

Hawk Happenings

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Amelia Gassert reflects on German exchange student experience

Hailey Quinn - 11

On March 17, Hamburg Area High School hosted German foreign exchange students. One student who was kind enough to host was Amelia Gassert. She states, "I had been asked if I wanted to host a German exchange student, and at first I was not sure how it would work since I am not in German classes. However, I had a conversation with my parents and they were excited to host." Amelia hosted Charlotte, a sophomore German foreign exchange student. To prepare for hosting, she asked Charlotte if she wanted anything specific, such as food or snacks, and cleaned up the room Charlotte stayed in. Amelia notes, "I got along well with Charlotte. It was a little awkward for the first two days, but after that we had built such a strong bond with each other."

Hosting a foreign exchange student is a memorable and exciting experience. Amelia states, "I enjoyed it so much! It was like hanging out with a friend for 11 days. One of the best experiences of high school." Her favorite part of the experience was meeting a new person from a different country and being able to make such a close connection with a new friend. Her only complaint about hosting was that she wishes it could have lasted longer. She comments, "It felt like it was over so quickly, but the amount of time was uncontrollable because they had to go back home eventually." The German students departed for home on March 28 over the spring break.

Amelia found the experience to be very beneficial, stating, "I feel the experience was extremely beneficial because of meeting new people and learning about different cultures. It has opened my eyes to the world in Germany and how different yet similar it can be to our culture." She would love to host again and would recommend hosting a foreign exchange student to anyone who is interested or considering doing so. As a piece of advice for those who are interested in hosting, Amelia suggests, "They should go through all of the requirements and make sure it is for them, and then go from there."

Hamburg Area High School is hosting more foreign exchange students in October, so consider hosting someone and making a new friend! Contact Mrs. Stevens for information to host.



Mrs. Bucheit keeps class pets

LeeAnn Mills - 12

Having a class pet can be a very enriching experience for a student. Western Governors University writes about how class pets provide students with unique interactions, a new approach to learning, and a sense of responsibility. Daily tasks such as food preparation, cleaning, and providing water could be done by students, teaching them how to interact with animals and the importance of nurture and care.

Mrs. Bucheit, a biology and environmental science teacher, currently has five class pets: one Russian tortoise, three koi fish, and one goldfish. The Russian tortoise, Shelby, has been with Mrs. Bucheit in Hamburg for eight years. Shelby originally came from a pet store and can live to be 50 years old and about the size of a dinner plate. She eats organic kale and carrots and drinks during her weekly bath from Mrs. Bucheit.



All four fish do not officially belong to Mrs. Bucheit. One of Mrs. Bucheit's homeroom students allows Mrs. Bucheit to take the fish for the school year but returns them for the summer. This arrangement works out very well for Mrs. Bucheit as fish are not easy to take care of over long breaks away from school, like Shelby the Russian tortoise. During summer and breaks, Mrs. Bucheit takes Shelby with her to her house

and puts her in a tank.

Mrs. Bucheit has had classroom pets for most of her teaching career at Hamburg. It all started with a black rattlesnake named Sinbad that died two summers ago. Since then she has had hamsters, a rabbit, aquatic turtles, trout, tropical fish, and a gecko.

As an environmental science teacher, having animals in the room is very fitting. Besides that, Mrs. Bucheit enjoys watching the life they bring to the room. The students tend to gravitate towards the tanks, and it opens up a conversation between the students and Mrs. Bucheit. Spending a lot of time in her classroom the animals and plants make Mrs. Bucheit very happy.

For more information visit, <https://www.wgu.edu/blog/benefits-class-pet2006.html>



German host and student spotlight: Sid Bonning and Tamina

Riley Mohn - 10

The German students at Hamburg had the opportunity to host German students, and Tamina Stuhl was one of them. She came to Hamburg because she was chosen by Sid Bonning and their family between March 17 and March 28. There were 12 German students and 2 German teachers that stayed here during that time period. This was to help German students at Hamburg learn from students in Germany through a hosting experience.

Tamina Stuhl is a sophomore German exchange student from Dessau Rosslau school. Her host, Sid Bonning, a freshman at Hamburg Area School District, took Tamina to Crystal Cave, Hershey, and Walmart. From

her experiences here in America, she noticed how the streets, cars, and trucks are bigger than they are in Germany, as well as the food portions. America is tremendously patriotic according to Tamina, due to all the American flags nearly everywhere. She enjoyed meeting the new people, and she said she had a lot of fun during her stay. She says, "a special thanks goes to my host family who made my trip possible in the first place and welcomed me with open arms." She wishes everyone at Hamburg a healthy life and hopes that she crosses paths with Hamburg students again.

