their first performance to their finals performance to move up one rank from initial awards to final awards at the end of the night. They placed fifth in the AAAA division at initial awards and were fourth runner-up at finals.

"I was ecstatic [about the result at Lewis Central]. My goal was to take some of the things that had been shared with us by our clinicians in our critique and improve upon those in our finals performance. Breaking finals in itself was a marvelous experience for us. I simply wanted us to be able to walk away and say we were stronger in finals than we were in prelims. To actually be able to improve our standing by that one position, I was over the moon. It spoke to the group's commitment to bettering themselves and bettering the ensemble. You can set a goal for yourself and you can say that you're setting a goal for other people, but I don't know that you can really set a goal for other people and have it happen unless they buy into it, and so the willingness of the ensemble to change and correct and strive for an even higher level of excellence, that's what that said to me. Our ability to move up a ranking from where we started was to me the group saying, 'We buy into what we're trying to do here and we're willing to stretch ourselves and push ourselves to better the ensemble.' We don't do what we do for the trophies and awards, but sometimes sometimes you can work so hard and it seems like you don't get any recognition for it, and

for me, this was validation that the work that they had been doing was paying off," Take II director Dr. Marjorie Simons-Bester said.

Take II arrived with East in Harmony in time for their early morning performance. After watching East in Harmony's performance, the Take II spent the rest of the morning getting ready or watching other show choirs.

"In the morning we had to get up really early because our JV group was also competing, and so we got to the school really early, got our equipment loaded, did our hair and makeup, and then we got to hang out for a little bit," junior Cora Kirby said.

Because Take II had so much time at the school during the day before their performance, instructor Dr. Marjorie Simons-Bester suggested the section leaders have a choreography cleaning session in the afternoon. For two hours, the group worked on making their dance moves as uniform as possible.

"Specifically we worked on the 'Long Train Running' piece, which is in the middle of the show, and the girls' and guys' pieces. For cleaning sessions, it's a lot of nitpicky stuff like where our arms go, where our feet go, what the level changes are, we try to implement some vocal stuff too like if we're doing a certain dance move, determining the dynamic level and working with what the band is doing. I think [it made a difference], especially because we broke finals that day, so whatever we did that day had to have helped in some way," Delgado said.

Take II delivered what was unanimously felt as their best performance of the season. They received positive comments from the judges regarding the elements that they worked on earlier in the day, and the only negative comments received were detail-oriented.

"I felt really really good coming off of the stage. I was really excited and really happy and I felt like I left it all on the stage, and that was just the vibe from everyone," Delgado said.

At the Clash of the Titans competition, awards are divided up into initial awards; at initial awards, groups are divided up into Mixed Prep, Unisex, AA, AAA and AAAA, and groups are ranked and receive awards within their category. The six groups from all divisions with the highest scores overall make "finals" where they perform again and the judges make final rankings and award the Grand Champions. Until this competition, Take

II had not made it into finals.

"[When Take II broke finals] I cried. It's so exciting to finally get something that you deserve, and we all know that this entire season we have deserved and earned finals and we finally got it and it was just such a relief," Delgado said.

Although Take II placed fifth in the AAAA division, going into finals they had the sixth highest score of all the groups. After their finals performance, they were fourth runner up (fifth place), meaning they moved up a ranking from their first performance to the second. A week after the Clash of the Titans competition, Take II had their final competition of the season at Millard North, but Simons-Bester said that the group isn't quite finished yet.

"In my mind, we're not done yet. I know that we're finished with competition season, and I know for a lot of folks, that's when the season ends, but in my

head, it's not over until Pops Concert. We still have District Music Contest, and I would love to walk away with some compliments to some of the things we heard about in our preliminary critiques. It's not about placement but we have a string of ones from the last couple of years and I would love to maintain that, not because I think that someone should give it to us, but because our work is of a consistently high enough level that we earn it. Then just want them to have the show of their lives at Pops Concert. I want them to blow it out of the water so that anyone who has seen them at any point in the season will be able to sit back and say, 'Oh my gosh, I thought that Lewis Central was amazing,' or, 'I thought Millard North was amazing, but what you guys did at Pops Concert was totally a different level,'" Simons-Bester said.



Senior Jenny Sa is performing with Bellevue East's varsity show choir, Take II, at the Lewis Central competeition "Clash of the Titans." "I felt a lot of emotions because it was one of the last competitions we had abd it was the first time we made it to finals this season, so I was feeling really sad and happy at the same time," Sa said.

