

Hawk Happenings

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Rotary Club Speech Contest

The object and guiding principles of the Rotary Club International is to identify and foster service through analysis of the 4-Way Test.

Rotarians ask 4 questions to guide purposeful decisions.

Last month Hamburg Area High School asked interested students to write and present a speech applying the 4-Way Test:

- Is it the Truth?
- Is it Fair?
- Will it build Goodwill and Better Friendships?
- Will it be Beneficial to all?

5 High school students, Koa Binder, Kaylana Ebling, Samantha Gartner, Eleanor Lytle and Lucille Lytle, presented their speeches to an audience. At this time, please give these students a round of applause for their participation. All students received a certificate and award from the Rotary Club of Hamburg. Koa Binder was selected the 1st place winner and she will be moving on to the Regional Competition on March 22nd. Great job to all of our participants!



Drama Club runs Cinderella's Closet

Hailey Quinn - 12

Drama Club ran Cinderella's Closet from March 3 through March 7. The event was held in the library and offered students the chance to shop for dresses, shoes, and accessories at an affordable price. Shopping times included flex period, after school from 2:30-4:00, club period, and after school from 5:30-8:00 on March 6.

Cinderella's Closet was started four years ago and was originally a joint run event between Drama Club and Prom Committee. The idea surfaced due to a dress store that was going out of business and looking for a place to donate their remaining dresses. The shop ended up donating their dresses to the school, which allowed Drama Club and Prom Committee to build up their main body of dresses. Drama Club also had several dresses that were donated to be used as costumes but were too formal.

The event is currently run fully by Drama Club, however, many parts of the school community are involved. Since the event is held in the library, Mrs. McCarthy's students often get a front row view of the set up and behind the scenes of the event, and they always offer their help when they can. Mr. Borger's students helped to fix the dress mannequin that showcases a dress at the front of the room. While Drama Club members help to work the shifts, other students involved in the music department and in Tri-M also help. Landon Poulivos created a commercial that aired on Talon Time. There is also potential for Jewelry Club to join in and sell some of their products in the future.

There was a starting total of 81 dresses for this year's supply. This was raised to 99 dresses through generous donations. There were a total of 46 appointments made and 27 dresses sold. \$765 was made from the dresses sold and \$88 was made from sold accessories for a total profit of \$853.

Not only is the event great for bringing together many different areas of the school community, but it also offers students a unique opportunity. They have the chance to buy dresses at an affordable price, with their friends, with the convenience of it being right in the school. The dresses are all between \$20-50, which is much less than many dresses that are found in stores. Shoes and accessories range from \$3-10. Even though the prices are low, everything is of very high quality, and there is a wide variety for students to choose from. The location also provides a layer of

convenience for students. They do not have to book different appointments at a variety of stores just to find a dress. All of the options are right in the library and just one appointment away.

Mrs. Jackson, one of the main forces behind everything that goes into the event, notes, "There are over 100 gowns of all different colors and sizes, from ball gowns to form-fitting. It is fun to look and try things on, and you might just find something that is perfect for you!"

Cinderella's Closet is a great place to just try something out. Students go in not expecting to find anything and they walk out with a dress that is perfect for them. Make an appointment, try something new, go with a friend, and have some fun. The right dress could be hanging on the rack waiting to find its perfect match!



Student Spotlight: Dakota Schneider

Chase Brodhead - 10

Dakota Schneider, a sophomore at Hamburg Area High School, starts her day bright and early at 6 a.m. She gets out of bed and makes her way downstairs for breakfast. By 6:15-6:20, she begins her morning routine which consists of doing her hair, getting dressed, and completing her skincare routine. After quickly slipping on her shoes and adding a few accessories, she rushes out the door.

Dakota's mom usually drives her to school, where she meets some of her friends outside before the doors open. Once inside, she heads to homeroom before starting her first period class, Spanish. While Dakota enjoys the class, she admits it is not her strongest or favorite subject. The period she looks forward to the most is Honors World Cultures. She shares how much fun she has in the class and loves the assignments given by Mr. Buggy. When the school day ends, Dakota often heads to Mrs. Texter's classroom for flex, where she unwinds with friends and enjoys spending time with her bestie, Mrs. Texter.

