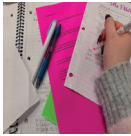




Dear Tower readers: remember, if you would like to submit a Letter to the Editor, we are always accepting them. See details on page 2.

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“It’s The Time For Women”

CLAIRE STOWE - EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

According to band “Sunnyside Up,” girl bands are the future, and they certainly proved that at Tower Rock on December 8, 2018 as the winning act. Tower Rock, the annual music competition sponsored by The Tower, is a well-known musical event for the Adams community that gives many musicians the opportunity to refine, perfect, and finally perform their skills, perhaps taking home the trophy. This year’s Tower Rock champion is newly-formed, all-girl band “Sunnyside Up,” comprised of Seniors Skylar Dungy, Natalie Fish, Claire Hargis, Jordan Lewis, and Junior Anna Tarner.

“Sunnyside Up” began in the spring of 2018, with only two of the five members, Tarner and Hargis, performing at National Honor Society’s Night of the Arts. “It was just missing something,” Tarner said, about her performance with Hargis. We needed a little bit more. You know, we were good together, but we needed more,” Hargis commented.

And so, the search for the other three members began. “We wanted a girl band because it’s the time for women. Right now is the time for girls and for women,” Tarner commented.

Tarner and Hargis soon



connected with Dungy (guitar), Fish (percussion), and Lewis (bass), and their dream of forming a band grew into reality. They began to rehearse, not long before their first gig at Tower Rock, and their music took off from there, describing their style to have elements of classic rock, throwbacks, and 80s. And Tower Rock

certainly is not the end of their journey. When asked if they plan to continue performing together, they all answered with immediate positive enthusiasm.

They are furthered inspired by the lack of female representation

in their musical style. “You don’t see a lot of instruments [in other girl bands],” Lewis commented, adding that many bands include at least one male on either bass or percussion. The girls of “Sunnyside Up” are trying to break this musical standard, as their recent performance proved.

Their next step, according to Lewis, is to start writing their own music. “We’re just constantly changing things up; we’ll take different songs and make them our own, basically[...] we just want to get together a lot and start finding our style, writing our own stuff, and hopefully making some good music out of that. We all definitely want to keep this going and see where it takes us beyond high school.”

With a band of all seniors with the exception of one junior, there are obvious conflicts with future plans, as high school is coming to a close and different opportunities are approaching. “Sunnyside Up,” however, is determined not to let distance not to let distance divide their relationship. Hargis explained how many of them are hoping to attend college close to home for their freshman years in order the stay together and advance their career.

Whatever they decide for their future, “Sunnyside Up” is only beginning a promising journey in their musical career. The Tower wishes them the best of luck in the future.

THE JOHN ADAMS

TOWER

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Editorials are written by the Editorial Board of *The Tower* (comprised of Claire Stowe, Ryan Downey, and Seth Kirkpatrick) and are designated as such.

The Tower thanks the *Herald-Palladium* for printing services.

Adams' Musical Talent Shines At Tower Rock

SIERRA WEAVER- REPORTER

The 4th annual Tower Rock took place on December 8, 2018. Tower Rock is the main fundraiser for our paper, and it is essentially a two and half hour music festival. As we are a self-funded newspaper, Tower Rock is an extremely important, and exciting event for us. This year there were 16 performers, or groups of performers, who were a part of Tower Rock. Not only is Tower Rock just a entertaining show, but the fundraiser also has a competition involved. During intermission of the show, voting opens for the audience to vote for their favorite act. In the end, the top three winners are announced.

