

Hawk Happenings

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Jayden participates in track

Elaina Hess - 10

Jayden Billig is sophomore at HAHS who participates in track. This is his first year at HAHS because he transferred to Northwestern Lehigh for freshman year after attending HAMS for 8th grade. He joined spring track later in the year to try it out and he ended up really liking it. They practice every week Monday-Friday to prepare for the weekly or biweekly meets at various schools. The track team recently went to Tulpehocken for invitationals to which he won three medals for the 800, 4x800, and the 4x400. There have been a few meets for spring track so far and even though they did not win them all he still had fun participating. As well as an athlete, Jayden is also a PS student and preparing to take AP and honor classes next year. He wants to try his best in school to excel academically and get into a good college later in life. He plans on taking honors for English and AP for American History next year.



HAHS hosts another Java Jam

Bethany Stuffle - 10

On April 11 Hamburg Area High School held another Java Jam. For anyone unaware of what Java Jam is, it is an evening music event that takes place from around 6 to 8:30. It is held in the library and it is essentially a night for those with musical and instrumental talents that would like to show the audience those specialties. Those that wanted to participate in this karaoke night talked to Mr. Laughlin and Mr. Haegele before the event occurred. LEO club provides snacks and drinks at a low price at the event.

There were many performers, as well as many volunteers running the snack stand. This particular Java Jam, included a special performance by Mrs. Jackson, as well as a special performance by Mr. Laughlin. Mrs. Jackson sang a song from the Wizard of Oz while Mr. Laughlin sang one of his own songs that he co-wrote with a friend in college. Ultimately, the spring Java Jam went very well, and was very enjoyable.

Student Spotlight: Deja Wagner-Wakefield

Madison Redding - 11

Deja Wagner- Wakefield is a 17 year old junior at Hamburg Area High School. Deja Wagner-Wakefield has been going to Hamburg since the end of 5th grade. Deja is well known around the school because of her academics with classes like Honors Precalc, English 11, AP United States History, anatomy and physiology, Spanish 3 and Publications. However her favorite class is anatomy and physiology. Deja exclaims, "I like to learn about the human body and how it works. Also, I like this class because I want to go into the medical field and this is teaching me some of the basics of what I will need to know." As well as being on the prom committee. Deja explains she loves being a part of the prom committee specifically because she gets to work with other students and plan events that everyone will remember in the future. Since moving here Deja has made some really great memories, a lot of them including her friends.

After high school, Deja plans to go to Bloomsburg, and join their nursing program, and eventually transfer to anesthesiology. She wants to be an anesthesiologist and be able to make a difference in this world. Grace Cromyak, a junior, explains Deja is very sweet and very kind. She is a very motivated person and keeps to herself. Grace also explains she can foresee Deja being very successful in the future.

This summer Deja is looking forward to summer and having a break off of all her school work. However she is looking forward to being a senior and graduating this coming year. Deja explains that this summer she is, "looking forward to spending time with friends and going on family vacation to Tennessee and Virginia."



Students explain their beach vacation

Tia Adam - 10

With the end of the 2023 to 2024 school year approaching quickly, summer vacation is on the minds of students. Many who attend a summer vacation normally go to the beach, camping, or travel to different countries or states. The nice weather creates a very enjoyable time for traveling with family and friends.

Sophomore Bethany Stuffle normally attends a beach trip with her family to go to Bethany Beach, Delaware, Florida, or Wildwood, New Jersey. When she was younger she had family who either lived in those places or had a condo there. She goes on her summer vacations with her family and sometimes a friend. Her favorite thing to do on summer vacation is to visit boardwalks, especially Wildwood.

Another sophomore, Allie Houck, takes a trip with her mom's side of the family to Brigantine Beach, New Jersey where her great aunt and uncle have a house. Her favorite thing to do while at the beach there is to walk around town. Her favorite memory is taking a walk to the beach with her cousins before they had to be back for dinner. Her family also has dinner traditions which consist of different ways of getting dinner each night. On the first night, her great aunt and uncle take her and her family out to a nice restaurant. The second night her whole family orders take-out. And on their third night, her whole family cooks for her great aunt and uncle. If her family stays at the beach any longer, they figure out their dinner day by day.

