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## BUTLER HIGH SCHOOL

# BHS Parent Report

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FEBRUARY 2010

Winter Issue

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The year just keeps rolling along at Butler High School. Mid-terms are over and the second semester has begun. Believe it or not, we have begun scheduling for the Freshmen, Sophomores and Juniors. Most Seniors are looking at the last semester with mixed emotions. I want to thank the students, parents and teachers for helping make the first half of the year a positive one.

This is an important time of the year for many reasons. Not only are we looking to the future with scheduling but we need to focus on the present. This semester always seems to be the "long haul". It is important for the students to maintain a good work ethic in their classes.

The High School Proficiency Assessment will be administered to all Juniors on March 2, 3 and 4. Please remember that this important test is a graduation requirement for all Juniors.

The annual school board election and school budget vote is scheduled for Tuesday, April 20, 2010. Your vote does count. Please set a good example for our students and exercise your right to vote. As always, if you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to call me.

William A. Hanisch  
Principal

### Choir News

On Thursday, March 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m., our Concert Choir will perform its annual Cabaret Night in the BHS auditorium. Come out and experience popular music as sung by our Concert Choir. Admission is free so mark your calendars!

### Edward J. Bloustein Scholars Named

Six high school students have been named Edward J. Bloustein Scholars by the Office of Grants and Scholarships. They are Shivani A, Brian B, Erin C, Erika L, Brian N and Jaclyn N. The highest achieving students are selected as Edward J. Bloustein Distinguished Scholars. These are students who place in the top 10% of their classes or are ranked first, second or third in their class at the end of their junior year. Distinguished Scholars are offered an annual award of \$1,000 without regard to financial need.

### English Department News

#### Voice of Democracy

Jenna C of Butler High School received the second place prize on Sunday, January 4th at the Mount Tabor VFW Post in Morris Plains. Accompanied by her mom, Mrs. C, and teacher, Mrs. Sylvia Abdelsalam, Jenna was honored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars for her essay on heroes. She received a \$125.00 award, and certificate for her participation in the contest presented to her by Jack Carey, VFW District 10 Voice of Democracy Chairman and Jack Vandermark, Commander of Butler VFW Post 8096.

Jenna was chosen as the 1st place winner for Butler High School then the Butler VFW Post. Her essay continued into the county competition where she took 2nd place overall. Jenna plans on continuing her education at Ramapo or Rutgers University majoring in veterinary medicine.

Created in 1947, the Voice of Democracy (VOD) scholarship program is an audio-essay contest for

high school students in grades 9-12 that annually provides more than \$3 million in scholarships. Besides competing for the top scholarship prize, as well as other national scholarships ranging from \$1,000 to \$16,000, each District's first-place winner receives an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., March 6-10, 2010, sponsored by Target.

## Drama

Drama Students under the direction of Mrs. Sylvia Abdelsalam had the tour and trip of a lifetime when they visited The American Dramatic and Musical Academy in New York on Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup>.

Headed by Mark Brooks the students were escorted through the school and invited to look in on classes in acting, musical theatre, vocal lessons, dance, and more! In the afternoon, after lunch at Planet Hollywood and a walk through Times Square, the students had front mezzanine seats to **Billy Elliott**, the 2009 Best Musical. Later, they took pictures at Rockefeller Plaza and the tree. A great time was had by all!

The next Drama Club trip will take place in March to see The Addams Family starring Nathan Lane. Students should see Mrs. Abdelsalam as soon as possible with a deposit.

This year's musical **The Producers** will take place on April 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, and 18<sup>th</sup>. Some of the leading cast includes: Bialystock (Christian D), Bloom (Brendan M), Ula (Cassie R, and Erin D), Franz (Mike D), Carmine (Billy S, Darin M), Roger (Mr. Wayne Dilts), directed by Mrs. Sylvia Abdelsalam, choreography by Leslie Mecca and Lindsay Mecca, musical direction by Regan Rysik, and scenic design by Mrs. Cathy Drexler. The musical encompasses hundreds of costumes this year.

## Governor Awards

The Governor in Arts Awards competition under The Speech and Theatre Association of New Jersey will take place on January 30, 2010 at Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University in New Brunswick. Mrs. Abdelsalam is very excited with this year's participants who have been working hard on scenes, monologues, and improvisations. First place winners will be

invited to a special ceremony in Trenton in the spring.

