

HAPPENINGS

A PUBLICATION OF HAMBURG AREA HIGH SCHOOL



Club Spotlight: Wilderness Club

Tori Rhoades - 12

Wilderness Club is one of the many clubs at the high school that students love to be involved in. The club meets on Club Day B and its advisors are Mr. Brown and Mr. Hetrich. Like many clubs, students ranging from freshman to seniors are allowed to join and participate in activities. Wilderness Club does not only go on trips that involve the outdoors. It is much more than that. If a student is involved in Wilderness Club they are also involved in their community. Wilderness Club participates in many activities. The Wilderness Club made their debut for volunteering by helping set up, participate in, and tear down for the King Frost Parade. They will also be helping with the Hamburg Carnival which is one of the seniors ,Elaina Koller's, favorite events. She likes working the carnival because "not only is it a fun time for her and her friends but she also has the ability to see how much the community enjoys the event". The club also participates in fundraisers. For example, earlier this year the club members sold sandwiches in order to help themselves pay for trips associated with the club. They have many future events planned. This includes the club potentially going on several hikes and hopefully going on their annual River Float trip. Senior Tori Rhoades is "looking forward to the River Float the most due to all of the great things she has heard about it from Wilderness Club members that went years before". Unfortunately, not enough members participated last year in order for the club to go. Wilderness Club members love that feeling that they are making a difference and wish that many more students would join the popular club.

Pets can help people be happier

Kristen Martinez - 10

Most households own a pet, but many do not realize the true value the animal has for their physical and mental health. They can promote more active lives and generally less lonely lives as well. According to the CDC, the animals that are living within homes around the world have many more bonuses. Pets, especially dogs and cats, promote increased activity levels and help to decrease loneliness. The companionship that animals can help people through difficult times. Even during times without much strife, simply having them around can make someone feel more happy. When someone gets home from school or work, having an animal waiting for them to come back can remind them that they are not alone, even if they may have felt like they were.



Along with the mental health benefits, there are plenty of physical ones. The presence of an animal can help to decrease blood pressure and especially with dogs, who are normally very active, they promote physical fitness. Taking a dog on a walk along with playing with it are easy ways for the owner to get physically active without much extra effort. These activities will also help to promote outdoor activities to those who may not go outside as often as they should. Junior Julia Phillips owns many dogs, and she said that their presence is one that always helps to cheer her up when she is down. The happy barks and the wagging of their tails always makes her feel like she is loved. For more information on animals and their benefits, visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/healthy-pets/health-benefits/index.html> Picture link: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/christinefletcher/2018/10/11/five-things-you-need-to-know-about-protecting-your-pets-after-you-die/>

Student Spotlight: Jordan Monroe

Clarissa Dimovitz - 9

Like many Freshmen this year, Jordan Monroe has adapted to the changes of being in high school and is on her way to success. Jordan Monroe is not only involved in orchestra but also in chorus. These activities require lots of practice after school during the weekdays. On the first day of high school, she was excited to meet new people and be one more step closer to graduation. She is happy to say that her first year in high school is going very well. Jordan stated that "I have learned the true meaning of responsibility and that I must work hard to succeed in my classes, especially with my extra circurricular activities. My plans for the rest of the year are to pass all my classes," Jordan stated when asked her plans for the rest of the year. She recently participated in the Core Winter Concert here at the high school, and she believes that she, and the three ensembles, all did a nice job. She shows her school spirit by participating in Spirit Weeks, dressing up for Halloween and wearing Hamburg Hawks spirit wear.