Once she gets home, she grabs a snack and focuses on getting her homework out of the way. Afterward, she relaxes in bed, often FaceTiming her friends to pass the time. At night, Dakota calls with her boyfriend, Logan White, before making sure her Chromebook is plugged in and all her assignments are completed for the following day. She then follows her nightly routine before heading to bed.

Dakota shares that one way she keeps herself and others motivated is by making the most of extra time throughout the day, like study halls and flex periods, to stay on top of schoolwork.



How Hamburg Area High School students feel about no break during March

Tia Adam - 11

With the month of March just starting, so are people's plans. For some people they like to schedule events in advance, so they like to know what days they will have off for a notice. Out of the five people that I interviewed, three of them were unaware that there was no break during March. For most school years, there is at least one day of each month that students have off.

Since these students only have the weekend as breaks, they will find their break in other ways. All of the students have different ways of finding some time for rest. Bethany Stufflet will be going on vacation to Punta Cana for a couple of days, which will give her a peaceful rest on a beach.

Molly Fox will make the best of her weekends to make them feel longer. Allie Houck will also use her weekends to the max for a break, although she is often busy on weekends. Kaylum Riegel does not mind not having a break as he is busy a lot, even on weekends, as he volunteers at Geisinger St. Luke's. Lastly, Caleb Kramer will focus on being more efficient with his school work so that he has more time, especially since sports are starting.

Overall even if some students are bummed about there being no break during March, there are still the weekends, and plenty of other time for them to relax if they work on making the time.

Students love Jellycats

Madeline Handwerk - 11

Jellycats are all the rage among teenagers. They are super cute stuffed animals that people just adore. Jellycats are also known for being extremely soft. These stuffed animals are on the pricier side, but people tend to get them for their high quality and adorable appearance. There is a wide variety of choices when it comes to buying a Jellycat, and there are even different types, such as animals and amuseables, making it easy for every buyer to find their perfect fit.

The prices range depending on the type and size. Most range from 20 to 40 dollars, but there are pricier ones. The bigger ones can be up to 300 dollars. For example, on the Jellycat Website, there is a big bashful dragon listed for 300 dollars. It is definitely pricey, but they are super cute!

Brookelyn Foote, a sophomore at Hamburg Area High School, has many Jellycats. She says, "I have had them since I was a baby, and my favorite one is my capybara one." Brooke says she really does like them, and she would continue to buy them.

Another student at Hamburg Area High School, Vanessa Kline, does not own any Jellycats. Nessa expresses, "I think Jellycats are worth the hype because of how cute they are." Nessa would buy a Jellycat, and if she did, she would purchase the pink bunny.

If one does not want to spend so much money on the actual Jellycat brand, they can go look online for knock-offs. These knockoffs look similar to the real stuffed animals! There are many knockoffs listed on Walmart's website.

To get a look at these adorable stuffed animals, go to www.jellycat.com



Band review: The Neighborhood

Brooklyn Scheffler - 9

The Neighborhood is an American alternative rock band formed in Newbury Park, California. In 2011 their first song Pitiful was released August 11, 2011 and received over 3.5 million views on YouTube. There are six members in the band: Jesse Rutherford, guitarists Jeremy Freedman and Zach Abels, and bassist Mikey Margott. Drummer Brandon Fried used to also be a part of the band and left to start his own singing career.

2013, their debut album "I Love You." with their top song being the name of Sweater Weather and which has received over 1.7 billion views on YouTube and since then has received tremendous attention from the meaning of the song.

I absolutely love everything about this band. They have the lyrics I would never think of and the type of lyrics people have to sing along too and never get tired of hearing. They have sad music, happy music, meaningful music and the feeling of struggle in their lyrics. In the album Sweater Weather the lyrics, "And all I am is a man, I want the world in my hands" representing the desire or power and connection of everyone surrounding the singer or wanting something that the artist wants and cannot have.