The show began around 6:20, with Seth Kirkpatrick (saxophone) and Max McCoy (drums). The duo performed a jazz piece that was very upbeat, and a good way to start out the night. Another saxophone piece followed, which was put on by Mr. Harvey, the Assistant Band Director here at John Adams High School. These instrumental pieces were followed by Zach Fernandez. Fernandez performed two songs, and brought a lot of energy to the stage. After this, Kelly Horvath sang one song, while playing the ukulele. Following this, Ryan Downey and Max Thompson did a few songs, which they sang and played the music for. The duo had a lot of energy, which was obvious through their whole act. Next, Sami Mirza played a song on the piano, followed by Ms. Ishikawa, the Band Director, who also played the piano. The last group to perform before the 20 minute intermission was Sunnyside Up. The band consisted of Claire Hargis, Skylar Dungy, Anna Tarner, Natalie Fish, and Jordan Lewis. They brought a lot of energy to the stage, and were very fun to watch.

During intermission, voting was opened outside of the auditorium. Audience members were given the option to vote during intermission if they had already decided the best acts, or to wait until the end of the show. Audience mem-

bers were also able to purchase additional votes for \$2 each, or \$5 for three.

After intermission, Ryan Downey returned for another performance, during which he played the guitar. Afterwards, Caspian Lind and Ian Barron played the guitar and sung. While the two were originally scheduled to go in the very beginning of the show, they were met with some technical issues and forced to go on later. Then, George Atkinson and Ali Mihut, who is also an athlete in soccer and track, went on. Atkinson played the guitar, while Mihut sang. Following this, Jordan Mihut performed a piece on the piano, which sounded lovely. Then, Tina Rea played the ukulele, while singing. Another band came on after this, The Joe Baughman Experience, which featured Mr. Ufkin. The band was very upbeat, and enjoyable to see perform. Following this, Aya Ertimi sang one song, and was clearly very excited with performing. Lastly, David Smith, who won Michiana Idol in 2017, took the stage and sang.

After this, the audience was given about twenty minutes to cast their final votes. In the end, Sunnyside Up placed first, with David Smith coming in second, and George Atkinson with Ali Mihut in third. Overall, Tower Rock included so many incredible performers, and was a blast to watch.

The fundraiser brought in over \$700 to keep *The Tower* in publication. We, at *The Tower*, extend our most sincere gratitude to everyone in attendance for their continued support.



Ryan Downey belts out "21 Guns" by Green Day.

Standardized Tests: Do We Really Need Them?

ANNA SCHRADER- REPORTER

A standardized test is any form of test that requires all test takers to answer the same questions in the same way. Standardized tests are scored in a “standard” or consistent manner, which makes it possible to compare the relative performance of individual students or groups of students. Americans have been using standardized testing since the mid-1800’s. By making students take these kind of tests, are we taking away the individuality of students? Are we just comparing teenagers to one another in a negative way? Does all of this test taking really prepare young adults for the real world?

Standardized testing can have positive effects for some students. Unfortunately, it has been proven that standardized testing is actually unreliable when trying to see how “educated or smart” a person is. Students all learn different ways, and some may not test well. Students may also be extremely successful in other things besides academia. Along with that, these tests have also been proven as unfair and discriminatory towards non-English speaking students. A national 2007 study by the Center on Education Policy reported that since 2001, 44% of school districts had reduced the time spent on science, social studies and the arts by an average of 145 minutes per week in order to focus on reading and math. A 2007 survey of 1,250 civics, government, and social studies teachers showed that 75% of those teaching current events less often cited standardized tests as the reason.

Standardized testing does tend to give teaching and learning certain guidelines. Thomas Plasschaert, a history teacher

at John Adams High School said, “I am shocked that so much emphasis is still placed on standardized test scores. We have realized in education that students learn differently, but we have failed to see the flaw in one type of test determining their success. Sadly, the actual educators are often ignored in the process of determining how to educate.” Betsy Drake, an English teacher, stated that “While data from standardized tests can offer a helpful insight to the general academic strengths and weaknesses of students, there is far too much emphasis placed on these exams. When American schools feel compelled to “teach to the test” the end result is often the sacrifice of class content that focuses on skills that are most critical for success in the world such as creativity and the ability to work collaboratively with others. When we focus only on attributes of students that can be tested on an exam we often fail to recognize many of their gifts and talents that make them unique and important contributors to our community.”