Photo by Samantha Collison



After a recent costume change, senior Kain Easterling dances with the show choir to win fifth place on March 4. The advance in placement caused a lot of excitment throughout the team. "I felt really hyped and I had a lot of energy and it was a lot of fun. I'm proud of us," Easterling said. Photo by Samantha Collison



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Applying for college; what to do?

Preparing for college career; how to prepare for opportunity

Cailin Tomsu
Co Editor in Chief

As the end of the year is approaching, many seniors and juniors are preparing for college and trying to apply for their dream school. Some students are still lost on the actual process of applying to college, but luckily there is help out there to assist the students through the process.

"Most colleges have ACT/SAT requirements, and/or some sort of GPA requirement. Admissions for UNO/UNK/UNL requires an ACT composite score of 20 as a minimum. If the minimum ACT composite score is not met, students can meet admission standards by ranking in top 'half of class. Admissions for MCC requires a GED or high school diploma. More selective colleges may require students to have a higher ACT composite score, GPA, be involved with community service, be involved with activities, or to have completed specialty courses . . . such as fine arts or computer science. The admission requirements for college are different from one school to the next, so making oneself 'appealing' depends on the college," counselor Michael Chudomelka said.

One of the first thing students need to do is decide what college they would like to attend. To make this process easier, the student should decide what they would like to major in, and based on that, do a search to see what colleges are ranked highly in that specific major.

"Students should look for several different things. Mainly if you have decided on what you want to major in you need to make sure the school you go to offers this program and may want to look into their job placement rate or grad school placements if necessary. Other things to consider are geographical location, size of the school, cost, and possibly activities/athletics you may want to be involved in. Campus visits are a great way to get a feel for the school and if it is a good fit for you," counselor Sara Powell said.

Before the application process students should make sure they have all of the needed information with them. This can be, letters of recommendations or teachers that would be willing to write one for the student, their ACT scores, GPA, and resume. Students should also pay attention to the due date of their college application.

"To help with the application process . . . Certainly, the guidance counselors will be happy to discuss career goals and interests with students. Guidance counselors can help students determine options for college and post-high school planning. Naviance and the Career Center can also assist students with their planning. The counseling office provides a vast amount of information through various resources . . . newsletters for seniors on a weekly basis, newsletters for juniors on a month-



Signing up to play college football senior Jackson Abe launches his college career into play. "I am signing my letter of intent with my dad sitting next to me to go to the college of DuPage to play football, and after my two years there I will be transferring to a higher out university to play football," Abe said. Photo by: Renee Abe

ly basis, advertisement of college visits and opportunities, information posted on Twitter (Mike Chudomelka@MikeChudomelka), and other opportunities. Certainly, guidance counselors will not complete college applications for students. The counseling office will sent information that colleges need for the application process . . . such as high school transcripts, senior schedules, ACT/SAT scores (if colleges accept school copies of scores), recommendation letters, counselor evaluation forms, etc.," Chudomelka said.

One of the biggest issues that students struggle with is using their resources especially when it comes to applying for scholarships, and financial aid. The majority of scholarships offered by East are not taken advantage of by students.

"View the B.East web site . . . click on 'counseling' . . . click on 'scholarships.' There is a link to a scholarship list on the B.East counseling page. Each scholarship has different requirements . . . some

are based on ACT/SAT scores; GPA; dependent of a military veteran; require an essay to be completed; require application to be a minority student; require application to have a documented disability; require the application to have a documented financial need; etc. There are too many variances among the requirements for applying for scholarships to give a proper answer. However, most scholarships require a paper or on-line application as the beginning point," Chudomelka said.

Along with scholarships, students should look into filling out the FAFSA form. This only takes about 45 minutes to an hour and can save students approximately eight thousand dollars in tuition money.

"Mrs. Toyne in the counseling office has information on all different scholarships. She does a great job of putting this information in the senior newsletters that are available every week in your English

class as well as online. Parents can sign up to have the newsletter emailed to them and it is also posted on our website every week. This is just a starting point and students counselors and the career center can help guide you in the right direction," Powell said.

Students should also take advantage of their resources at the school. Counselors and other teachers are available to help and guide students on the path to success.

"Counselors are always available to talk with students. Students get introduced to Naviance in the Career Center that has several tools to search colleges and careers. Also college reps will come here to visit with interested students and help answer any questions. I always think one underrated resource is all of our staff members. Everyone here has gone to college and can offer up advice or ideas from their experiences," Powell said.

Alternatives to higher education

Amaya Hamerla
Reporter

As it is getting closer for seniors to graduate, so is the time to decide what to do after high school. Many are encouraged to continue their education in college. Though college is the best choice for some, others find that it is just not right for them. There are many alternatives to going to college and some find those to be better.