For more information visit one of the websites www.google.com, www.wikipedia.com or www.wers.org.

Happy Spring!

MS team wins charity basketball game

Ana Smith - 9

The 2nd annual Charity basketball game was on Friday, February 21, 2025 and it supported a great cause. It raised money for charity, got students involved, and was overall a good time for everyone. Student Council organized the entire event and by the end of it raised around 3,000 dollars total.

The middle school teachers played against the high school teachers. It was an intense and intriguing game. This year the middle school team came out with a big win, winning 58 - 20. They had a great team with lots of experience, so it is no surprise to me why they dominated on the court.

While the game is going on in the gym, there are all kinds of club stands who are trying to raise money for a great cause. This year, the charity chosen to donate our earnings to was Blessed Beginnings, an organization who helps individuals and families get a jumpstart on their new life after abuse. Rylee Strunk shared , “It is truly amazing what the charity does for struggling families and it is awesome that our school got to donate to them.”

Not only were there club stands involved with selling baked goods, food, drinks, and much more, but there were also raffle baskets and a 50/50 raffle for a chance to win one of the teachers



jerseys. That grabbed people’s attention and was great to see the line pile up. Some of the clubs that were present were: Leo club, selling cotton candy, Math Honors Society selling meatballs, and the Freshman Class selling baked goods.

In the end, the Charity basketball game was a great success, and I am looking forward to continuing it in the future. It was so nice to help out at the game this year and knowing that we are raising money for those in life who are struggling makes it ten times better to be a part of.

Students believes field trips should be incorporated into high school

Lydia Fultz - 10

Field trips seem to be a thing of the past for the most part once those high school years come around. One of the big things is it is considered to be a stage of maturing. Once students hit their high school years, they are expected to be better off without events such as field trips. It is also due to the lack of funding as well as the complications with all the staggered schedules, as well as a lack of buses and nurses. Due to this certain classes will go on field trips such as AP bio and AP environmental, but grades as a whole will not go on field trips.

Sophomore Logan White believes that field trips are not necessary, he says, “We are older now, and certain things just are not as intriguing anymore.” He thinks that it is nice to have them for certain classes though. While he does not believe field trips are necessary, he does believe that they could work as a better incentive for students to keep their grades up.

Sophomore Alexander Devlin, on the other hand, believes that it does not seem fair to only have particular classes go on field trips, especially if other students want to go on field trips. Though he believes more students should have this opportunity, he does not strongly believe that it would motivate anyone to change or improve their academic performance.

Based on student opinions, field trips being incorporated into a year’s thing for each grade level could be both a hit and miss. Field could have the potential to boost students’ grades and keep them motivated throughout the school year, but there is also the possibility that it will not help with that at all. It would also be nice to give more students the opportunity to go on field trips if they would like to, so even if they can not be implemented into a yearly grade level thing, it would still be something to think about as an option for students from year to year. With enough interest, it is very possible that more field trips could be implemented into the curriculum in one way or another. Field trips that students may enjoy include going to amusement parks, museums, historical sites, and much more.



Student’s favorite novels

Kaitlyn Gallagher - 10

Reading for pleasure is an activity that helps both enrich the mind but entertains the person involved. Reading is a fun activity to do at almost any time and costs no harm as reading helps people develop new words, become literate, improve their reading skills everyday, and also brings them into a good mood by diving their nose into a fun, interesting to read book. At Hamburg Area High School, there are a ton of students who read for pleasure and heavily enjoy it, and want to share their favorite books with their friends, to other students, or to the world.

Sophomore Lilly Gibson enjoys reading a lot. “I think reading books is really fun and stress relieving. It puts you in a different world for a certain amount of time, and relaxes the body too.” If Lilly Gibson had to choose her favorite novel, she would choose Snow Flower and The Secret Fan. I love the plot of the book, but also how it incorporated different elements of other Eastern cultures. “I love the main character, Lily. I heavily relate to her issues of being a woman, despite the book being set in a different time. It helps a lot with knowing that I can do anything despite my gender and that I can go on and do great things no matter what anyone says or tries to do.” In all, Lilly believes the book is important for everyone, especially women, because it goes over the obstacles in place that women must overcome even today.