Sid Bonning, a freshman at Hamburg, hosted Tamina. Sid learned about Germany during their time hosting Tamina. Tamina shared how bringing recycled bottles back to the store will give money in return for keeping the environment safe. This hosting experience was a learning experience for both Sid and Tamina, and Sid looks forward to hosting again. With this German exchange student program, the students who hosted might have an opportunity to travel to Germany and stay with the student they hosted.

Club Spotlight: B.I.O.N.I.C. Club

Tia Adam - 10

To make starting at a new school easier on students, Hamburg Area High School Believe It Or Not I Care (B.I.O.N.I.C.). A handful of students are put into a group to show a new student around for three days to a week. Students are given a new students' schedule and help show them around the school, introduce them to teachers, and show them their classes.

B.I.O.N.I.C. member Bethany Stuffed had the opportunity to show around a new student. She was part of a group of three students. Showing her student around was hard as her group of people were not good at communicating with each other which meant that it was hard to find and show the new student around at times. Besides her difficulties with showing her new student around, she finds that B.I.O.N.I.C. is a good way to help new students understand a new school. And her favorite thing about B.I.O.N.I.C. is that she can help show new students around.

Another B.I.O.N.I.C. member Morgan Riegel enjoys the club and hopes that she can become a leader to the club during her upperclassmen years. Morgan also got the chance to show a new student around with a group of three students. She mainly helped her new student find a group of friends and get comfortable with the school. The students she worked with had a good amount of communication as they met their new student at every one of their new student's classes. They helped their new student for a week. Morgan also agrees that B.I.O.N.I.C. is a good way to help new students adjust to a new school. Morgan's favorite part about the club is making the school a better place.

Many of the new students who arrived at Hamburg and were helped by B.I.O.N.I.C. club members said that their original feelings were on the stressed and nervous side. The students found it hard to understand and navigate themselves around the school on their beginning days. Besides the anxiety of navigation, they also had nervous feelings with finding new friends and where they were going to sit at lunch. Due to these nervous feelings B.I.O.N.I.C. members find it very important to help as much as possible to tone down new students stress and help them navigate the school and find their own friend group.

Overall B.I.O.N.I.C. club is a great way to help a new student get adjusted to a new school such as Hamburg. B.I.O.N.I.C. also makes homemade cards to give to all of the new students so they know that they are welcomed. B.I.O.N.I.C. can really make a difference to new students.



Students discuss excused absences

Isabella Forte - 11

Every school year, teachers and administrators monitor student attendance. Absences are often documented and can have serious consequences for students, including missed coursework, lowered grades, and even disciplinary actions. However, the way student absences are tracked can often be unfair and put unnecessary burdens on students, particularly when it comes to providing doctors notes for sicknesses. One common practice in many schools is requiring students to provide a doctor's note for any sickness-related absence. This policy assumes that all students have easy access to healthcare and can afford to visit a doctor every time they fall ill. In reality, many students come from low-income households or may not have health insurance, making it difficult and costly for them to obtain a doctor's note for every absence.

Secretary and attendance coordinator Mrs. Bowen states, "We understand that not all students can see a doctor every time they are sick. A simple excuse card or a parent note stating the reason for the absence is enough. Although, if a student exceeds 10 days of excused or unexcused absences, we start to require these students to hand in a doctor's note."

According to a study conducted by the National Association of Secondary School Principals, requiring doctor's notes for absences can affect students from marginalized communities and create health inequities. Students who are unable to afford or access healthcare may be penalized for missing school due to illness, regardless of the legitimacy of their reasons for being absent. Research has shown that schools with strict attendance policies tend to have higher rates of student stress and anxiety. Students who are worried about falling behind in their coursework or facing disciplinary action for missing class are more likely to attend school when they are sick, putting themselves and their classmates at risk of spreading illness.

Instead of penalizing students for being sick, schools should consider implementing more flexible attendance policies that take into account the circumstances of each student. For example, allowing students to make up missed work without penalty or providing resources for students to catch up on coursework can help alleviate the stress of missing school due to illness. Schools should prioritize promoting a culture of health and well-being among students, rather than focusing on attendance numbers. Encouraging students to prioritize their physical and mental health can lead to improved academic performance and overall well-being.

In conclusion, tracking student absences unfairly and requiring doctor's notes for sicknesses is a practice that puts unnecessary burdens on students, particularly those from disadvantaged communities. Schools should reevaluate their attendance policies and consider implementing more equitable approaches to supporting students who are sick. By prioritizing the health and well-being of students, schools can create a more inclusive and supportive learning environment for all.