"You can go into the military. There are unions that will train you; on the job training. You can also go straight into work," career center instructor Patty Campbell said.

Expanding education allows students to receive more job offers. Students can learn everything they need to move up in life. When students do not go on to college right after school, it makes it hard to get back in later on in life.

"Always continue that education because it is too hard to go back," Campbell said.

Although it is hard to get back into school, people can still make it without it. Students can go into a job that they have a high interest in. They can even get help from their job to go back into school.

"Look for a job in a career field that you are really, truly interested in. A lot of times the company will help send you back to school," Campbell said.

Students can choose what is the best option for them. Though college is pushed to be the best choice after high school, not everyone finds that to be true. Some students find that they can make it in life feeling comfortable.

"School is needed, but you do not need college to succeed in life," former Bellevue East student Billy Keeton said.

Students can make a steady living without the need for college. They can have a well established life even if they do not go to college.

"I am doing great. I have a very swell job that supports me and my family and have my own house," Keeton said.

Some students find that college does not help with what they plan to do in the future. There are alternatives, such as trade schools, where students can study a certain thing that goes with what they choose to do later on in life.

"I chose not to go to college because what I want for my own future and what I would like to do with my life does not require me to do so. I would rather focus

my attention and efforts towards what I am good at than school-work that will not benefit me in the end," junior Keelyn Fischer said.

Some students can become successful if they go through with something that brings them joy. When students have the drive to achieve a dream they have, then they can find a way to be successful in that career field. Having a passion for a career leads people to work harder to achieve what they want.

"This is what would make me happy. This is what I see myself succeeding in in life," Fischer said.

Some students find that school does not help them. Things that are taught to them do not get across how teachers would like. Students can find that the schoolwork makes it harder to understand things. They can find that going straight into their desired work is more beneficial than going to college after high school.

"I am not good with school-work. I am not dumb or anything; I understand school and what is happening, but it is not something I would be happy doing. It is best for me because I enjoy makeup and beauty. I think I have the skill to have a career involving it," Fischer said.

School brings students the resources to help them out in the world. It gives students the opportunity to understand everyday things that they deal with. For some students, they find that they are not given enough resources to help them later on in life. School is there to help kids get higher in life. The students who school does help find themselves to be successful. The students who school does not help find themselves successful also, as long as they follow their dreams with a passion.

"I am a hands on learner. School only fed me books and did not give me everything that I needed to be more successful. School just did not click for me," Keeton said.

College can be great for students and help them move higher in life. Alternatives can be great for others as long as they go about things in a way that is beneficial to them. Students can follow their dreams and become successful if they have the will and drive to do it.

"I plan on being a beautician of sorts. So I would not be going to a regular college, but take classes that focus on the things I would need to make a future for myself," Fischer said.



Photo credit United States Naval Special Warfare (SEAL).

Coach K runs effective, growing program

Mathew Policky
Reporter

As the sun winds down so do the runners into their blocks. As they begin running their coach, Kendra Whisenhunt, cheers them on as they battle for the lead.

The track runners at Bellevue East high school are getting physically prepared and Whisenhunt is getting mentally prepared. After last season's record, some of Whisenhunt's athletes have an idea of how the season will go.

"This season I think will go really good. We have very competitive and athletic people that I'm sure would want to make it to state this year," senior Kiara Stanback, former track athlete, said.

Whisenhunt has been coaching track for a total amount of 19 years, nine of them being at Bellevue East high school. A few of the students at East have been preparing all year round and have been practicing new techniques and running events. With the help of Whisenhunt they will be ready to test their new skills in their first meet.

"She has most definitely helped me improve because sophomore year I was not running the 400 meter dash, but she pushed me to run it and that helped me drop my times in other running events and get better every meet," Stanback said.

Whisenhunt is very experienced coach. Some of Whisenhunt's athletes

think of her as more than just a coach.

"She really helps me and works with me and other athletes during practice to get better in meets but also has helped me when I needed to vent or just someone to talk to," Stanback said.

Whisenhunt is not only a track coach but she is also an assistant to the girls basketball team here at East. Previously though, she has coached volleyball, cross country, girls and boys basketball.

"I also am an assistant to the girls basketball here at East. I also am one of the head coaches for the Bellevue Breeze (a summer track club here in Bellevue)," Whisenhunt said.

Some coaches techniques can be very hard to handle, but Whisenhunt's athletes seem to have gotten the hang of her technique teaching.