Another Sophomore, Jordan Cunkle, thinks reading is both fun, but informative. “I love reading books that talk about real events that happen in life and give a critical perspective. As a reader, I’m thinking critically about the information going on in the book and sometimes even learning about historic events. Reading gives me time to clear my head and helps with the stress that goes on in my life.” Jordan’s favorite novel, if they had to pick, would be They Both Die in The End. Jordan really loves those books because “they draw you in, but they still shock you despite knowing the ending. I like how the characters are written and how the two characters meet.” Jordan says that despite knowing what happens, the book is still a heartbreaker, and that it is very well written.

Sophomore Sheila Kern does not read often, but when she gets to, she loves it. “I think reading is very fun and important for anybody, especially young children. Reading helps develop the mind and it helps children get a sense of imagination while also exciting them with the stories you tell them.” A book that Sheila loves a lot and considers her favorite is Recovery Road. Sheila Kern loves the book due to its realism but also because of how it tells the story of a struggling girl, who, despite her rough patches and the way she grew up in the environment she was in, she was able to overcome and get better for herself and others. “It tells the story of a girl in a bad situation and how she gains the strength despite everything to get better. It’s really inspiring, sad, but a powerful book with a powerful message.”

Reading, no matter what kind of novel it is, helps the mind and enriches a person’s knowledge in their lives. By reading a book, it creates a lot of benefits for the person involved by improving activities such as sleep, their concentration, and their ability to think about certain subjects and increasing their critical thinking. It also improves their mental health, and in all, reading has so many more benefits than just having to read a book for an English class and no others for personal entertainment. To learn more about the benefits of reading, go here: <https://www.piedmont.org/living-real-change/health-benefits-of-reading>

Quarter 3 ends on March 25



Students balance work and school

Elizabeth Carroll - 10

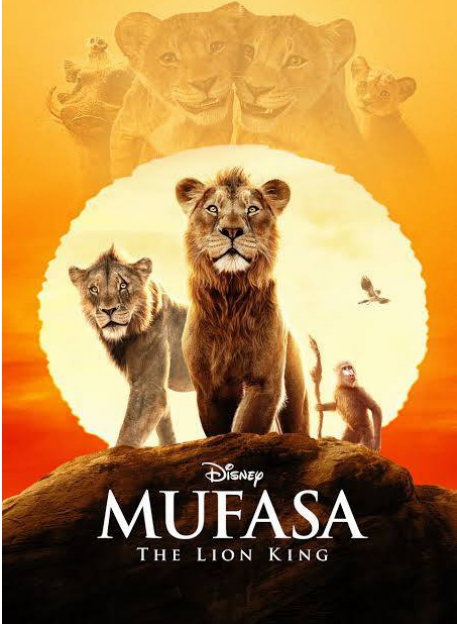
Being able to go to school and get a job may seem a little bit stressful and not fun to some, but this can be an opportunity that students may use after obtaining a work permit from the school. All students below the age of 18 need to get a work permit in order to get an official job under an employer because of the Child Labor Law. This is in order to protect students’ health, wellbeing, and safety in a work environment.

After getting their work permit, just like Sophomore Brielle Cox, a student can then start working. The reason for Brielle working is because she

wants to make money while also being trained by someone she knows at Rita’s. “I’m working at Rita’s so for one of my sports seasons, it’s closed so I only have to work and balance school and sports in fall,” she says for her logical thinking behind her decision. She also says that she is not too busy due to the weather of the season when she also plays a sport. Brielle recommends this to people who generally have free time and want to make money since she also does not have a lot of time taken up by doing homework. She suggests that, “If you struggle in school, I don’t recommend getting a job especially if you’re trying to improve your grades, or you have too much crowding in your schedule already.”