One other sophomore, Maddie Handwerk, also goes on a beach trip and her family enjoys going to beaches in New Jersey. She spends her summer vacation with her friends and family. Her favorite part about going to the beach is going to the beach all day and spending a lot of time in the ocean. Besides that, her favorite memory from going to the beach is when she went with her friend for five days to Wildwood Beach, New Jersey.

With all of these summer vacation stories, the beach seems to be one of the most common types of summer vacations. New Jersey also seems to be the favored beach state with students.

BIONIC visits Muhlenberg Aavidum

Riley Mohn - 10

Muhlenberg Area High School held a Building Unity in Our Community conference inviting clubs in local school districts, and the BIONIC club at Hamburg was a part of this conference. Eight students were invited to attend this conference on April 8, and it lasted all day. There were youth-led panel discussions from the Aavidum club and Youth Mental Health Ambassadors at Muhlenberg. Schools including Conrad Weiser and Boyertown were also part of this conference and helped out with some of the stations. The discussions at the youth-led panel talked about coping mechanisms and different ways trauma can affect students.

Muhlenberg's Aavidum club is similar to Hamburg's BIONIC club; or Believe It Or Not I Care club. BIONIC is run by Mrs. Wiles-Herbert and Mrs. Ponter, and they take care of new and returning students, as well as any major issues going on with students who need the extra assistance. Muhlenberg's Aavidum club, however, helps support and discourage the silence around depression and suicide among teens, along with other issues. Aavidum, the name for the club, stands for "I've got your back" and encourages students to help each other through rough times.

Mrs. Ponter, one of the Advisors of the BIONIC club at Hamburg, found this trip inspiring to the students of Hamburg, and was happy to see their motivation. She said "I was so happy to see how motivated they were to learn, and how motivated they were to speak to those at the other schools". She hopes Hamburg does something similar in the future, something organized like the youth-led panel discussion, since the whole field trip was planned and run by the students in Aavidum and the Youth Mental Health Ambassadors.

Alicia Gilbert, a junior at Hamburg who is in the BIONIC club, says that she enjoyed talking to students from other schools and seeing what they do at their school. She said "after learning about other schools, the students from Hamburg should be more involved in clubs and the making of clubs." She enjoyed the station where they had a tall mirror that had sticky notes of encouraging words on it.



Navigating personal growth and development in the teenage years

Grace Cromyak - 11

As students, the journey of personal growth and development is not merely a philosophical concept but a tangible roadmap that shapes the trajectory of others’ lives. It is a transformative voyage that not only enriches students’ present experiences but also lays the foundation for a fulfilling and prosperous future. In navigating this journey, students are empowered to cultivate essential skills, embrace resilience, and foster a mindset of lifelong learning that transcends the confines of the classroom.

Education serves as the cornerstone of personal growth and development for students. It is the catalyst that ignites curiosity, nurtures intellect, and fosters critical thinking. Beyond academic pursuits, education equips students with the tools to navigate the complexities of the modern world, cultivating a deep understanding of diverse perspectives and cultures. By embracing education as a lifelong pursuit, students unlock the boundless potential to evolve intellectually, professionally, and personally.

At the heart of personal growth lies the cultivation of purposeful goals. Students are encouraged to envision their aspirations, delineate their objectives, and chart a course toward their desired destination. Whether academic, professional, or personal, setting goals provides students with a sense of direction and motivation to strive toward excellence. By establishing clear benchmarks and milestones, students empower themselves to take proactive steps toward actualizing their dreams and aspirations.

The journey of personal growth and development is not confined to the classroom but extends far beyond the classrooms into the realms of formal education. Lifelong learning becomes the cornerstone of personal and professional success, empowering students to adapt to evolving landscapes, embrace innovation, and pursue mastery in their chosen fields. By embracing lifelong learning, students remain agile, adaptable, and resilient in the face of change, continuously expanding their horizons and unlocking new opportunities for growth and exploration.

The journey of personal growth and development is the transformative voyage that empowers students to unlock their fullest potential, embrace resilience, and cultivate a mindset of lifelong learning. By harnessing the power of education, setting purposeful goals, embracing resilience, fostering self-reflection, and embracing lifelong learning, students pave the way for a future defined by purpose, fulfillment, and boundless possibilities. As they embark on this journey, may they embrace the challenges, celebrate the victories, and emerge as empowered individuals poised to shape the world around them.