"She is very patient and is willing to help you with anything you need. I feel coach K is a very talented and helpful coach; she is good at what she does and making people feel welcome even if they have never ran track," sophomore track athlete Lainey Patrick said.

Besides Whisenhunt's patience and welcoming demeanor, she also holds athletes to high standards, getting individuals to focus on personal improvement.

"I think that her coaching techniques are very effective on the athletes because she pushes them to try new running events and pushes them to do their best," Stanback said.

East student plays lacrosse

Nia Booth
Co-Editor in chief

Running across the field junior Jack Van Holland dodged player after player with his crosse swinging in hand. Realizing he was about to be cross checked, Van Holland passed the ball to one of his teammates cutting across the field.

"I started playing in seventh grade after my friends and I went to this clinic at BJSA (Bellevue Junior Sports Association). Me and my friends saw the just saw the ad for it and just kind of decided to go for it just for fun," Van Holland said.

Van Holland started his career playing lacrosse in middle school. In the last four years he has played for two different organizations.

"I play for a Papillon team club team; it's not the same team I started with. I started with Omaha Lacrosse Club; in eighth grade I also played with for Omaha Lacrosse Club, but I also played for the high school," Van Holland said.

Lacrosse is a club sport rather than a school one, making rules for play different. Because of this Van Holland was offered the opportunity to practice with high schoolers early due to his skill.

"They saw me and just asked if I would be able to practice with them because they thought I was good enough, I suppose," Van Holland said.

Though there are three spring sports offered at Bellevue East for play, he has stayed devoted to the club sport. With early ties to the sport and a passion for it was an easy choice.

"I started playing before attending east and was already committed. Plus it was already my favorite sport so I decided to stick with it," Van Holland said.

Competitively, the Papillon Club team performs averagely well, according to Van Holland.

"Ranking wise we're about in the middle of the league. There's about ten teams total and we're about five or six," Van Holland said.

Van Holland enjoys a lot about playing lacrosse, but his favorite part is those who he plays with because there are not many lacrosse players in Nebraska his friends are from other schools.

"I met a lot of new people because as far as I know I'm the only lacrosse player that goes to East," Van Holland said.



Photo courtesy of Jack Van Holland



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East athletics cancels seasonal sports banquets

Skyla Peters
Opinion Editor

Bellevue East is no longer hosting sports banquets with all the teams together. Each individual sport will host their own banquet starting this school year.

“The biggest reason is the coaches did not want to do them because several sports get done before the sports banquet. For an example, softball was done five weeks before we had the sports banquet so that is a long time for them to wait to have their banquet and hand out letters and do all of that stuff,” Activities Director Chad Holtz said.

A sports banquet is an event at the end of a season used to hand out rewards and be together one last time. Sports banquets have been around for a long time and most athletes enjoy them.

“I see sports banquets as a way to wrap up your season, so it is a cool experience to be with your team one last time and recognize each other for the accomplishments and just have fun. I just think it has kind of been a thing for a long time and a cool thing that we do here,” junior Joey Walther said.

Every team has done their own thing for the winter sports. For Basketball the coach they went to a bowling alley and spent time together as a group.

“We actually rented out a small bowl-

ing alley and we invited everyone there. We used fund raise funds to rent out the hall and order pizza and hung out for two hours and bowled and talked about the season and handed out rewards,” basketball coach Chad Mustard said.

According to the activities director Holtz, the fall sports would prefer individual banquets because some sports seasons end way earlier than others and they would have to wait a long time to hold their sports banquet. This is something that the coaches prefer to have more than doing all the sports together.

“They would rather do something that is a little more intimate where it is just their group of players instead of having a big one and then breaking out into sessions. The coaches really wanted to get away from banquets and do their own,” Holtz said.

The money that was originally used for the sport banquets will go somewhere else for other activities to use. The sports will host their own banquets and end the season as an individual team.

“I think a lot of coaches prefer the smaller environment where you can have that family atmosphere. Also, the booster clubs work hard to raise for us to support our athletic programs and our extra curricular activities. I think those funds could go to things other than the banquet to help us be more successful,” Mustard said.

East switches brands



Photo by Briana Benak

Megan Miller
Sports Editor

Bellevue East high school sports are now being sponsored by Adidas.

“I think it’s great for us. It’s nice to be sponsored by adidas even though we’re not fantastic at sports,” junior Elena Felix said.

The school athletic department wanted to have a new sponsor for sports. They reached out to different companies and got some offers back.

“As a school, and as an athletic department and as an activities apartment we wanted to brand ourselves. We wanted to let our student athletes and students and activity members have the options and ability to be dressed in the best gear. We reached out to some companies: Nike, Adidas and Under Armour. Adidas gave us an offer we couldn’t refuse,” coach Anthony Dunn said.