Standardized testing has been a crucial part of high school education- but will it really last?

The Most Stressful Time of the Year

VANSHIKA DIXIT - REPORTER

For many people, the weeks leading up to the end of the year are the most joyous: filled with holidays, lights, decorations, cookies. For at least a minute, there is celebration as we forget about our problems and try to focus on the good. But for high school students, this is not the case. Instead the holiday season is filled with stress.

It’s that time of the year again—when students collectively complain about their workload in the weeks leading up to win-

ter break and the end of the semester. Students can unanimously agree that final exams are one of the most stressful times of high school. Not only is there the actual final exam, teachers must catch up on the planned curriculum. So, they start assigning more homework and projects to ensure they meet their deadline. The cumulative exams force students to review material they learned months ago in an effort to ensure they have retained that information. Final exams motivate students to review what they have been taught. But as the work piles up, students stress out. They work to maintain a healthy lifestyle during this crunch time. It’s a struggle to find time to relax. All the studying, reading, and writing is stressful at the moment; however, the best feeling is when the pencil goes down at the end of the day and there’s no need to ever think about that material again—until the next semester begins.

Cramping in a semester’s worth of learning and counting it for the majority of one’s grade probably isn’t the best way to measure how much a student has learned. One exam cannot possibly evaluate a student’s overall understanding of a subject. They are extremely stressful for students and incredibly tedious for teachers to grade. The fact that there are finals in each subject makes it even more taxing. Instead of just one test, students are worried about six more.

There is a necessity to rethink what a final should entail. It shouldn’t be looked at as the thing standing between the student and their passing grade, as it is the make-or-break point for many people. When a grade hinges on just one test, it is impossible to thoroughly assess a student’s capabilities.

In any case, finals are exceedingly damaging to students. A series of short, more scattered tests would be a much better way to measure a student’s true performance. Students take classes in order to learn, not to stress out about one exam.

Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse

SAM VILLAGRA-STANTON - MOVIE CRITIC

Before sitting down to watch this movie, I thought to myself that this was gonna be another cash grab of a film from Sony Pictures animation like the infamous “Emoji Movie”, which made dreadfully nervous to watch this film. However, I had also learned of the rotten tomatoes score before watching it, previously at %100, which had then made nervously excited. So then I had two polar opposite categories for this movie to fall into, a terrible excuse of a Spider-Man film and introduction to one of the most beloved comic book characters (Miles Morales), or a mastercraft film of one of the most popular characters of all time... with beautiful artistic flair. Based on the title of this article, I’m pretty sure you can guess what I think of “Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse”.

The film follows Miles Morales (Shameik Moore), Brooklyn native and teenager, as he not only gets some super cool spider powers, but also finds out that he is not the only Spider-Man around. Now, with the likes of Peter Parker (Jake Johnson), Gwen Stacy (Hailee Steinfeld), Spider-Ham (John Mulaney), Spider-Man Noir (Nicholas Cage), and Peni Parker (Kimiko Glenn), these spider people must work together to stop a greater threat. The villains, though lacking in background information, are extremely fun to watch. There is always tension when the villains are on screen, particularly with Kingpin, who is voiced by Liev Schreiber. Besides all of this, the film has two warming tributes to late Stan Lee.

“Spider-Man into the Spider-Verse” is directed by Bob Persichetti, Peter Ramsey, and Rodney Rothman. Phil Lord and Rodney Rothman are credited for writing. This film is definitely one of the best animated movies I’ve seen in recent years. Not only is the film loaded with a brilliant voice cast, but is fuelled by a beautiful animation style. Every frame of this movie is packed with colorful, meaningful art. In short, “Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse” is a comic book brought to life. However, this film is more than that, it centers on the idea that anyone can be Spider-Man. This theme is beauti-

fully reinforced from beginning to end. For me, “Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse” is a 10/10, and it truly deserves it. This film is excelsior, but do you agree with my review? Let me know in the comments below.