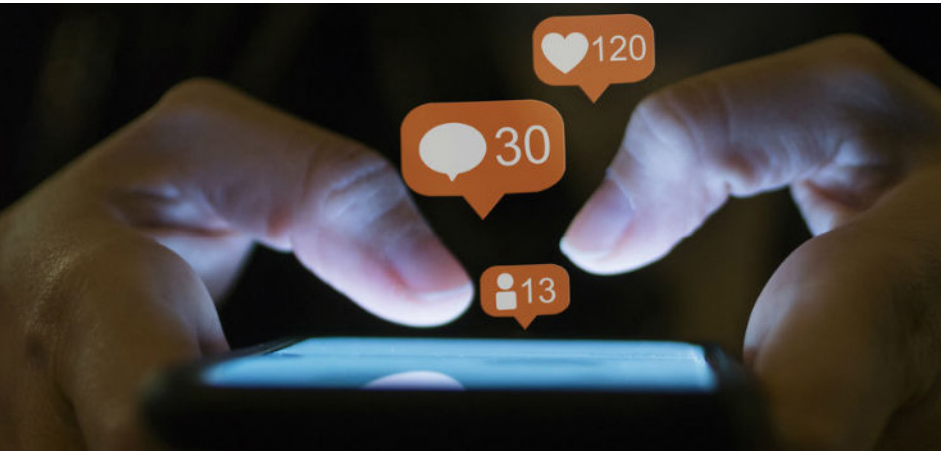
Staying safe in better temperatures

Lauren Atkins - 9

Temperatures are dropping and as they do, this can cause rough conditions and also lead to unwanted precipitation. The rough weather can easily lead to dangerous situations so it is extremely important to avoid them. Snow can be very enjoyable to many people due to that fluffiness of it and the wonderful things that can happen in it. Multiple fun games and activities can happen when it snows such as snowball fights, skiing, snowboarding, building snowmen, making snow forts or angels, or going sledding. People of all ages can find this exciting and enjoyable, or possibly even the greatest time of year.



Another activity that people tend to do around this time of year is to enjoy Christmas lights and travel to different places. People continuously go place to place to find gifts for loved ones or simply to enjoy time with family and friends. While these activities are joyful and fun, precautions need to be followed to guarantee safety. If playing in snow, make sure the surroundings are safe and easy to locate. This is incase an incident happens and help needs to be reached. It also allows for people to be aware in case a predator tries to harm someone. The next precaution to take while being outside in the snow is having proper attire. With the temperatures dropping lower and lower each day, it is extremely important to dress with care. Becoming too cold will lead frostbite and that is something easily preventable. Dress in layers that include a hat, hood, gloves, socks, pants, shirts, jakcet, sweatshirts, or scarf. Not all are completely necessary, but they are highly recommended to protect against the cold weather. The final precaution to take against the weather is cautious driving. As mentioned, this is a great time of year to drive to different places to view lights or drive to see family and friends. With the cold conditions and possible precipitation, it is important to stay off the roads if dangerous. It is also extremely important to dive the speed limit at all times, but especially in dangerous conditions. "Just recently getting my permit means that I'll have to learn how to drive in rough conditions. It is important to stay safe so that you do not harm yourself or other people on the road. This is a very enjoyable time of year, but can be dangerous in certain aspects" spoke Pierce mason, 9. With all the enjoyable activities this time of year, it is tremendously important to stay safe in these weather conditions. Knowing these precautions, will allow each person to have a safe and happy winter.



Social media impacts everyone

Ashley Perlaki - 11

The evolution of social media has grown quite quickly through the years, and on average there were 2.77 billion people who are social media users in 2019. This means there are more ways for people to interact with each other, whether it be in a group chat or a tweet to another person. Social media has a huge impact on most people's daily lives. Although social media has a positive impact, there are also many negative things that come along with social media.

The number one cause of bullying is associated with social media interactions. Social media can be a very positive place, but it can also be very negative too. Social media users should always be responsible with the words they say and be aware of the things they post.

Since social media is so common and popular, many businesses will look into someone's social media handles because they can tell a lot about a person. However, when the internet is used the wrong way it can be detrimental to someone's career or personal life.

Social media has an important impact on adolescents' life. Many of the students in Hamburg use a media platform whether it be Twitter, Facebook, Snapchat, or Instagram. When asked a series of questions, Krista Wickel, a Hamburg sophomore, said she tends to spend around five hours each day on social media. She also feels that social media usually consumes most of her time that she could be doing something important. Krista also feel that social media is not always a healthy place for people due to bullying, politics, and hateful speech, Krista also thinks that there are many positive things that come with social media like being able to communicate with friends, however she also feels many people share too much private information and rumors tend to spread drama starts. The power of social media can be quite positive. Such an impactful platform should be treated as such. It is also important to be mindful of hurtful comments because it affects someone one way or another. Linked below is an article about how to avoid becoming a negative social media influence.

<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2018-11-stress-minimizing-negative-effects-social.html>

Dragonwatch continues the dangerous journey in Master of the Phantom Isle

Alexandra Kline - 12

In Dragonwatch: The Somber Knight by Brandon Mull, we left brother and sister, Kendra and Seth, in a big mess. Kendra was stuck being co-caretaker of a dangerous dragon sanctuary full of dragons that want her dead. Seth had lost his identity while trying to save the sanctuary and the world, but was later kidnapped by Ronodin, the dark unicorn. They did not even get the Wizenstone that could have changed the tides in the dragon war.