Adidas is giving students an opportunity to purchase gear that would normally be expensive at a cheaper price.

“I think it is awesome for our student athletes to have gear that is 40 percent

off and shoes 35 percent off. I think that Adidas has stepped up their game. I think they are creating high quality stuff that our students should be proud to wear,” Dunn said.

The school pays for the Adidas uniforms. The students have the opportunity to buy additional items at a discounted price.

“The uniforms are paid for by the school. If they want to buy Adidas, they get those percentages off,” Dunn said.

The players and students benefit from Adidas sponsoring the schools sports.

“I think it’s great for us. It’s nice to be sponsored by adidas even though we’re not fantastic at sports,” Felix said.

The new gear will help the players’ morale. Having new gear that is name brand will help encourage the players to do better.

“In the day and age we live in, kids want to be in the newest, the coolest stuff and it does play a factor. They want to look good and know they look good and have the gear that looks nice. There’s that saying you look good, you play good. I think that it definitely helps moral,” Dunn said.



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Perfume in halls trigger asthma attacks

Staff Editorial

It can be hard to imagine that what smells really good to one person, could be a health risk to another. Many of the products that we use today have fragrances in them and these fragrances are made of chemicals like crude oil, turpentine and petroleum. The list of products with offending ingredients may range from body perfumes, colognes,

body lotions, hair sprays, shampoo, and more.

Wearing perfume and choosing the kind of scent that pleases one the most is a form of self expression. Bellevue East is no exception because students want to smell good and therefore buy many of the products previously listed.

Many people, however, are not aware or informed of the effects these fragrances have on others around them or even

on themselves. More and more people have become sensitive or allergic to the various fragrances.

There are students and staff in this building who are allergic to fragrances. Teachers and students have been known to have difficulty breathing after walking into a room or hallways whereby someone simply sprayed fragrance all around them. The allergic reaction may start as a cough, followed by wheezing and sneezing. In some case, the reaction could become a very serious health issue. Students or staff have found themselves in the nurse's office because of shortness of breath, a rash or swelling of the skin. Perfumes can also be a trigger for headaches and migraines, not to mention full-blown asthma attacks. Not only will the perfume affect the air around us, it can also damage the skin when sprayed directly.

In the past month East has had five students and two staff members come to the nurse's office because they had a severe allergic reaction to the fragrances

in the school. The reactions have been as severe as hives or requiring use of an EpiPen. Such reactions can be scary when they happen.

Many others in the school have reactions to strong fragrances, but choose not to go to the nurse. Some students in the school don't even realize that they are causing distress and discomfort to their peers and even teacher simply by putting on strongly scented hand lotion.

Now, knowing the consequences of liberally spraying ourselves will all kinds of fragrances, is it worth it? We are not suggesting that we abandon fragrances, but maybe ask ourselves if we can at least use scents in moderation for the benefit of our fellow Chieftains. Additionally, there are some fragrances that are made from natural ingredients like flowers and herbs. The other alternative is not to use fragrances at all. Can you imagine a fragrance free Bellevue East? No one would be experiencing life threatening reactions. Wouldn't that be nice?

Sex education should inform students about STDs



Brooklyn Anderson
Reporter

Sex education in our school is limited to a certain amount of information on what is told to students in health class. Sex is a very awkward topic to talk about at school, especially with a teacher or even with an adult. The sex talks with parents or guardians are probably the worst things to ever talk about with adults, in my opinion. I honestly got most of my education through media like the internet and movies.

Sex is not a teachable subject but it is a talked about subject. It would be

weird for teens to be shown how to have sex, but it's not as strange to talk about it with a friend or an adult that you trust to learn how to prevent bad outcomes. If I ever have any questions, I can ask my mom because she will talk to me about it; however, my dad still doesn't like the topic.

The subject also makes me uncomfortable. I hear this word at school all the time and yes, teens have hormones, and they get that feeling of excitement and pulses running through their bodies. I believe that most teens know what behaviors are considered bad and what are considered good.

Parents play a huge part in what they want their kids to know and what they don't want them to know. Some parents are very strict and don't allow their children to know much regarding the topic and they try everything to keep their kids from knowing anything about this touchy subject.

In health class during my 7th grade year, we got sent home permission slips to watch a video on the bodies of a female and a male. The video was about

breast cancer and testicular cancer and what to do to check for them. I can't really remember what else the video talked about but I do remember taking a permission slip home and having my parents sign it in order to watch a video that showed the human anatomy.

