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HAPPENINGS

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The end of the school year brings in many activities

Kiana Wright - 12

As the end of the 2017-2018 school year rapidly approaches, a large majority of school activities are being planned. There are various clubs and organizations that are preparing to carry out their ideas. The Student Council has three large activities planned for the next three months. On March 15 and 16 there will be a volleyball tournament that is open to all grades. The tournament will consist of eight teams and will be refereed by Mr. Commisso and the gym teachers. The final team standing at the end of the bracket will be awarded medals.

The next activity will be taking place on April 13 and will be the Luau. There will be Hawaiian dancers, food stations and plenty of games. This year the Luau is planned to be outside in the courtyard if the weather is good. However, if the weather is not good, then the Luau will be hosted in the hallways. The final Stu-Co activity is May Day which will be happening on May 25 with the theme being the carnival. The day will start out with a talent show run by Mr. Biessel and Mrs. Eshbach and will then continue with outside/inside activities. There will be a bounce obstacle course, farm animals, games and many snack stations. In addition, there will be sports tournaments inside and outside.

In addition to the Student Council events, there are other large plans coming together. The Wilderness Club will be going on their annual riverfloat in the beginning of May. The music department is heavily planning for their spring concerts and their production of the play, *Into The Woods*. Spring sports are set to shortly start and there is much excitement because spring sports typically draw in a large amount of student support. The National Honor Society inductions will also be occurring at the end of the year. About 20 students will be inducted into the NHS while the 2017-2018 members get ready to head off to college.

By the time May Day reaches the school, there will only be two weeks until the senior class of 2018 will be putting their finishing touches on their schoolwork before graduating. Graduation is on June 8 and will start at 6 o'clock p.m. As Easter break finishes the school year will fly by in a couple of months. The activities planned will make the school year go even faster and before we know it, students will be saying goodbye to another school year.



Parkland school shooting strikes a new fear in students

Kiana Wright - 12

In only two months into the new year, there has been already 18 shootings at school. The most recent school shooting in Parkland, Florida left 17 dead and many more injured. The shooting took place on February 14, 2018 right before the last bell of the day sounded. Nikolas Cruz who was 19 years of age and 5'7" in stature opened fire on Parkland High School. "At 2:19 p.m. a gold-colored Uber vehicle dropped him off at the school he once attended. A school employee recognized him." Cruz had been recently expelled for disciplinary actions and in his return he brought along with him a .223 caliber AR-15 rifle that was concealed in a black case.

Cruz entered the building from the east stairwell and fired his first shots into four classrooms. He then continued down the hall and up the west stairwell to the second floor. In this hall he walked down to room 1234 and shot one victim. After this he continued up the east stairwell to the third floor and dropped his backpack and rifle and then ran down the stairs to exit the building. At some point Cruz activated the fire drill with the intent of getting as many students out of their classrooms as possible. Many students were sending frantic texts to their parents and announcing their love, sadness and fear. One student said, "If I don't make it I love you and I appreciated everything you did for me."

In response to the recent school shootings, there has been an announcement made by students across the country through Twitter. Students are calling for a national school walk out to demonstrate their anger towards the relaxed gun control violence. Students are finally taking a stand for what they believe in after one too many school shootings.

Hamburg High practices at least twice a school year in what is called an "active shooter drill". The principal comes over the loudspeaker and announces that there is an active shooter in the building. Students are either told to lock their door and bombard the entrance and stay hidden if the shooter is near. If students are able to get out they are told to exit the building and run to the middle school. In both cases, the students are told that they should have a plan to fight back. Mr. Spohn says, "Since about three years ago, the police and government announced that school's should have the plan to Run, Hide, Fight and that motto has spread and become what Hamburg uses".

Along with the drills that directly involve the students, the local police have met with Hamburg faculty and staff to train them on what they should do in case of an active shooter. The main theme that was conveyed was that no matter where the shooter is, any student should be ready to leave if they can and if they cannot they hide and prepare to fight. In case this situation were to every occur in Hamburg, the police have drew up maps of the school and color coded locations so that they can reach and infiltrate the certain locations where students are or were the shooter is.

According to Safe School, there are no mandated amounts of active shooter drills, however they recommend that schools practice at least once.

Even though many schools will never have to witness a school shooting, there are still occurrences of it. It only makes sense to prepare for the worst so that if in the event of an active shooter, the student body and staff is ready to fight back and protect themselves.

