The Newsletter of the Binghamton High School Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA)
31 Main Street, Binghamton, NY 13905

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Binghamton Highlights Staff:
Emily Rantanen
Sandy Jones Sickels
**Binghamton High School Calendar**  
*February / March 2008*

**February**
- February 1  Rod Serling Video Festival at First Friday – Christ Episcopal Church, 6-9 pm
- February 2  Financial Aid Workshop, Titchenor Hall, BCC, 10 am
- February 11  Booster Club – Patriot Hall, 7:30 pm
- February 18–22  School Closed for Mid-Winter Recess
- February 21  PTSA meeting – Patriot Hall, 7 pm
- February 26  Board of Education – Columbus, 7 pm
- February 29–March 1  BCMEA Festival I, 7-9 Chorus, 10-12 Band, Chenango Forks/Anderson Center

**March**
- March 1  SAT – BHS, 7:45 am
- March 7–8  BCMEA Festival II, 7-9 Band, 10-12 Orchestra, 10-12 Jazz Band – Chenango Valley/Anderson Center
- March 7–8  BHS Musical, “Cabaret” – Helen Foley Theatre, 7:30 pm
- March 8–9  Dollars for Scholars Phonathon
- March 9  Daylight Savings begins – set clocks ahead one hour
- March 9  BHS Musical, “Cabaret” – Helen Foley Theatre, 2 pm
- March 10  Booster Club – Patriot Hall, 7:30 pm
- March 14–15  BCMEA Festival III, 7-9 Orchestra, 10-12 Chorus, Binghamton CSD/Anderson Center
- March 18  BHS Prism Concert – Helen Foley Theatre, 7 pm
- March 18  Board of Education – Columbus, 7 pm
- March 20–24  School Closed for Mid-Spring Recess
- March 29  NYS Day of Percussion – BHS

**Newsletter submissions welcome.**

The Binghamton Highlights newsletter is published five times during the school year. The newsletter is for parents, students, and staff at BHS. In each issue, you’ll find a calendar of upcoming events, information about classes and test dates, student and staff accomplishments. Please share your news! Let us hear about your classroom happenings, fundraising projects, club activities, musical performances, athletic schedules, awards, etc. Photographs are also welcome. Send submissions to Sandy Jones Sickels at sdssickels@aol.com or Emily Rantanen at rantanee@binghamtonschools.org. Send print submissions to Emily at the BHS main office.

The deadlines for forthcoming issues are March 15, 2008 for the April/May issue, and May 15, 2008 for the June/July issue.
PTSA Meeting Notes

PTSA Meeting Highlights, January 17

The PTSA is selling tickets for a raffle based upon the nightly New York State 3 Numbers’ drawing. Monies and ticket stubs should be returned to Janet McHenry. A check from the Wal-Mart Foundation and Sam’s Club was received with $1,500 going to the stage and jazz bands and $500 to the PTSA.

It was reported that February 25 is PTA Founders’ Day. It’s a great time for everyone to meet at this take-a-dish meeting.

Carole Rosen mentioned that she and Betsy Carlin are recruiting students and parents for the Binghamton Dollars for Scholars Phonothon on March 8-9, 2008. Last year $20,000 was given out in scholarships.

The next meeting was scheduled for February 21 at 7:00pm in Patriot Hall. This date falls during the week off. Janet McHenry will check with President Peak about whether or not a meeting will be held. The PTSA did not meet during February last year. The counselors who were scheduled to come will be contacted.

Principal’s Report

Associate Principal Marty Klein covered the Planning Ahead schedule for January 2008. He noted the S.A.A.M.S. meeting with BHS administration and counselors. The group meets to discuss cohorts, the students involved, and their achievement or lack thereof. There is a lot of mobility within the four years. BHS is trying to keep track of the movement.

Special Presentation

Lynne Beautz and Betsy Williams gave a presentation on the College Connection program. Started in 1991, the program assists parents and students in a variety of ways. There are meetings (such as financial aid), events (such as college field trips), tests (such as SAT, PSAT, and ACT), financial aid assistance (Nadia, a financial aid consultant, is available three times a week), scholarship help, and access to information via the website at www.binghamtonschools.org (and then go to Binghamton High School and then The College Connection). It was stressed that parents and students need to check transcripts for both weighted and unweighted grades. Transcripts can be found by contacting Donna Tucker. A number of handouts were given to all there. They included Guide to Federal Student Aid/2007-08; Affording College, 2007 Edition; The College Connection workbook; The College Dream: A Guide for Parents; SUNY Admission Information Summaries, 2007; and Go Online to Register for the SAT. Pick up copies at The Collection Connection.

The Musical Cabaret to be Performed at BHS

Wilkommen, Bienvenue, Welcome, To Cabaret, Au Cabaret, Im Cabaret …

The Rod Serling School of the Arts will present Cabaret by Joe Masteroff with music and lyrics by John Kander and Fred Ebb, Friday, March 7 and 8 at 7:30 PM and Sunday, March 9 at 2:00 PM at the Helen Foley Theatre at Binghamton High School.