For more information, Visit

[https://www.nassp.org/news-arena/nassp-news/summer-2018-\(1\)/absenteeism-and-its-impact-on-students](https://www.nassp.org/news-arena/nassp-news/summer-2018-(1)/absenteeism-and-its-impact-on-students)

Olivia Rodrigo starts her GUTS tour

Dakota Schneider - 9

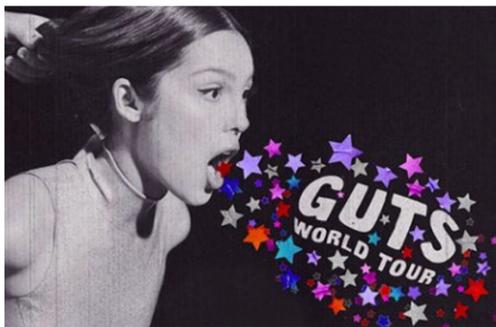
Popstar, Olivia Rodrigo has begun her world tour, GUTS.

This is Olivia's second tour, but the GUTS tour is getting extremely popular. With the release of her new album, GUTS, lots of songs have been going viral, which many new fans are taking an interest in.

Olivia has a 22 song setlist including some of her most popular hits, *deja vu*, *vampire*, and *drivers license*. Although its called the GUTS tour, she does include some songs from her first viral album *Sour* including, *Brutal*, *traitor*, and *enough for you*. Her first show was in Palm Springs, California. There were over 11,000 people screaming, dancing, and enjoying some of Olivia's best songs. Her tour is also going viral on TikTok for her iconic choreography, fans outfits, and her interactions with her fans.

Freshman Brookelynn Foote is planning to go to the GUTS tour when Olivia comes to Philadelphia on July 19th.

Freshman Koa Binder, is hoping to get tickets because of her love for Olivia Rodrigo. "I first heard about Olivia when I watched her show *bizaardvark* on Disney channel." Olivia started off her career with acting and was first discovered on Disney. Shortly after that, she was starring in a new show called *High School Musical the Musical the series*. "Her songs from the show, *All I want* and *Wondering* instantly made me fall in love with her and her music." Shortly after that series came out, Olivia released her album *Sour*. "I fell in love with the album and listened to it on repeat for months; the songs on the album were also one of my top listens that year." After a few years of waiting, she came out with her album *GUTS*. "Once *GUTS* dropped, I fell in love all over again, and I desperately tried to get tickets once she announced it and I'm still trying to get them today." Fans absolutely love Olivia and she is gaining popularity day by day. "Olivia is an amazing artist with amazing lyrics and beats. Her concert is a must and I encourage anyone who can to go to the show so I can live vicariously through them even if I don't get tickets." Overall, Olivia Rodrigo is booming with popularity and there are still chances to go to her tour if you are interested.



Dakota ranks Cheeto flavors

Brielle Cox - 9

Cheetos are a yummy snack that many kids enjoy, parents not so much when the cheesy residue on their kids fingers are wiped on every other surface than a napkin. Freshman Dakota Schneider has tried different flavors of Cheetos and has her own opinion on them.

Of the five flavors she has tried Dakota personally likes the cheddar jalapeno Cheetos. She likes them because they are cheesy and spicy, but not too spicy. It is like a perfect mix for her to enjoy as a tasty snack. She recommends them to anyone who has not tried them or wants to try new flavors.

With favorites there comes least favorites. Dakota's least favorite flavor of Cheetos is just plain hot cheetos. She says that they are just too spicy for her, and she likes to have a pleasant experience while eating Cheetos. Having her mouth on fire does not count as pleasant. She can handle some spice, but flaming hot Cheetos is too much.

For those who have not tried other flavors of Cheetos besides the plain original ones. Dakota says that the plain ones are just too boring and not flavorful enough. It seems like it is lacking something that could improve the taste. But she does believe that it is still important to have an original flavor to show diversity between other Cheeto flavors.



Students look forward to summer activities

Madison Redding - 11

The summer is such a exciting time for Hamburg Area High School students. The sun is out longer, theres swimming, spending time with friends, and most importantly school is out.

Emma Moylan a sophomore at HAHS stated that she is most excited for summer to get to hangout with friends and going on vacation. Emma works at the Westy and plans to pick up more hours this summer. Emma plans to go on multiple trips this summer and says, "I'm planning on going to ocean city Maryland with my mom and sister for a week, and I'm mostly excited about flying solo out to Oregon to visit my sister." Last but not least some of Emma's favorite summer activities consist of, "spending



days on end with my friends. I love hanging out at the pool all day, getting a laughably terrible sunburn, and staying up all night watching movies and making bracelets."

Hannah Kristiniak is a Junior at Hamburg and is looking forward to summer to get some time off school and have less work, although she is going to be taking on the challenge of summer work for her AP classes. She is most excited to hangout with friends and go on vacation. Hannah explained she has a few trips planned: "Right now I have a trip planned for the beach down in Delaware. I also go and stay with my aunt during the summer so I'll be doing that at least once. My family does a lot of day trips so I'm sure we'll try to do a few of those." As of right now Hannah does not have a job but she plans on getting one this summer which is exciting. Some of her favorite activities consist of swimming and going to the beach this summer. As well as spending time outside and being in the sun. Hannah also explains that she loves the heat and weather and having more free time to hang out with friends.

