

Hawk Happenings

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Students enjoy painting

Victoria Snyder - 9

The painting elective here at HAHS, Mrs. Dommel, the teacher of the class, has been teaching art for 21 years now. The class has been described as a fun elective where students can express themselves by using acrylic, oil, and watercolor paint for traditional methods. The students have access to ipads and art computers for digital applications like Photoshop and Procreate. The class assignments range from portraits to perspective art, some of which are figures, landscapes, and non objective art.

Students have said that they feel as if Mrs. Dommel's room is a safe and comfortable environment. They have also described the class as carefree and inspiring. Many participants in the elective appreciate the fact that they can move and improve at their own pace without judgement.

Mrs. Dommel stated that the difficulty of assignments is based on the level of the artist. This gives students the opportunity to grow and be the best they can be.



Celebrate Groundhog Day

Rylee Strunk - 9

On February 2 people in Canada and the US, especially Pennsylvania, will celebrate Groundhog Day. This holiday originated in Germany a very long time ago. Germans used to do a tradition called Candlemas (Badger Day) on February 2. They thought that if a Bager woke up on a sunny day, came out of its den, and saw its shadow, there would be four more weeks of winter.

The Pennsylvania Dutch, who are immigrants from Germany, thought this tradition was very important, so they decided to continue it, but make it their own. Instead of having a badger, they decided to use a groundhog. They named the groundhog Punxsutawney Phil since the main festivities were held in Punxsutawney, PA. They also made it six more weeks of winter instead of four weeks. This means that if the groundhog saw its own shadow, then there would be six more weeks of winter. However if he did not see his shadow then this means that spring will come early. The first ever actual Groundhog day was celebrated on February 2, 1887.

People speculate each year what they think the groundhog's predictions are, if there will be more winter or an early spring. Layne Schroeder and Greta Fink think that Phil will see his shadow. Ana Smith on the other hand believes and hopes that spring will come early for all of us.

"I hope there is more winter," said Graylea Knight. People can predict and hope all they want, but Punxsutawney Phil is only about 39% accurate. This means that there is a very low chance of his prediction actually being true in the end. This year will be the 139th celebration of Groundhog Day. Many people from all over will come to celebrate with crowds up to 40,000 people. That is nearly eight times the yearly population of the town.

For more information go to history.com/news/groundhog-day-history-and-facts



HAHS students nominated for Berks' Best

Hannah Kristiniak - 12

The Berks' Best scholarship program has been selecting outstanding high school seniors for 25 years. Each school in Berks County, Pennsylvania selects its top two seniors in each category. All of the categories are Business, Career & Tech Education, Communications, Community Service, Computer Science, Math, Performing Arts, Environment/Science, Social Studies/History, and Visual Arts. The Berks County Community Foundation selects one student from each category and awards them a \$500 scholarship. In addition, a picture and brief description of them will be published in the Reading Eagle.

Hailey Quinn, one of the senior winners in communications and performing arts, was very excited to be nominated. She was not aware that Berks' Best existed, so she was very surprised when the announcement was made. Hailey has finished her performing arts application and has started the application process for communications. Each application has a series of open-ended questions and a category-specific question. Students who were nominated in two categories have to submit two separate applications. She said the program is easy to use, and it is very convenient that she is allowed to copy some of her answers from her first application and use it on the second. Hailey is in the band at the high school, plays the flute, takes private lessons, and is involved with the flute choir. She has also taken the publications class for three years and has taken on leadership roles. For these reasons, she is glad that her hard work in these areas has paid off with her nominations. If Hailey is selected as the final winner, she will be able to use the \$500 scholarship towards her college tuition.

One of the winners in business, Kirra Goetz, was pleasantly surprised to be announced as a nominee. She took a business class at the high school and will be attending Kutztown University for accounting, but she never expected to be nominated in this category. Kirra's sister, Mia, wanted to start her own egg business and Kirra helped her with that. She also plans on selling cookies in Jim Thorpe and has a lot of interest in business and entrepreneurship. Getting selected as one of the best in a category gave Kirra a boost to her self-esteem and made her very happy.



Twighla Keppley learns to be an outstanding artist

Autumn Beltz - 9

Twighla Keppley is a 16 year old freshman attending HAHS. There are many things Twighla enjoys doing during the day, such as walking her dog and hanging out with friends. Recently she has picked up a new hobby, art.