Senior Spotlight: Tina Rea

ANNA TARNER - REPORTER

Tina Rea is a senior here at Adams, and with her talents in the fine arts, language, and school, we at The Tower decided she merited an article for her abilities.

Tina attended Kennedy from kindergarten through fifth grade, and then LaSalle for middle school. Growing up she had an affinity for writing and she says that she wanted to be an author and would “write a bunch of crazy stories” that she realized later in life, “weren’t that good.” But as she grew she branched out into other art forms, which include painting, drawing, pottery and sculpture. She states having “always turned to art during the hardest times.”

Adams wasn’t her original choice of schools. Her brother was a senior when she was a freshman, and although she says that he really liked it and the environment, they had different interests and she thought that Clay would’ve been a better fit because of her talents in the arts. Upon more consideration, she decided on coming here to JA, because “everyone is so passionate about so many different things, and I didn’t want to be surrounded by people who have the exact same interests in me. I wanted to be surrounded by people who explore different and awesome things of their own.”

In school her favorite activities have been, (the obvious one) art, and also Mock Trial,

which she says she loves because of “how intense it is,” and that everyone there is so crazy about law and acting, which she “feels right at home in.” Last year she started Art Club, which she says is “the most chill club she’s ever been apart of,” and “it was just people who sat around and painted, which is awesome.” When she’s not in the classroom or one of the art rooms at school, she (not surprisingly) “paints.” A lot of times with the help of her three younger siblings, who are “really noisy and loud” but she “loves them dearly.”

Another one of her passions is singing, and she even writes songs of her own. A classic pairing with Tina is her fireman’s hat and a ukulele as she’s perched upon a stool. “I read a lot of poetry, and through that I learned to make my own songs. Music has helped me seek out the happiest and brightest moments in life, while trying to overcome the difficult ones.”

Anyone who knows Tina or has even seen her free spirit walking the hallways can see her ability to be 100% herself. She gives off an energy that everyone could only hope to emit, though most struggle with. “To be yourself...well you have to know that no one should care about whatever you choose to wear or decisions you choose to make. It’s your life, and if they have an issue with you being yourself then that’s a problem within their own hearts, not with you. When it comes to expressing yourself, it’s only a net game. Anyone that you want in your life will be able to appreciate all your weirdest, strangest parts of yourself.”

Tina also urges younger students to “not be afraid to try, and that can be applicable to any other part of your life. Whether it be trying your best in school, or trying your best to have fun, don’t be afraid to do it.”

As for the future, Tina’s plan (“if all goes well”) to attend college in France, and after listening to her speak fluently for 2 minutes, my question of “are you fluent” was answered. In April she flies out to take exams there and she states that “I’m basically putting my eggs in a basket, but you can’t be afraid to try right?”



2018 Music Wrap Up

MATTHEW CARBONARO - REPORTER

As the year is coming to a close I thought that I would take the time to go through the releases of this year and highlight all the albums that I truly enjoyed and think that others should give a shot. Obviously this list is completely subjective and includes my own biases and tastes in music but I will try to give a little bit of explanation for why I like the album so much. Without further ado, here are my top albums of 2018. This year's releases didn't really interest me until about April, starting with Post Malone's *Beerbongs and Bentleys*. Although I was sort of late to the game with Post Malone I have come to really appreciate his music. This album is really fantastic not for its storytelling or strong themes, because it doesn't have those and that's not what you should expect when going to listen to this album. Instead, you should be ready to listen to something fun and weirdly relatable. This album is one that you can hardly resist singing along to the catchy lyrics and beats and is perfect for those times that you just need to let loose. The next four albums that I want to highlight all came out one after another. For those who don't know, Kanye West produced five mini albums, all 7 tracks, one a week. I should add a bit of caveat here that I am a huge Kanye fan so I am heavily biased toward practically anything he works and also that you should separate the recent controversy involving him and really look at his as an artist rather than his public persona. The first four were fantastic and I believe they all belong on this list. The first one was *Daytona* by Pusha T, produced by Kanye. This album has some fantastic tracks and the beats and rhythms are all flawless. This album is about what the life of Pusha T is like and is a fun but reflective piece that really resonates with me. The second album of these four is Kanye's own album, *Ye*. *Ye* is again more of a reflective, retrospective piece in which Kanye talks about his struggles with being bipolar and his struggles in