For more information on the Parkland shooting: <https://www.cnn.com>

Danielle Tucker plans for life after school

Erik Shinton - 11

Danielle Tucker, or Dani, is a 11th grade student at Hamburg Area High School. In school, her favorite subject is Mathematics, while her electives consist of Astronomy, Psychology, and Sociology. Last year, she entered Forensics 1, a fun class, and she states that she wants to take Forensics 2 in the future. She really likes to understand different things, which lead to her decisions for her electives. She does not do extracurriculars currently, but she wants to, either rejoining Color Guard or another activity.

As the end of the school year is closing in quickly, she says that she is looking forward to becoming a senior. Dani says, "It's almost surreal that I'll finally be the high man on the totem pole and I'm looking forward to it." While she is not nervous about being a senior, she is just excited to be one step closer to being finished with high school and joining the world.

In Danielle's free time, she spends time coloring, drawing, or taking naps, as most teenagers do. She says that her drawing and coloring hobbies never really influenced her electives. Dani answers, "Surprisingly no, because no matter how much I love art, I know I wouldn't do well and my grades wouldn't be as good as I would like them to be." Other than drawing and coloring, she loves her music and to dance, though she says she isn't a very good dancer.

After school, Danielle wants to enter a trade school and go into the workforce. She hopes to join the construction field but, more specifically, masonry. Though she has thought about masonry, she says that she doesn't want to go to Berks Career and Technology Center to study masonry or construction, as it will interfere with her classes at the high school. Danielle is also happy to leave school for more freedom, while not being forced to wake up at six in the morning.



Mrs. Palerino steps up into 11th grade English

Jasmin Modricker - 11

This school year, 2017-2018, Mrs. Stephanie Palerino moved from teaching 9th grade English to teaching 11th grade English. She taught this group of students now twice, in 9th grade when the students were freshman and now again as juniors. Mrs. Palerino gets along with the students very well and since she has already dealt with them before.

The 11th grade curriculum was rewritten and Mr. Spohn asked Mrs. Palerino to consider moving grades in order to update the system. Since she taught for nine to ten years, she was ready for that change. Mrs. Palerino is on the verge of liking 9th or 11th grade more because there are positives to both. In 9th grade, she watched students grow academically throughout the school year; however, in 11th grade the students are more mature and can discuss more in depth concepts. She has taught English for 18 years and this is her 11th year teaching at Hamburg Area High School.

In Mrs. Palerino's free time, she is usually very busy driving her two children to activities and if she is not doing that, she is reading a good book or watching a movie. She enjoys reading, watching movies, and gardening are her favorite hobbies outside of school. Mrs. Palerino's daughter is named Callie, who is 11 and in 6th grade, and her son is Connor who is 9 and in 3rd grade. She has numerous funny stories about her children and usually likes to share her stories in class if there is extra time.

Usually, Mrs. Palerino enjoys teaching students in English at the high school. She likes getting to know her students and watches them grow into scholars and young adults. She tries to remember the amount of impact she hopes to have on their lives when they are in tough times. Teaching in the school she went to as a teenager was hard to transition into, but she is now comfortable with it. Mrs. Palerino sees her former teachers as colleagues now and occasionally they will make jokes about having her as a student. Originally, she wanted to be a marine biologist, but sophomore year in college, she switched her major to education. Mrs. Palerino now plans in the future to finish her doctorate in Education and teach at a college.

*Prom Friday, May 18th 6-10 pm
Inn at Reading
Ticket Sales \$45 March 26-29
during lunches*

Celebrating St. Patrick's Day around the world

Alyssa Marzili – 12

St. Patrick's Day may be a celebration originating in Ireland, but it has spread all over the world. At various points throughout history, the Irish migrated to different parts of the world for different reasons. When they began their settlements, they brought their traditions with them.

In America, there are many huge parades around the country including Philadelphia. Chicago is known for dyeing the Chicago River green every year on St. Patrick's Day. The color only remains for a few hours as it gradually it fades away. Almost anywhere in the world on March 17, people wear green to celebrate the traditional Irish holiday. Even here at the Hamburg Area High School, the students and staff wear their clovers and green attire.