Twighla has not always been an artsy person, however she really started pursuing art when she joined drawing class this year as one of her electives. She says, "I really like art class because it helps me learn new things about art. It's overall a class I really enjoy, especially with all of the fun art projects we get to do." Twighla has fun working on her mostly independent art projects in the class everyday she goes.

Twighla wants to improve her digital art so this year in drawing class she decided to make the switch from traditional art to digital art. She has been enjoying her new computer and doing projects on it. However, her favorite project was one of her traditional pieces, a rose drawing she did towards the start of the year. Another neat project students in drawing class get to participate in are making custom glass earrings.

Outside of art, Twighla lives a very happy life. Her day usually consists of going to school, enjoying time with friends, and cuddling with her dog Darkangel. Twighla says, "Other than art my favorite class, despite my F, has to be Biology. I like Biology because of the nice teacher, Mrs. Sinopoli. Another class that comes in close second is world cultures. I like world cultures because the teacher, Mr. Buggy, is really good at explaining the materials within the class."

Twighla is looking to improve her art as a fun hobby but also to broaden her future job opportunities if she decides to pursue an art career in the future. All of her family and friends are seeing an improvement in her art and cannot wait to see where she goes with it one day.



Charity Basketball game

February 21st

Watch your favorite K-12 teachers have a showdown on the court.

Theme: Jersey Night

Visit: <https://hamburgareacharitybasketball.my.canva.site/> for more information



How one student lost his work

Joshua Castro - 11

Students occasionally experience an error when submitting their work. When “control-z” is not an option, they may have to restart their work with knowledge from their lost assignments. Many have experienced something similar and lost a significant portion of their work. However, what is often most important in those situations is how students take ownership of their work to turn it in as soon as possible.

Tyler Adams is a HAHS junior in the school’s Game Theory Design class. Recently, he lost a huge portion of his work due to a computer error. He explained that the project he worked on in Unity’s game engine before Christmas break got corrupted. He had saved it on his computer as he always does, but when he returned from break, all his work was corrupted with no apparent cause. It deleted many game assets like objects and much of his coding, all of which had taken him two months to make. Though some aspects were preserved like scripts, Unity’s coding language that adds function to objects, he had to troubleshoot them for errors. For example, 15 things in his game broke because a single letter in a script was lowercase. Despite the inconvenience, Tyler restarted the project and completed it by working on it during class and Flex for three days.

Mr. King teaches the Game Theory Design class. He primarily makes his deadlines to signify when the class is moving to a new topic. The goal is to turn work in on time, but he accepts late work because he feels teaching students a course-relevant skill is more important than giving them life skills like timeliness. Moreover, he grades based on one’s understanding of the course material to reflect the knowledge gained. Despite his leniency, he states that he cannot grade what he does



not have, making it a student’s responsibility to complete their incomplete and tardy work.

Nevertheless, Mr. King sometimes works with students to rectify their assignments. For example, if he closely followed a student’s project before an incident, he might assign a smaller assignment to demonstrate their understanding. In the past, however, many have submitted nothing after losing their work, and it is rare for students to go to Mr. King to make a plan. Still, hard-working students like Tyler often ask for help to turn in their lost work. In his case, he had until the end of the marking period to turn in his project. As such, he worked diligently during FLEX period to complete his assignment over three days.

Students are sometimes dealt a bad hand and accidentally lose their hard work. Those in a similar situation should remember that teachers want their students to succeed and can be lenient depending on the circumstances. Also, it is important not to dwell on what is already lost. Instead, students should show a desire to submit their work and take responsibility for their success.



Students Review SZA’s Long Awaited Extension to the Grammy Award Winning Album SOS

Chase Brodhead - 10

On December 19, students at Hamburg were excitedly waiting for midnight because SZA had promised to release the deluxe edition of her hit album SOS. When midnight came on December 20, the album was not released, leaving fans refreshing their phones all day. Finally, at 3:00 PM, SZA released the album, titled SOS Deluxe: LANA. She had first told fans back in August 2023 that the deluxe version, called LANA, would come out in the fall, but nothing happened until December 2024. The album includes 14 new songs and one previously released track, Saturn, which was released in February after SZA performed it live at the Grammy Awards.