A few of my friends have taken health class here at East and they do talk about the outcomes of sex like pregnancy and STDs. The health book says that having sex while married is best for everybody and in high school abstinence is also the best choice.

Now I can't say much on what they teach because I haven't had health at East, yet. However, from what I heard they don't go in depth on the topic at all.

I believe that not getting adequate sex education can potentially lead to some negative outcomes like teen pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases and emotional problems.

A teenager can get pregnant in a heartbeat. Having a baby in high school can be very difficult, especially with a busy schedule. Students are often involved in sports, have a heavy homework load, and some even have jobs outside of school.

In addition to the risks of pregnancy, there are STDs. I know about STDs and how to prevent them, but I don't know what to do if someone ever gets one. Doctors are there to help, obviously

that is part of their job. However, many teenagers feel awkward talking to their parents or doctors about their personal lives. Teenagers may also be unaware that they should get tested for an STD, if they are sexually active and they have not been using protection.

There are a lot of emotions dealing with sex and students cope with these emotions differently. There can be sadness, relief, and anticipation.

For me, I feel that I still need to know more information and the only way I can do that is taking a health class, but I feel like they would teach me what I already know. In order to prevent some of the negative outcomes, I think that we should have a sex ed class that should be available for all grades in high school. Another idea would be for the school to have an assembly and have each grade go separately to the auditorium for information presented by medical professionals and certified teachers.

Now I know that parents or guardians might not agree to assembly, but the ed would be very helpful for just a semester of talking and learning all of the important issues associated with the complex topic. Some students might not take it seriously, but for the students that will, like myself, it would help so much if the education for the topic was more open and so that the students feel comfortable talking about the subject.

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‘Quick Bites’ touches the soul



Megan Miller
Sports Editor

Great food touches the soul, and soul food is the best type of food for the soul. The best place to get good, homestyle cooked food in Olde Towne Bellevue is Quick Bites Soul food. I was not disappointed by Quick Bites. Not only was the food amazing, but the atmosphere was friendly and the prices were fair. The restaurant itself was great. It was a small place, but it

was full of character. The tables had striped table clothes and a centerpiece that was Easter themed. There were crosses and wreaths on the wall. There was also a TV that had Christian music playing on it. It was very welcoming. Everyone who worked there was nice and helpful. They gave genuine suggestions and helped if you did not know what you were looking for. The prices were also fair for the amount of food. The main reason anyone

goes to a restaurant is for the food. The food at Quick Bites was home cooked and delicious. The menu consisted of items like fried chicken, catfish, cheeseburgers and a variety of other items. There were also many sides to choose from. I got the fried chicken dinner with mac and cheese and collard greens. I also got a piece of sweet potato pie. The chicken was really good. The breading was crispy while the chicken was still moist. The macaroni and cheese was really good. It was nice and thick. The sweet potato pie was amazing. It is a lot like pumpkin pie, but there is a sweet potato taste in there. One thing I wish that was better was their online presence. It was hard to find information on the restaurant. Quick Bites has a Facebook page, but they do not have a website. They also still only have a temporary menu, so items keep changing. Overall, I give Quick Bites soul food five out of five stars because the food and atmosphere were amazing. It was a good local restaurant that just opened, and I would it recommend to anyone.

iPhone 7 camera makes a difference

Cailin Tomsu
Editor-in-Chief

I currently own an iPhone 6 plus and I do like it. Apple products are by far way better than any Android I have ever owned. Recently, Apple came out with the iPhone 7 and 7 plus. The best thing about the 7 plus is the new amazing camera. It has the option to zoom in more than the others, switching between its two cameras. Both the 7 and 7 plus have incredible new features that the previous generation's lack. The new camera on the iPhone 7 allows better lighting as well. When shooting in the dark with an iPhone 6 the quality is decreased and it is often hard to see everything. The iPhone 7 fixes this problem and the videos shot or pictures taken come out way better than before. The iPhone 7 plus also comes with the option to do a

“depth effect.” This effect blurs the background of an image so that the center of attention is the only thing in focus. The pictures come out looking professionally taken, rather than looking like it came from a phone. The major difference between the iPhone 7 and the iPhone 7 plus is that the normal 7 lacks the advantages of having a double camera with all the amazing qualities. If you are looking for a phone with a phenomenal camera the 7 plus is the one for you. The only downside, I think, is that the 7 no longer has a headphone and aux port. If you want to put in headphones you have to plug in a connector through the charger port. Apple has released wireless headphones that connect to the phone, but those are available separately. They also just released an all red version. I hope that I can upgrade to a 7 plus soon because that camera is to die for.