On the opposite side of the world in Australia, they too celebrate St. Patrick's Day. Some businesses there serve traditional Irish cuisine for either breakfast or lunch. Between 1840 and 1914, many Irish began settlements in Australia and now today about 30% of the Australians have Irish in their heritage. As a result, they celebrate St. Patrick's Day to extremes like with large parades. Australia celebrates to remember and sort of honor those immigrants that came there so many years before; as compared to the actual Irish reason. The Sydney Opera House, lights up green as a way to celebrate as well.

Likewise at, the Colosseum in Rome, Italy shines green also. In Rome, annually, a Celtic Ball is held at one of the local hotels. Rome being historically and presently Roman Catholic, celebrate St. Patrick's Day as it always was meant for, a religious holiday. They have several masses throughout the day and they celebrate what St. Patrick had done for Ireland. As much of the world, Rome does like to have fun and games on St. Patrick's Day, but they also focus on the true purpose of the day and have many activities based around religion.

Once again, China as well makes their Great Wall glow in green on March 17. They do host parades as nearly everywhere as a way to celebrate. However, they celebrate more so to show support for Irish and Chinese ties. Surprisingly in Beijing there are about 500 Irish living there and so celebrating that group on St. Patrick's Day, is an important part for China.

The Irish loved immigrating to various places, and France was no exception. Today it is believed to be about a total of 15,000 Irish are living there. Paris, the capital, does not have a huge parade as many other countries do, yet they light their buildings in green. They do have several famous monuments and structures around the city, and shine green on most of them; such as Moulin Rouge, Sacre Coeur Basilica, and others as well.

From basically all corners of the globe, people celebrate St. Patrick's Day, even though it has different meanings to different countries. Even here in small town Hamburg, people decorate and celebrate St. Patrick's Day, even if it means simply wearing green.

For more information visit: <https://www.choosechicago.com/> or <https://www.timeanddate.com/> or <http://www.steensenvarming.com/> or <https://www.wantedinrome.com/> or <http://en.people.cn/> or <http://st-patricks-day.com/> or <https://www.irishtimes.com/> or <https://www.thelocal.fr/> or <https://www.tripsavvy.com/>

Caitlyn Smith - *Starfire* album review

Grant Doklan - 9

Caitlyn Smith is an American singer-songwriter whose debut Album, *Starfire*, was released January 9, 2018. According to Wikipedia, she was raised in Cannon Falls, Minnesota, which explains her acoustic, Americana sound. She rose to the spotlight through songwriting for Meghan Trainor and duets with megastars John Legend and Dolly Parton.

Starfire starts out on the hopeful track *Before You Called Me Baby*, where Smith sings about the flavor her lover brings to her life. Immediately thereafter, *Do You Think About Me* suggests a breakup that this album builds its foundation upon with themes of misplacement and fragility.

The title track, *Starfire*, follows and leans more toward the pop genre and as a result falls a little flat. There are moments that really pop on this album because of Smith's wonderful detail in her songwriting, which *Starfire* lacks. A good example being the following track *East Side Restaurant* in which Smith shares intimate details of throwing herself headfirst into a relationship, only to have said fling leave her. Smith is left, "wondering what went wrong in an East Side Restaurant."

The album from henceforth lends itself to the feelings of abandonment and worthlessness Smith felt at the time. Next comes *Don't Give Up On My Love* and *This Town Is Killing Me* which both see Smith lonely and not knowing where she is going. Logically, this leads into *St. Paul* and eventually *Tacoma* where Smith decides to literally run away from her problems and drive all the way from Nashville to Tacoma to escape the hurt she feels when thinking about her ex.

Smith's loneliness eventually leads her to a bar where she writes *Scenes from a Corner Booth at Closing Time on a Tuesday*, which is a wonderfully detailed track about the people Smith observes around the bar. She writes about a man who, depending on interpretation, is cheating on his wife with another woman who bursts in the bar about half way through the song. With a longer track like this, Smith's talent shows through in that she is able to keep the attention of the listener through her clever story-like approach.

After a long string of heavy tracks, *Contact High* comes in to lighten the mood. It is a mindless, fun, pop-leaning song, but unlike *Starfire*, it hits at the correct places and does not feel flat. *House of Cards* is next and shows Smith being very self-aware about her emotions. She is acknowledging that she is fragile and breaks easily, but she interestingly shifts the narrative and is speaking directly to people like her. After *Scenes from a Corner Booth at Closing Time on a Tuesday*, Smith shifts the writing to be less isolating and about herself and more all-encompassing. Little details like that are what makes this album so moving. Seeing a person grow and adapt in less than an hour through a musical journey is truly amazing, and that is what *Starfire* delivers.