Just like Brielle, Sophomore Lydia Fultz also started working because of wanting money, but she wants money so she can save to get a car and in case she does not get scholarships for college to fund it fully. “Dealing with sports and a job is definitely going to be, and is already, a handful. However, I don’t plan to work everyday during the week”, Lydia explains. She likes to go to bed early and sometimes school work takes up that precious time she likes already, so she says she will not have a whole lot of time for herself. Lydia believes that working is not for everyone and thinks that if a student does not have to work, they should enjoy their youth as it will not last forever.

That being said, everyone has their own situations and opinions on the matter of getting a job during their high school years. Whether it is necessary or not for someone’s success, getting a job could be the start to getting used to how life will be after high school and if the opportunity presents itself at a good time, it may be wise to take it. Working during high school is not mandatory and students should always put their education first when deciding if sports or a job is worth it.



Movie Review: Mufasa

Lilly Gibson - 10

Mufasa is a sequel to the two movies The Lion King and The Lion King 2. The original movie came out on June 15, 1994. Mufasa is the story of a lion named Mufasa who was separated from his parents after a flood swept him away. After being swept away, he meets another young lion cub, Taka. Taka’s mother finds the two and takes him back to the pack, who originally outcasts Mufasa. Taka and Mufasa become best friends, running around and playing together. One day when they are a few years older, the two and Taka’s mother are attacked by another pack of white lions. Mufasa, being built stronger and bigger, defends them. They report back to Taka’s father who tells the two cubs to run away. He asks Mufasa to protect Taka. After reluctantly leaving, the two run into many problems. They are still young and do not know the world yet. Along the way, they meet Sarabi, a lioness who was also separated from her pack by the white lions. The three travel together along with Rafiki, a baboon and Zazu, Sirabi’s escort.

They group travels and along the way, both Mufasa and Taka fall in love with Sarabi. This causes them to fight, ultimately destroying their duo dynamic. Once they reach the place all of them were looking for, they are attacked by the white lions after Taka betrays them. After Mufasa defeats the white lion pack’s leader with the help of the pride, he and Taka are face to face. During the initial battle, the leader of the white lions clawed Taka’s face. Taka talks to Mufasa and asks for forgiveness, but Mufasa does not accept. Taka then says to call him Scar from now on and runs away.

The Mufasa movie was both beautiful and powerful. It showed the real struggles of wild animals, like the struggle for power, food, and space. Any one who liked the other two Lion King movies would love this movie as well.

Students talk about relationships

Joshua Castro - 11

At HAHS, the constant social interaction often leads to the formation of new relationships. Most are friendly, while the strongest ones are couple relationships. These can be short or long-term, but both can be a learning experience.

James Brabant is a student at the school who has been in a strong relationship for eight months. He has maintained it by communicating with his significant other through texts, one-on-one conversations, and visits to her house. His favorite thing about being in a relationship is having someone dependable, and he sees no apparent drawbacks to his relationship. James advises those considering or in a relationship to “go with the flow.” The statement can be interpreted in various ways, but I see it as not forcing oneself on another or letting negative emotions like jealousy dictate one’s actions.

Weaker relationships at school tend to fall out regardless of the character of those in one. Preventing break-ups is about supporting and actively participating in each other’s lives. For instance, according to Psychology Today, couples have a higher chance of happiness in relationships that value open, attentive communication. Consequently, those in a happy relationship tend to be more outgoing with each other.

Relationships will continue to flourish at school as new connections are made. However, it is the responsibility of both partners to care about supporting the relationship by how they treat and respond emotionally to each other.

For more information, visit: <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/friendship-20/201812/what-does-a-healthy-relationship-look-like>.

BCTC Student Spotlight Brooklyn Tucker

Zachary Spatz - 11

BCTC is a school event that students can sign up for that cuts their days in half, half school and half tech school. Brooklyn is a senior and has been in BCTC for three years. She is studying for Business Management & Entrepreneurship, and they are learning about management and how to be a good manager Her opinion on it is, “I like the hands-on work and how much it is like real life.” Her least favorite thing about the course is how the classroom sometimes smells. She plans to use the knowledge she has gained from BCTC as a financial advisor. Brooklyn states “I like BCTC and I made a good choice in picking to go.”

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