Mama Mia Movie Review

Morgan Lutz - 10

Mama Mia is a musical drama set in Greece that features the actors Meryl Streep, Amanda Seyfried, Pierce Brosnan, and Colin Firth. It was produced in 2008 by Universal Pictures and directed by Phyllida Lloyd. It is rated PG-13, making it the perfect movie for a family movie night for kids in high school. The movie is currently being streamed on Netflix and other smaller streaming services, such as YouTube and Amazon Prime.

Many of the well-known songs featured throughout the movie are played by Abba, a Swedish pop group formed in 1972. These songs include "Dancing Queen," "Gimmie! Gimmie! Gimmie!" and "Money, Money, Money."

The movie is about a mom and daughter who own a hotel on an island in Greece. Donna is the mother, and Sophia is the daughter. Donna's two friends come to the island to help her prepare for Sophia's wedding. Sophia has never known who her father is, and as her wedding approaches, she reads her mom's journal in an attempt to find her dad. She reads

about three men in the journal who could potentially be her father, and she invites all three to her wedding without her mother knowing. This causes the days leading up to her wedding to be an insane search for which man is her true father so that he can walk her down the aisle.

The movie features romance, plot twists, and drama, which makes it a movie perfect for any hopeless romantic. I would also recommend that any person interested in different types of music watch Mama Mia for the Abba music alone. Mama Mia is an amazing movie for many different types of people to enjoy!



Spring Cleaning Traditions

Lilly Gibson - 9

In the middle of the 19th century, families all across the country would open their doors and windows and clean. This was not just any regular cleaning, it was a deep clean of a person's home. This would include hand scrubbing the floors, walls, and steps. This cleaning would last for days at a time, making sure that a person's house was cleaned to its fullest potential. Another thing that stuck out about this cleaning was the time of year it took place, right before or at the start of the spring equinox. This cleaning would go on for years, eventually becoming known as spring cleaning, according to National Clean Up Weeks: A History of Spring Cleaning to Improve Public Health on the Johnson & Johnson website.

The trend of spring cleaning is very popular in the United States. One of the main reasons people do it is because of insects. During the winter months, bugs will crawl into people's houses and nest there because of the heat. That can leave dirt, grime, and dead insects in the houses. Spring cleaning is one of the ways that a person can get rid of the bugs and their residue. Bug residue can cause illnesses such as malaria, yellow fever, and lyme according to the CDC.

Another main reason that people spring clean is because of habit. Say a woman starts to spring clean in the 1800's and she taught her children to as well, they might continue to spring clean, even when they have children. They might continue this tradition with their own children someday too. This is how spring cleaning has stayed so abundant in the United States.

Nowadays, spring cleaning is not such a difficult task. Beforehand, people would have to hand scrub everything but now we have objects for that. Many people own a Swiffer, a mop that dispenses the cleaning liquid itself with the press of a button. We even have special rags to clean certain surfaces like windows and screens.

No matter how annoying the task might be, spring cleaning is something that connects a lot of people. There are many groups on Facebook and other social media where people discuss new cleaning products and tips. The tradition of spring cleaning has been around for hundreds of years, hopefully it will stay around for even longer.

May Day Thursday, May 23
9:30 am - 11:30 am

Adviser: Mrs. Terri McCarthy-Wright; Editor in Chief: Hannah Kristiniak; Issue Layout Editor:Elaina Hess; Writers: Tia Adam, Grace Cromyak, Brielle Cox , Izzy Forte, Morgan Lutz, LeeAnn Mills, Riley Mohn, Hailey Quinn, Madison Redding, Dakota Schneider; Hawk Happenings is a weekly publication created by the students in the Publications class at Hamburg Area High School. It is distributed free of charge throughout the Hamburg Area High School community. A PDF is available at <https://www.hasdhawks.org/domain/181> and an online version at www.hawkhappenings.org. The opinions in this newspaper represent those of the student writers and do not represent the opinions of the faculty, staff, administration, or school board of the Hamburg Area School District. HH is a member of the Pennsylvania School Press Association (PSPA), the National Scholastic Press Association (NSPA), and Quill and Scroll. If you have any questions or comments regarding anything that appears in its pages, or if you would like to sponsor our paper with a donation, please contact Terri McCarthy, Hawk Happenings, Hamburg Area High School, Windsor Street, Hamburg, PA, 19526. Our email address is termcc@hasdhawks.org and our phone number is 610-562-3861, x2327.