Now, in Master of the Phantom Isle, we start back with Seth learning to become a skilled shadow charmer by Ronodin, his enemy, but Seth does not know that since he still does not have his identity. The Underking, the king of the undead, wants Seth to perform as task for him as payment for allowing Seth to stay in his domain to learn from Ronodin. That task will be determined later when the time comes.

Kendra is distraught and worried about Seth. No one knows who took him or what he could possibly be doing since he is no longer that Seth they remember. Kendra wants desperately to search for him, but she is still co-caretaker of Wyrmoost, but not for much longer.

Since Seth does not have his memories of his life before his identity was taken, he does not know who is friends or enemies are. That is why it was so easy for Ronodin and the Sphinx, an immortal man that hates Kendra and her family, to trick Seth into releasing a horde of phantoms, wraiths, and revenants onto his own family at Wyrmoost Blackwell Keep, thus destroying the sanctuary and allowing the dragons to roam free around the world.

Kendra must escape Wyrmoost to another dragon sanctuary where she must help that sanctuary up and running again with the help of some old friends like Warren, Vanessa, Tanu, Knox, Calvin, and the satyrs Newel and Doren as well as new friends like Grady and Hako. While Kendra helps them, Seth must find the Everbloom for his task for the Underking, a flower with the power of life.

Will Seth remember who he is? Where is the Everbloom? Will Kendra be able to save this sanctuary and her brother? Will she find Bracken? What is the Underking planning on doing with the Everbloom? What is a triclops? Why did the Fairy Queen give Kendra her crown?



Syfy original, The Magicians, sparks wonder in viewers

Keira Conrad - 9

The Magicians, directed by John Scott, is an American fantasy television series that airs on the Syfy channel, having first begun airing in May of 2015. The series itself is based upon a novel of the same name, written by Lev Grossman. The story follows its protagonist, Quentin Coldwater, through a magical, mysterious journey. Having been obsessed with a fictional series titled Fillory and Further, which was heavily influenced by magic, he and his long-time friend, Julia Wicker, are taken into a world of wonder when they are both forced to take an entrance exam at Breakbills University for Magical Pedagogy, a school that teaches specific students magic. As Quentin attends his classes, he comes to find himself within a new group of friends, as it eventually comes to their attention that a malicious force threatens the safety of the world. In attempts to overpower said force, this group of students comes to discover that Fillory, the 'fictional' world of the children's series Fillory and Further, may not be entirely fictional. This television series is, of course, completely fictional. However, it sparks an undeniable curiosity in those who reach it. Though magic may not be real, the series has many questioning exactly what 'real' may be. Not everything may be as it seems, which is a central idea of the show. That said, many have become curious of what is true in their lives; perhaps things that seem completely unlikely are the exact opposite. This curiosity has inspired many to figure out such things for themselves, which has them learning from the experiences they encounter. Curiosity is an important trait in everyone, as it helps one to grow, learn, and ask questions. The Magicians increases the curiosity that not only the students of Hamburg Area High School, but all who watch it, in turn helping them to increase the amount of knowledge they hold within.



Harry Styles releases Fine Line

Grant Doklan - 11

Following the break up of One Direction in 2016, Harry Styles signed with Columbia Records to release his debut solo record. The self-titled album was a chart topping success, going number one in 14 countries. Harkening back to earlier decades, artists like David Bowie and Queen were the main inspirations for the album. Styles' first single, Sign of the Times, debuted at number four on the Billboard Hot 100 and reached number one on iTunes in only 19 minutes.

In October 2019 fans were surprised with a new single titled Lights Up, which peaked at number 17 on the Billboard Hot 100. Styles performed the song on Saturday Night Live in November, while also hosting the episode. Watermelon Sugar was the second, and last, pre-album single. The song's title is speculated to be a narcotics reference as Styles spoke openly about consuming drugs while making his second record. The full record was released on December 13, 2019. Overall, Fine Line follows in the footsteps of its predecessor while making subtle improvements.

Mikayla Slichter is a huge Harry Styles fan and loves Fine Line. Her favorite song from the album is She because of its lyrics. She says, "the lyrics are so haunting." Mikayla enjoys Styles' more sullen songs, like From the Dining Table from his previous record.

To stream Fine Line, click here https://open.spotify.com/album/7xV2TzoaVc0ycW7fw-BwAml?si=mX6H9zous_EkKefYVNJnw



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