life currently. This album comes off a lot more raw and emotional than most of his albums and it's a welcome change, giving his listeners insight into him and proving what a talented artist he really is. The third album he released was his collaborative album with Kid Cudi under the collective name *Kids See Ghosts* and it was their self-titled album, *Kids See Ghosts*. Now this project was one that I was actually very surprised with. Kanye and Cudi work very well together and fit each other's sounds really well. This project is in some ways related to the previous album, *Ye*, but is definitely a separate work. This album has a very different sound but is one that works perfectly and makes me excited for future *Kids See Ghosts* releases. Nasir is the last of the four and is by Nas, an older rapper who came back this summer. Unfortunately, of the four that I really enjoy this is probably my least favorite of them but the first two tracks are so strong it is worth it anyway. Nasir is possible the most poetic of the four I am highlighting, all talking about some problem in the world and it uses a lot of metaphors. One of the most interesting things I have read about this album is each song relates to one of the seven deadly sins. Although this is not confirmed to be true I think that adds even more to its poetic nature. The fifth in this Kanye series isn't bad it just didn't really interest me and didn't make it onto this list.

There was one release just after the release of *Daytona* in May that was also really good but wasn't a Kanye release and I didn't discover until much later in the year. *THE ORIGINALS* by Tobe Nwigwe was a little out of my normal music tastes but I'm glad I decided to branch out. Nwigwe has a ridiculously smooth and clean flow and his lyricism is nothing like I've ever heard. If you're willing to branch out a bit, nothing seriously weird, I highly recommend this album. Nwigwe also released another album this year titled *MORE ORIGINALS* and I recommend it for all the same reasons. The next release I'd like to feature is *TA1300 / TABOO* by Denzel Curry which Claire Hargis reviewed and I recommend you check that out if you want a detailed analysis. However, I rec-

ommend this album for the truly unique sound that Curry uses in this album and the strong messages he portrays. This is a must listen to in my opinion. The last album I'd like to feature is *iridescence* by BROCKHAMPTON. This group is very talented and it really shows in this work. I was kind of reluctant to listen to this at first because I wasn't sure I liked their sound in the first song but I implore you to listen to it regardless, it has so much to offer and has such a unique sound that just gives me no choice other than recommending it.

Looking back at this I realized that basically everything is a rap album this year. Although I'm sure there are plenty of other albums that I missed, and I'm happy to listen to any suggestions that you post the comments, it was a really good year for rap and I think it shows in this article. If you're looking for best album, I think it could go to any of these albums but if I had to choose I think it'd have to be either *Kids See Ghosts*, *TA1300 / TABOO*, or *iridescence*.

Mind Over Matter

ZACK VEAZIE - REPORTER

Mind Over Matter (formerly the Mental Health Committee) is a mental health advocacy group based in John Adams High School. Founded in 2016, *Mind Over Matter* was created to spread awareness about mental illnesses in greater depth than the standard health class curriculum. *Mind Over Matter* is also a safe place for students to go when they feel like they have no one to talk to. The *Mind Over Matter* group has created presentations on topics such as anxiety and depression and presented them to health classes. "It is one thing having an adult speak to you about these things, but having one of your peers share the importance of mental health and even some of their own struggles really hits home for some students. We have had many stay after class to thank us and even ask us how to join," says Skylar Dungy, one of the group's founders. The group's 20 members meet every Thursday at C lunch in room 1635, so be sure to go check it out!