‘Beauty and the Beast’ recreates original magic

Bobby Storck
Entertainment Editor

The classics will always be the classics, of which Disney has a few. From films of our grandparents' generation such as “Pinocchio” and “101 Dalmatians,” to films our parents remember seeing such as “Aladdin” and “The Little Mermaid,” to films in our lifetime such as “Tangled” and “Frozen,” Disney has created some of the most memorable films of all time. One film that stands the test of time is Disney’s 1991 animated classic, “The Beauty and the Beast.” In late 2016, nervous fans of Disney classics learned that Disney planned to recreate the musical as a live-action film, containing many of the same and more songs from the 1991 animated film. Could this new predecessor conjure? Yes.

The new movie opens up the exact same way as the animated classic, with the prince of a French castle (Dan Stevens) getting cursed because of his arrogance and inability to help a poor, old woman (who is really a sorceress) who offers a single, red rose for the chance to warm herself by the fire. The sorceress turns the residents of the castle into objects such as a candelabra and a clock, and the prince was turned into a hideous beast, cursed until he can love another and be loved in return. The sorceress also had everyone outside the castle forget about the castle and its inhabitants (correcting what some thought was a small flaw from the original). Years later, a girl from a small village is out of her time. Learning to read from her papa Maurice (Kevin Klein), Belle (Emma Watson) is frequently called

“strange” by the townsfolk because of her differences from the rest of them. To make things worse, war hero and hunter Gaston wants to marry ‘the only one who is as beautiful as himself,’ so he seeks to marry Belle, and he won’t take no for an answer. How will these two plotlines cross? Will the curse be broken? Will Gaston take Belle as a bride? That is for you to find out. The movie was a masterpiece. The songs were memorable, and they even added a few more that weren’t bad. The CGI was excellent and definitely recreated the magic in scenes such as when they sing “Be Our Guest” and “Gaston.” Acting by the villagers and voice acting by the castle folk were excellent, and you really felt you were right there with them in France. The plot itself was similar enough to be nostalgic,

but different enough to give the movie a voice of its own. The whole cast seemed to be at the top of their game, with one exception. Emma Watson is a nice person and a good actress, but not the right choice to play Belle. Often she seemed she was being happy that she was playing Belle as supposed to acting as Belle. I could get around this much more easily if it weren’t for her singing. Emma Watson is not a singer and this is apparent. When she couldn’t hit the notes, the special effects people had to autotune her voice. This was easily noticeable and this made her seem like an amateur among the other stars. When they would sing and hit their notes and she needed to be autotuned, the dissonance came close to ruining some of the songs. She tried, but I honestly felt Claire Tweedy who

played Belle in our own Bellevue East production did a better job at portraying the character. Other than Belle, the only other problem I had was the movies use of panoramic shots. Once or twice they were appropriate, but other times the camera spun so fast I couldn’t tell what was happening. This movie receives a 8.5 out of 10. The rest of the cast did a wonderful job, but the lead Emma Watson was not the right choice for this role. The CGI was fantastic, but the camera had too many spinning shots and lost their effect. The writing had no problems and was able to keep the movie close to the original, but different enough to make the movie stand out on its own. Not every classic should be remade, but this “Beauty and the Beast” will stand alongside its predecessor as a film to remember.

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East students share their favorite movies

Bobby Storck
Entertainment Editor

Since they first appeared in the early 1900s, movies have been a source of entertainment for people of all classes. Comedies have made people laugh and dramas made people cry, but everyone can have a favorite and no movie is everyone's. Here at Bellevue East, we enjoy a vast variety of favorite movies.

"My favorite movie is a weird artsy movie called 'It's Such a Beautiful Day.' It's not a conventional movie as although it has a plotline, the plot is not the only thing that drives the movie forward. I really like unconventional things, and it's really cool to watch a movie that is different," junior Richelle Ratzburg said.

Many people's favorite movies have something special to them. This can be when the person saw the movie or the movie's differences to others.

"Many movies follow generally the same plot line like a book with an exposition, rising action, climax, falling action and

resolution in that order. These movies to me are still just movies, but films like 'It's Such a Beautiful Day' are different to me as they explore a new way of storytelling," Ratzburg said.

Sometimes a person doesn't have a favorite movie, but instead has a favorite film franchise. This could be movies featuring a certain character or movies taking place inside the same universe.

"I am a big Marvel fan, so I've seen many of those movies multiple times in theatres. My favorite type of movie is action films, but superhero movies are at the top of my list," instructor Michael Tackett said.