Students having difficult times trying to figure out their career pathways as well as other pathways, can look at their future and set their standards to ensure they will make the right decisions with themselves. For the most part, it is important for students to believe in themselves that way there is a positive mindset along the way can be beneficial navigating through personal growth and development through teenage years as well as later on adult years.

HAHS does a 14 Hour Film Festival

Madison Redding - 11

On Friday April 5, Hamburg Area High School hosted its first ever 14 Hour Film Festival. The film festival started at 7:30 am and ended at 9:30 pm Friday afternoon. Participates were students of all ages from freshman to seniors. Students needed to select a genre, some of them including rom-com, horror, comedy, and so many more. After receiving the genre they are assigned students must plot, plan, film, and edit their films. Their short films must include dialogue, character names, after all of that hard work students must submit their films.

Mrs. Eshbach, HAHS video communications teacher and morning announcements director. Created the event and had previously hosted a 24 hour film festival at her prior school. She explained, “The 24 hour was a all night film festival. The reason it was so long was due to the technology not being as advanced.” HAHS is lucky enough to have a 14 hour film fest, with the technology we have. Mrs. Eshbach explained that there were 3 groups that participated in the festival, each which created their own film. Next year Mrs. Eshbach is hoping to plan another festival, 12 hours due to students finishing so quickly.

Koa Binder a freshman at HAHS participated in the film fest with a group of four: Dakota Schneider, Chase Brodhead, Hailee Riggeal. Her group created a horror movie. Koa explained that, “For our film, we decided to take it towards a found footage kind of route with a plot involving somewhat of a cult. We took inspiration from movies like The Craft and the Blair Witch Project.” Koa also said she would do the festival again and recommends it to other students at HAHS.



Freshmen make plans during Pride Month

Bella Kenyel - 9

Pride Month takes place in June and it is a time for celebration among the LGBTQ+ community as they go to parades, rallies, spend time researching different things that are happening in the commu-

nity, or just spending time with family and friends.

One freshman, Mia “Mika” Owens, has their plans already planned out by their family and they cannot necessarily celebrate due to their parent’s schedule. They show their support by making content or supporting members of the LGBTQ+ community that they know. Mika does think that it is important that people are exposed, educated, and celebrated on the LGBTQ+ community, with their reasoning being, as they stated, “It needs to be normalized.”

A second freshman, Carice Hoppes, for previous years when Pride Month arrived showed her support by being an ally, buying pride flags, or LGBTQ+ friendly stuff (pins, stickers, clothing, etc). Carice is planning to do the same things this year for Pride Month. Another way that she shows her support is by not really caring about what pronouns other people choose to use for themselves. Carice does believe that people should be exposed, educated, and celebrated because she states, “...misunderstandings can happen and can turn out not so well in the end. It also should be shown; it cannot affect people personally that others like the same gender or want to change their identity.”

A third freshman, Meadow “Jayden” Henry, for the last few years had been going to Pride festivals more often than they used to. For this year, Jayden is hoping to go to another festival again, but if they cannot attend, they will just be content and try to get Pride friendly things when they can. They show their support for the LGBTQ+ community by wearing flags or being at events with LGBTQ+ people. Jayden thinks it is important that people should be exposed, educated, and celebrated because, as they put it, “...it’s kind of like being taught history and everyone should know about it, so we can have a better future.”



Ariana Grande drops new album Eternal Sunshine after controversy

Koa Binder - 9

Singer/songwriter Ariana Grande has been in the spotlight recently over a controversy concerning her and her new boyfriend, actor Ethan Slater. Ariana recently left her husband, Dalton Gomez, and Ethan left his wife, Lilly Jay. Shortly after, they began seeing each other and eventually made it

publicly official.

After tons of backlash, Ariana released her first album, Eternal Sunshine, since her Grammy nominated album, Positions, in 2020 as a response to all of the rumors being said about her. The album takes its name from the 2004 movie, Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind starring Jim Carrey and Kate Winslet. Before the full album release, she dropped a single titled yes, and? Which caused a stir among her fan base since it was the first song to hint at the fact that the album would be directed towards the problematic situation. Her lyrics talk about being confident in oneself and how people should keep their comments to themselves and stay out of her business. The song was at the #1 spot on the Billboard Hot 100 just hours after it had dropped.