Ebright Named Teacher of the Year

ELLIE GRAFF - REPORTER

Unsurprisingly, Randy Ebright, an English teacher at John Adams High School, has earned the title of “Teacher of the Year” for the 2018-2019 school year. The English Department chair, study tables facilitator, English 10, English 10 EL, and English 10 Pre-IB teacher of nine years, is beloved by all his students.

Although notorious among Adams students for being one of the toughest essay graders in the school, most people find his constructive criticism to help effectively shape them as a writer and as a student. Junior Addison Cherry, who was in Ebright’s English 10 Pre-IB class last year, explained, “He’s hard on us but only because he wants us to be the best people we possibly can.” Ebright is also notorious for having a big heart. Every year around the winter holiday season, he has each of his classes collect gifts and money for a JA family in need. He doesn’t know who they are, and he doesn’t need to. His goal is to give, and he inspires his students to be passionate about helping others as well.

This kindness extends to the classroom, as Forest Wallace, a sophomore and current student of Ebright, attested, “You can really tell he loves what he does and is excited to be teaching us.” Cherry agreed “he loves what he does,” and added, “He’s very understanding and patient with us.” Ebright establishes himself as a teacher you can trust, and being his student automatically means you’ll have an adult in your life you can talk to.

As for his teaching style, Ebright is an inclusive and adaptive educator. Cherry emphasized, “He gets that everyone learns differently, and tries to have activities and ways for everyone to participate in order to get the most out of the class.” Wallace confirmed, “He teaches through group discussion, and leads us

to our own conclusions through thought provoking questions, bringing out new, previously unknown levels of the text.” Chances are, if you bring up Mr. Ebright at Adams, someone is likely to respond with positive remarks and fond memories of time spent in his classroom. Though there are many dedicated teachers at John Adams, it takes a truly special individual to become “Teacher of the Year.” Based on Ebright’s enthusiasm for educating young minds and his exceptional teaching abilities, he’s just the man for the job.

Senior Semester Update

CLAIRE HARGIS - REPORTER

It’s nearing the Winter Break, meaning that the end of the first semester is upon all of the students at John Adams High School. This time of the year is exciting because almost everyone is looking forward to celebrating the holidays or to winter break. However, this is also when finals are held and students scramble to get grades up. Add college applications on top of this, and one has the life of a senior.

Some of the seniors here at John Adams have answered some questions as to how the year is going thus far in connection to college apps, stress levels, and overall preparedness for the exciting things to come after high school. When asked how far they are on college apps, almost all of the students said that their apps were completed, and it was actually a pretty mixed response when asking if the seniors knew where one would end up. Some said that it was decided, where as some are still awaiting decisions or to see which college gives the best offer.

With most of the students finishing up college applications, the next question was how stressed they were during the first half of the year. Holly Snyder responded by stating, “School itself is not as stressful as previous years, but when adding college apps and other miscellaneous college things it can get difficult to manage time,” and Jordan Lewis agreed explaining, “My stress has

mainly come from things such as college applications, work and other things going on. The school work itself hasn’t necessarily caused too much stress.” On the contrary, when asked if he is stressed, senior Mateo Rey said, “Not really, I know what needs to be done in order to be successful and part of that is being attentive so I try to stick to that.”

Besides the stress and college applications, it was important to ask the seniors if this is year is enjoyable and if being in the 12th grade is as important or fun as people label it to be. Skylar Dungy said, “I love senior year. Even though it is stressful, it is very exciting and fun at the same time. It’s also cool being at the top of the school,” and Natalie Fish agreed stating, “It’s really fun and I feel like I have a lot of freedom this year. It’s a lot different than previous years.” However, it is a little bittersweet, with Selin Bradley revealing, “I like the senior privileges and getting ready for college and everything, but I think it has been harder than the last few years which I don’t really like. Also thinking about leaving high school and going on to college can also be a little scary to think about,” and Alex Sakaguchi elaborated saying, “I like being a senior in that it is such an exciting time preparing for college, and the privileges we have as seniors is very nice. However, it is also very scary to thinking about all the changes that are just around the corner, and it’s all anyone wants to talk about with you.”