## Prom News

The Prom Committee had a very successful Tricky Tray in December when over 410 people attended the event at the Regency House in Pompton Plains. A special thank you to the Nunziato Family and all of the parents who helped with this event! The committee advised by Mrs. Abdelsalam will be meeting with the photographer and DJ to plan this year's event at the Mahwah Sheraton Crossroads on June 4<sup>th</sup>. Letters will be sent home at the end on February

## Students of the Month January/February 2010

English.....Shivani A  
Social Studies..... Katelyn B  
Science..... Jaclyn N  
Math.....Craig L  
Foreign Language:  
German.....Kendra V  
Spanish.....Chelsea P  
Italian.....Apollo E  
French.....Min C  
ESL.....Tram T  
Business.....Jerry M  
Music.....Joseph A  
Fine Art.....Chelsea P  
IndustrialTechnology..... Michael M  
Photography.....Erica R  
Foods.....Tyler F  
Physical Ed.....Katelyn B

Daniel B was inadvertently left off of the list of Students of the Month in our last newsletter. Dan was named "Foods" Student of the Month.

## From The Vice Principals Office: ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Cell phones, I-pods, and other electronic devices are prohibited in school. Please encourage your student to leave electronic devices at home. If students insist on bringing these to school, have them lock them up in their locker. These items are expensive and need to be secured once they find their way here.

Please be reminded that all **electronic devices** are **prohibited** in school. Devices found to be in use shall be confiscated and only returned to parents.

## SATURDAY DETENTIONS

Saturday Detentions are assigned when students fail to serve detentions issued during the week. Should students receive the assignment, parent and student shall be notified in writing. We also use the automated phone system to alert you of the assignment. The following dates are scheduled for Saturday Detentions: February 6, February 27, March 13, March 27, April 24, May 8, May 22 and June 12. Saturday Detentions run from 7:55 a.m. until 12:00 noon. Students receive credit for eight detentions by serving on Saturday.

Please refer to the Parent Handbook for further information or call the office for clarification. As always, we appreciate parent support.

## NOTICE TO ALL PARENTS FROM: MR. HANISCH

**Please be reminded that you should not be dropping your children off in the main parking lot at the high school. This creates a hazardous situation as students are trying to access the parking lot and teachers are trying to drive in. The appropriate place to drop off your child is either across the street from the high school where they can utilize the crossing guards or on the side street on either side of the school. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.**

**Also, please remember that we have a new automated telephone system by Honeywell. It is very important that if you change telephone numbers, whether it is home, work or cell phone, that you also change it in the Honeywell System. A link to the site can be found on our homepage. This system will be utilized to contact you in the event of inclement weather, early dismissals or emergency situations.**

## **STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM UPDATE**

The Student Assistance Program finished their first cycle of BHS Lunch Club. The Lunch Club is a 6 week program, this time held during 7<sup>th</sup> period lunch. All students in 7<sup>th</sup> period lunch were invited, we had ten students join. During Lunch Club, the students enjoy a complimentary lunch while discussing an issue our teens face. Lunch was provided by Butler Bagels, funded by the Butler Municipal Alliance. The next cycle

will begin on Wednesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> during 5<sup>th</sup> period.

Kelly Nussbaum, Nurse joined Robin Lavorato, SAC in developing programs for Wednesday Activity Period. January programs included Stand Up For Yourself, Ill-effects of Gambling presented by a representative of the NJ Council on Compulsive Gambling and Teen Etiquette. Upcoming programs for March and April include; Marijuana Addiction, True Love vs. Control, Girl Power, HIV/AIDS Prevention, Teen Diet and Exercise including Eating Disorders and Guy Stuff. These programs are voluntary.

As we begin the second half of the school year here are a few tips for parents:

Praise Your Child!! Take the time to notice improvements.

We've heard this before, have your child eat breakfast!!

Remind your child that phones cannot be used in school, leave I-pods at home.

Take advantage of before school tutoring with the National Honor Society students.

Communicate with your child's teachers. Know when tests are and when projects are due.

Set-up a homework space and time in your home. Put the cell phone and computer (unless needed for homework) away during this period!

Have a set bed time. Do not let your children go to bed with the cell phones or computers. Many of the students say that they are on the cell phone, computer or video games until after midnight!

Praise Your Child Again and Again!! The best way to prevent unwanted behavior is to praise the behavior you want!

Find out about the 40 Developmental Assets which may protect your child from the risk factors they face at

[www.search-institute.org/developmental-assets/lists](http://www.search-institute.org/developmental-assets/lists)

### **Important Dates to Remember:**

March 2, 3 and 4 – HSPA Testing – 11<sup>th</sup> Grade

March 4 – 7:30 – Music In Our Schools

March 11 – 7:00 – Cabaret Night

April 14 – 7:00 – Sophomore/Junior Parent Night

April 15, 16, and 17 – 7:30 p.m. and April 18, 2:00 p.m. –Spring Musical – The Producers

May 20 -8:00 – Spring Concert