Sometimes it's not even a specific franchise that interests people. Many people enjoy entire genres of movies such as horror movies and romances.

"I prefer action movies because they keep you at the edge of your seat. I like trying to guess what will happen next, as well as seeing the pyrotechnics whether they are CGI or real," Tackett said.

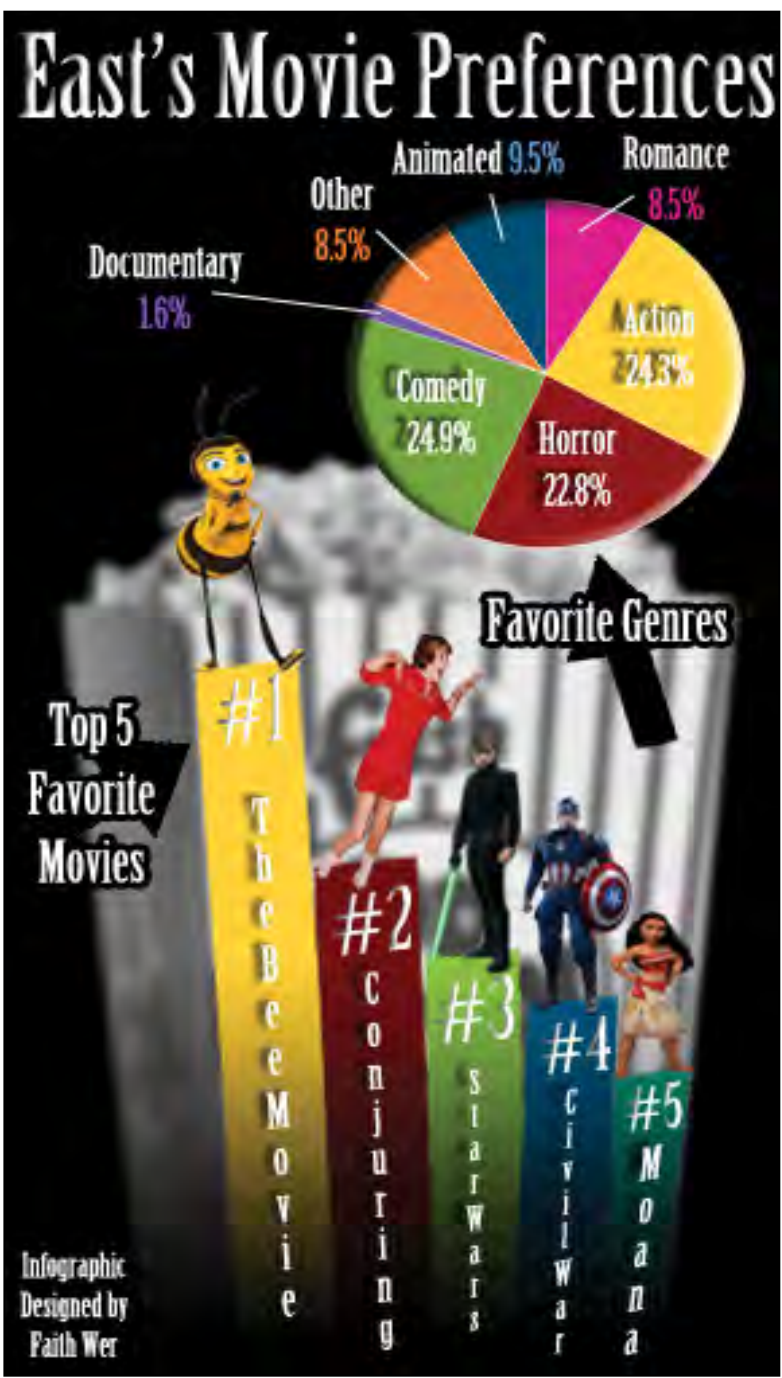
Many movies attempt to ap-

peal to the audience through making their characters relatable. Other times a movie is relatable because the events that take place mirror events in people's lives.

"My favorite movie is 'the Sandlot' because growing up, baseball played a big part in my life with my dad playing baseball professionally. Seeing any movie about baseball is nice to see and to me, 'the Sandlot' is a classic," sophomore Stevins Spurgeon said.

Despite the cosmically large number of movies ever released for students to choose from, more students chose Dreamworks' "The Bee Movie" as their favorite movie than any other film. Whether it be because it appeals to your personal life or you enjoy the genre, movies will always be a way to sit back and enjoy quality entertainment.

"I think 'the Bee Movie' won as a joke. Many of those who voted for 'the Bee movie' told other people to vote for it, just to see if they could get the movie to be number one at East," Spurgeon said.



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