Finally the seniors offered some advice to the underclassmen, placing importance on good attendance and finding a way to motivate yourself as the key to being successful. Snyder said, “Try your best to attend school as much as possible, grades do still matter, and be friends with your teachers.” Sakaguchi gave some really good life advice as well reminding people that while “keeping working hard and staying motivated is important, but also finding something you love to do that keeps you sane outside of school is important as well. While school matters, you’re only this age once so don’t weigh yourself down with stress and school work, have fun sometimes. Just find the right balance, and maintain good time management.”

Made in South Bend: Beth Davidson

ANNA FULLER - REPORTER

Beth Davidson, a native of Medina, Ohio, moved to South Bend to teach 7th grade math at Jefferson Intermediate. While most teachers complain about the low pay and the downsides of the job, Beth breaks into a huge smile when asked about her career, and you can tell that she truly enjoys what she does. Her passion for education and investing in the lives of students is inspiring. Here is Beth's insight on her career and what it means to her.

What inspired you to become a teacher?

Beth Davidson — Oh, I've always wanted to be a teacher. There was nothing that inspired me, but because I knew at such a young age that I wanted to be a teacher, I would critique teachers growing up. I would sit in the classroom and think, 'How could I design my classroom? How could I do this certain project?' In high school- I went to a suburban high school- and I had good teachers but I felt they weren't thinking about the important things, such as how to engage students more. We just always did what they wanted, so I would think of ways to make things more engaging and how to make kids fall in love with the subject- not just doing things because they're told.

You're from Ohio, so what brought you to South Bend?

BD — Camp Ray Bird. Being from a suburban town, I fell in love with the inner-city culture at camp. The energy and diversity was awesome; it wasn't like the bubble I was used to. Not to mention, the cost of living here was cheaper compared to New York, Florida, and the other places I was looking. I also had people I liked for a good support group, and a school that I loved. And I just love South Bend.

Do you have a fear of not being liked by some students?

BD — I did, and I think I always will, but I don't necessarily have a fear of being liked as much as I do of not being a good teacher.

I think that if you're a good teacher, you're liked because the students feel engaged in your classroom. I definitely became mean last year so kids would listen to me, but this year I'm going to have structure; every day, they'll know what to expect and what to do. There will be procedures so I don't have to yell at them every day. Classroom management is one of the hardest things about teaching.

Do you have good relationships with each of your students, even the troublemakers?

BD — Last year, I think that I had really good relationships with some students, my favorites, of course, but I would have relationships with some trouble kids. I feel that each teacher has relationships with different students. I usually have more trouble with the females, so I would have better relationships with some of the boys because I felt they were more laid back. I let them eat in my classroom some days, and they would come see me between classes. You have those kids who just love being around you, but it would change as my students changed. Sometimes I would have to look at them and be like 'You've changed this year, and not in a good way,' and they'd take that either terribly or really well.

Is there anything else career-wise that you'd rather be doing?

BD — Definitely not. If someone offered me a million dollars but told me I could never step foot in a classroom or educate ever again, I wouldn't go for it. I wouldn't give this up for anything. It's not only my career, but also my hobby and my passion. The nice thing about teaching is it's more than just the daily job. You have to prepare for it outside of the classroom, and the more you prepare, the smoother it goes, so I like being able to put effort into something and actually get a reward out of it. Sometimes in life, no matter how hard you work, you can't change anything. However, with teaching, the harder you work, the more influence you have on your own job and the student's lives. I've thought about other jobs. I really like design and fashion, but I can incorporate that here, because image and décor also fall into those categories. I just feel like anything I do I can bring to the classroom.