LANA starts with a mellow intro titled No More Hiding, where SZA opens up about finding her true self and not apologizing for it. She sings, “No more hiding, I want to be the real me, ugly,” showing she is ready to embrace who she really is, even if others view it as ugly. The calm vibe of the intro continues throughout the album, including the song Crybaby. In Crybaby, SZA takes accountability and talks about how things can go wrong, referencing Murphy’s Law which is the idea that anything that can go wrong will go wrong. After Crybaby comes Kitchen, which is what I believe is a standout track on the album where SZA reflects on the struggle of doing what is right for herself while trying to please others. I think it is a stand out track on the album because it is a song that could deeply resonate with listeners. The album wraps up with the final track, Saturn. In Saturn, SZA expresses how she feels Earth is not where she belongs. She describes feeling trapped and wanting to escape reality, singing, “Life’s better on Saturn. Got to break this pattern of floating away. Find something worth saving, I always say, I’ll be better on Saturn.” After finishing the album, I realized it is almost the opposite of the original SOS. In SOS, SZA seems like she is searching for her true self and feeling stuck in a false narrative. But in LANA, she has found herself and fully embraces who she is without shame.

Freshman Brooklyn Scheffler also gave LANA a listen and shared her thoughts on the album. Brooklyn said that she definitely enjoyed it and would listen to it again in the future. When asked about her favorite song, she said Kitchen stood out the most, which also happens to be one of my favorites. She explained, “I really like the lyrics, and I really like the instrumental. It is very smooth and calming.” Brooklyn appreciated how the song’s message and tone felt relatable and relaxing, making it a standout track for her. However, she did point out one critique about the album, many of the songs have a similar sound. She felt that while the overall vibe of the album was enjoyable, a bit more different sounds in the tracks would have made it even better. Despite this, Brooklyn agreed that the album is worth listening to and commented on SZA’s ability to create a calming and emotional experience for listeners, almost as if the listener is experiencing what SZA is experiencing.

Opinions on Valentine’s Day break

Kristianna Cunkle - 10

This year, student’s at Hamburg Area High School have a day off for Valentine’s Day. Most years students would still go on that day, but this year is different. Students have off this year on Valentine’s Day because of President’s weekend. Students always have the Monday off and the Friday before off due to the Act 80 for teachers. Some students didn’t even know we had off until being told, and they were definitely shocked. This break can be used to celebrate with family and friends, the holiday overall, or even a significant other.

One student said that they had no idea we even had off, but they are excited and will use that time to eat some chocolate and relax at home. Sophomore Lilly Gibson didn’t know that we had off for Valentine’s Day either. She said, “I’m going to hang out with Jordan because it is their birthday.” Another student, Kaitlyn Gallagher, said “I did not know we had off for Valentine’s Day, I’m so excited!” She stated that she will be using the day to call her friends and catch up on her assignments for school. Another Sophomore, Sheila Kern, said she had no idea we had off and that it was a big surprise to her. “I’m probably going to hang out with my friends and make it the best Valentine’s Day for them!”s can take the time off to relax, finish assignments, or even hang out with family and loved ones. Everyone seems very excited to have even just one extra day off to relax at home.

Movie review:

Moxie

Kaylea Detweiler -10

Moxie is a film directed by Amy Poehler that shines a spotlight on a 16 year old female Vivian, (played by Hadley Robinson), making a difference through her school for young women. She starts anonymously to test the waters, finding herself to be gaining much attention through feminine pamphlets she had created. This steamed from young women getting bullied, raped, and sexualized not only by the males but also the teachers.

Vivian encouraged most of the females, but along the way gathered some males to take part in the uprising. To show their support, Moxie would create something like a spirit day. For example her first tactic was to draw stars on themselves to show they are aware and supportive. What came to surprise was Seth, (played by Nico Hiraga), joined this force, completely putting aside his masculine traits to support these girls.

I first watched this movie around the same time I was just starting high school, so I felt a great impact. For years I have had a strong feeling for feminist movements as well as history. I showed this through my school projects. I made many posters and informational pieces of writing about women and women rights. I would watch this movie on repeat almost every week because it seemed to never get old. It makes me feel the same way the young women do because I go through most of the same issues they do. Being a girl is not easy when transitioning from middle school to high school, especially in today’s generation.

Moxie is a comedy/drama starring actors like Amy Poehler, Sydney Park, Hadley Robinson and many more. Every actor portrayed their role beautifully. This movie has a 6.7/10 rating but I give this movie a ten star rating. Moxie gives me more courage to stand up towards wrongs in a situation. It projects girl bosses with something beyond girl power.



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