On March 8, Ariana dropped the album and many fans had her songs on repeat in full support of the artist. Fans were excited to listen to many of the songs, especially the ones which some might say sounded targeted towards the situation. Some of these songs were titled, the boy is mine, we can’t be friends, bye, and many more.

Freshman Chase Brodhead is a diehard fan of the singer and listened to the album as quickly as we could. Chase has been trying to persuade English teacher, Mrs. Trubilla, that Ariana is a good person. Throughout the year and controversy, they have been debating whether or not Grande is a good person or not. Mrs. Trubilla has decided that if Ariana released a song in response to yes, and? Apologizing, then she would give her another chance. However, that was not the case and Mrs. Trubilla has stuck to her opinion on the singer.

There are 13 songs on the album, five of which are explicit. The first song is titled intro (end of the world) and is the second shortest song on the album next to Saturn Returns. Though it is not the most memorable song on the album, it still sets the mood for the album and gives the listener a good insight on what to expect in the upcoming songs. bye is the second song of the album. There is a drastic change in the mood and rhythm between the first and second songs. bye is more upbeat and is one of the songs directed at the controversy with lyrics like, “I’m taking what’s mine.”

The third song, don’t wanna break up again, explains how Grande doesn’t want to break hers or anyone else’s heart again. The song is catchy and the best out of the first three since the lyrics stand out to me more and her voice sounds nice in the key, tempo, and style Grande is singing in.

The fourth song is Saturn Returns Interlude, which is the only capitalized song, and it is the shortest of the album with just 42 seconds. Even though it is considered a song, it is mainly just a person speaking. That person is astrologer Diana Garland who explains what a Saturn return is in simple terms. Grande included this segment in her album because according to astrological beliefs, she is currently experiencing a Saturn return, which Lisa Stardust describes in an article as, “When the planet Saturn returns to the sign, and degree, it was in when you were born.” Stardust explains how the cycle is about three years long around a person’s late 20’s to their early 30’s. I enjoy this “song” and helps correlate the album with more than just the controversy, but the changes happening in her life spiritually as a person. Even if it is not a fan favorite and definitely not the best “song,” it takes the attention and focus of the album to something else and almost makes it symbolize change as opposed to a “scandal” in the industry.

The fifth song of the album is the title track, which is a track named after the album it is in. Therefore, this song is titled eternal sunshine. The song, which is one out of is not only titled after the album, but also the 2004 movie with the same name. The song is more upbeat and similar to styles she used in the past. In all of her songs the lyricism is beautiful and is very enjoyable throughout the entire album.

One of the songs with a music video on the album is the song titled we can’t be friends, which is the tenth track. This video follows the premise of the movie the album is named after, Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind. The premise of the movie is that a couple breaks up and goes through a medical procedure to erase all of their memories of one another. In Ariana’s music video for the song, the viewer sees the artist going through the same procedure.

Ariana paid close attention to this album with everything from including the tiny details to writing beautiful lyrics with rhythmic musicality and catchy beats. Even though she has already released seven albums, fans are impatiently waiting for more.

For more information visit billboard.com, today.com, and imdb.com

Mr. McCord shares experience at HAHS

Kaeli Cox - 11

Mr. McCord is a Kutztown University student earning his degree in secondary education social studies. After graduating from a high school in Saint Clair, he is returning to the classroom with Mr. Kline and his students.

Mr. McCord shared, “I’d say I had 2 role models when I was in high school that encouraged me, as well as a project I had to do in middle school where I had to interview an athletic director.” This shows how influential teachers can be and that the career can inspire others.

Mr. McCord also said, “You have to be able to make connections and can’t be distanced.” This tip perfectly parallels a student in Mr. Kline’s fifth period class. Kaitlyn Mengel, junior, shared, “I learn from someone who’s very interactive and engaging.” A teacher who shows friendliness and relatability to their students can help create a more productive environment.

Kaitlyn Mengel also commented on what she has learned from Mr. McCord. She said, “Since he’s portraying Italy in our class simulation, we’ve learned more about Italy personally as a country rather than just through notes.” The engaging World War 2 simulation includes students and teachers, which can introduce Mr. McCord to a unique style of teaching.

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