NHS Holiday Party

JOEY SHRADER - REPORTER

For many people, the holidays are one of the most exciting times of the year. But for many kids in our community, the holidays can be a difficult time. Every year, the John Adams National Honor Society [NHS] throws a holiday party for the kids from the Boys and Girls Club of St. Joseph County, in order to bring a little more holiday spirit to their lives.

NHS students spent months preparing for the party, including making invitations, buying gifts for the kids, and making decorations in order to make the Adams gym more festive. The party's theme this year was "How the Grinch Stole the Holidays." NHS Treasurer Maddie Lorenz said that "we were looking at past themes and we wanted to pick something that the kids could relate to and enjoy, rather than just a broad theme, like Winter Wonderland, which we've had a lot in the past." The theme also aimed to include every holiday, which was why it was "How the Grinch Stole the Holidays," instead of "How the Grinch Stole Christmas."

The day of the party, NHS students set up the gym with Christmas trees, a painting of Whoville (to represent the Grinch), balloons, fake snowballs, crafts, food, and more. Soon, the kids arrived and each was paired with 2-3 NHS students. All of the kids took pictures with the NHS students in front of the Whoville painting and then got to know the NHS students while eating dinner. Dinner included Chipotle catering, pizza, desserts, snacks, and more. After eating, the kids were free to play with the balloons and the fake snowballs that filled the gym, as well as explore the different crafts, which were cookie decorating, face painting, and gingerbread house making.

Later in the evening, members of NHS that are also in show choir sang "Carol of the Bells" and "Ding Dong Merrily on High" for the kids, and finally, the kids were able to open the presents that the NHS students bought for them. Each kid wrote a response to their invitation that included things they enjoyed so that the students were able to get them a present they would love. Overall, the holiday party was an amazing way to help kids in our community enjoy the holiday season!

Winter Guide

ZIZWA MITOLE - REPORTER

December 21st, the first day of winter for 2018. Winter is full of so many fun festivities and even though the air gets much colder it's probably one of the best seasons in my opinion. Over the years I've found ways to make winter perfect.

Fun Winter Activities

Go to an event, or play: If you want to stay inside there's The Morris Performing Arts Center, located here in South Bend, which puts on many different plays, concerts, and other events.

Swan Lake – 1/18

A ballet in four acts

MLK Day Celebration Concert – 1/21

Evita – 1/25 - 1/27

Another place to go and see great plays is the South Bend Civic Theatre. All year long they're performing, and what better time to go see one than when you actually want to stay inside.

Lord of the Flies – 1/12 - 1/14

Boeing Boeing – 1/19 - 1/28

Face and Identity – 1/30

Get outside: Winter doesn't mean no outdoor activities. I can tell you that there are many things to do in the winter. Starting with a winter must-

Ice skating: Whether good at it or not it's a great activity to get out of the house. A great place to go ice skating is the Ice Box Skating Rink which is about 3 miles from Adams.

Skiing: A nearby place to go skiing is Swiss Valley which is 40 miles from Adams (1hr drive) in Cass County, Michigan. There you can ski and snowboard and it has a store and lounging area.

Winter Food and Drink

Hot Chocolate: Now, I don't know about everyone else, but for me, winter needs hot chocolate. And not just any regular hot chocolate, you should definitely head down to the South Bend Chocolate Cafe. There, you can get all sorts of hot beverages and chocolatey snacks to go with it.

Starbucks Peppermint Mocha: A delicious holiday special from the classic coffeehouse, the Peppermint Mocha is a perfect mix of coffee, chocolate, and mint perfect for the winter season.

Winter Trends

If you want to fully get into the winter spirit, then you have to dress the part.

Fuzzy coats: They are really in right now, and can go with almost anything and everything and are a great way to stay warm

Patterned Pants: They are definitely that way to go, especially plaid. Mixed with a plain colored, long-sleeve shirt, or oversized sweater, plaid pants are a great look.

Socks: it's not winter without fuzzy socks

Boots: Knee-high leather boots and combat boots are really in style. They look good with many different outfits including dresses, oversized sweaters, and winter skirts.