Closing out the album is *Cheap Date*. Smith details how she does not want to be pampered or taken fancy places and that she is fine with takeout and a night in. This song grounds the character Smith plays throughout the album and makes it more relatable to an audience of ordinary people. *Starfire* as a whole is a beautiful story about a person acknowledging and tackling their feelings to become a better person.

Leighann Gesicki listened to a few songs off of *Starfire* and while she said she "would not listen to them on her own" she said they were, "not bad songs." Alex Baum had similar comments. She liked the acoustic drums and guitars present on the tracks, but was not interested enough to give the whole album a listen.

For more information on *Starfire* and Caitlyn Smith, visit https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caitlyn_Smith



Kyra Neff shows her artist side

Jennifer Hoshauer – 12

Kyra Neff, a senior, has loved art for as long as she can remember. Throughout all of her years of being an artist, she has extended her creativity. She works with clay, glass, paint and the basic drawing tools and supplies.

She does not have a favorite artist but she likes to see young artists doing what they love and how much talent someone they have.

Neff loves to visit art museums because they are calming to her. Her favorite thing is observing people who are observing the art. She has been to many art museums in Philadelphia and Seattle, Washington.

This year she is taking two art classes: Advanced Placement Studio Art and Ceramics 3D. In these classes she makes a variety of art in both classes including bettering her Photography skills.

Neff has entered a Fast Lane contest in the past which is a drawing created and if it is chosen to win it goes onto a billboard in Berks County.

Art classes are open to anyone in the high school from ninth grade to twelfth grade. These classes are for students interested in art and gives them a chance to show their art work to the community.

They are all a full year class so that is 1.0 credits. The different kind of art classes are Ceramics and 3D Design grades 9-12, Advanced Ceramics 3D Design grades 10-12, Drawing grades 9-12, Painting 9-12, Studio Art grades 10-12, Advance Placement Studio Art grades 11-12,

For more information: <https://www.hasdhawks.org/domain/187>, or talk to Mrs. Dommel

Starting spring cleaning for students

Carly Levan – 12

Although spring does not officially start until March 20, the warmer temperatures are signaling the changing of the seasons. As we all know, spring is the best time to catch up on cleaning and to get rid of clutter. This is also an important task for students as folders fill up and lockers get messy.

One way to get more organized is to go through loose paperwork and either recycle what is no longer needed or to file it away in a binder for future use. For many of the messier students this means dedicating an afternoon after school to sort through the giant pile of papers at the bottom of their locker. Or students with tighter schedules can take a couple things home at a time instead of tackling the whole thing.

This is also a good time to get a handle of computer clutter. Many students tend to save things on their desktop without backing it up on a flash drive. Now is the time to sort through old files and delete what is no longer needed to leave room for new projects. It is also a good idea to go through old bookmarks from finished projects and getting rid of what is no longer needed.

Outside of school students should also take the time to organize their room and their closet. Many students are guilty of neglecting cleaning their room over the winter when assignments pile up and free time is sparse. Cleaning out old winter clothes can be cathartic as it brings hope for warmer days. These clothes can either be stored for next year or it would be beneficial to someone in need to donate the clothes to a local shelter or to the Hamburg Salvation Army.



Choosing a possible major

Ashley Lojko - 12

College is a possibility for many students as they leave high school. However, the pressure of choosing one major can be daunting and even impossible. Though each student has the ability to change what he or she chooses, it is still helpful to have an idea of which direction to go.

Picking a major is not setting a certain future in concrete. Many students change their major throughout their college experience, and it is normal as well for some students to go into their first year undecided. Students that will go on to take more than four years of school probably changed their major at least once over the many years they had been in school. Most of the time, colleges make the students declare a major by their sophomore year, so students are given time to make this decision while in college as well.

In high school, preparing to choose a major is not integral but also an important aspect to think about. Majors could be chosen in line with a specific career. Depending on the future desired, that may pick the major itself. Along that line, money made from that major may be important as well to be able to pay for school. Choosing a major that will lead to a good-paying job could be a concern. However, the student should also choose a major based on their interests, so they will enjoy the classes they take. Being undecided will leave room for exploring new and interesting pathways, which may be more beneficial in the long run.

For more information on picking a major, visit <https://www.princetonreview.com/college-advice/choosing-college-majors>