Set in a fictional Berlin nightclub called the Kit Kat Klub, Cabaret follows the years between World War I and World War II. Based on The Berlin Novels by Christopher Isherwood, Cabaret tells the story of Sally Bowles, a singer at the famed Kit Kat Klub, and her relationship with the straight-edged American writer Clifford Bradshaw, a character loosely based on Isherwood himself. Their exploits in the boarding house of Fraulein Schneider, an older German woman who has fallen in love with the fruit-seller Herr Schultz, form the basis for the play. The performance at the Kit Kat Klub parallels the political climate of the time.

He mentioned that “Life after High School” was quite successful on January 8.

Saturday School meets on January 19. There are about 60 students set to focus on the upcoming Regents’ exams. Many of the students are taking the test(s) over.

School will be closed on Monday, January 21, for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and the rest of the week for exams. Five classes each day for Gym class make-ups will be held on Tuesday and Thursday next week for seniors only.

Tickets are $8.00 general Admission and $6.00 Senior Citizen / Students. BCSD Gold Passes will be honored at all performances. Tickets may be purchased at the door one hour prior to each performance or may be reserved by calling 607-762-8230.

CABARET is produced by special arrangement with Tams-Whitmark Music Library, Inc.
**Cure Your Winter Blues With BHS Style**

Cold head? Need some color in your life? The Junior Class has a stylish solution for both these needs. There are still bright red Class of 09 t-shirts available for the low price of $10 (medium and large only), and to top off the ensemble, a blue BHS hat, also $10. If you are interested, contact a class officer, Mrs. Bird or Ms. Koyanagi. All proceeds go to the Junior Class.

**Hip Hop/Step Dance Team Stepping Out**

TAZAMA, the newly named BHS dance team (step and hip hop), is halfway through its second year. Choreographers Lilly MacAvoy and Quale Lewis and the rest of the team have been working hard in practices two to four times a week since September. The first performance of the year was on Monday, January 21 at the Atrium in City Hall at the Martin Luther King Jr. birthday celebration. If you are interested in booking the team to perform at any event, contact Ms. Koyanagi at BHS.

The team is fundraising for a team uniform and is selling discount cards. With a Tazama discount card, it will cost you less to frequent local eateries such as KFC or Pizza Hut, to entertain yourself at Skate Estate, to have your clothes drycleaned, to get your oil changed, and much more. You can use these cards over and over until the end of 2008! See any team member or Ms. Koyanagi to order a card. All proceeds will aid in the outfitting of the team.

**Buy Yourself Some Luck and Help Jerry’s Kids Too**

Attention BHS students, faculty, and parents: The Binghamton High School Honor Society will be selling shamrocks for Jerry’s Kids, the Muscular Dystrophy Association’s campaign to raise money for children with muscular dystrophy. Green and gold shamrocks can be bought for $1 and $5, respectively. When someone gives a one or five dollar donation, his or her name is written on the appropriate colored shamrock, and the shamrock is put up on the wall for all of BHS to see. We hope to cover the walls of BHS with these shamrocks before St. Patrick’s Day! The shamrocks will be sold at home basketball games and at lunch time in the Commons. Jeffrey Shevach and Tyler Hall are the students managing the project.

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**Binghamton Dollars for Scholars Making Dreams Come True**

On March 8 & 9, when you see “BINGHAMTON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT” on your caller ID, PLEASE! answer the phone, it’s DOLLARS FOR SCHOLARS calling!

On March 8 and 9, Binghamton High School students will be calling families with children in the Binghamton City School District asking for donations to benefit the Binghamton Dollars for Scholars program.

“What if I’m not home on those days?”

Students will be calling again on the evenings of March 11 & 12, but you don’t have to wait. Call us! Simply call the College Connection at 762-8327 between now and March 12 and make your pledge to support this valuable scholarship program.

BHS students: Do you want to help raise money for scholarships? Come to The College Connection to sign up to “work the phones” on March 8 & 9.

Parents want to help make a “Dream Come True” for a student looking to go to college? Adult volunteers are needed to help at the phone-a-thon. Call 762-8327.

Seniors: Be sure to apply for a Dollars for Scholars scholarship. Last year $20,000 was awarded in $500 scholarships in three divisions: A students, B students and C students.

Binghamton Dollars for Scholars is a chapter of the National Dollars for Scholars organization. Staffed only by parent and community volunteers and students, we are dedicated to helping Binghamton High School students realize their dreams of higher education. All donations to the Binghamton Dollars for Scholars program are tax-deductible, are acknowledged in writing, and stay local to benefit City of Binghamton students.
**IMPORTANT TEST DATES**

**SAT Testing Dates**

To register for the SAT, stop by the College Connection (B100) or the guidance office to pick up a registration form, or register online with a major credit card at www.CollegeBoard.com. The fee for the SAT is $41.50; see your counselor to find out if you are eligible for a fee waiver. Register early to avoid the $21.50 late registration fee.

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<td>June 7, 2008</td>
<td>SAT &amp; Subject Tests</td>
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**ACT Testing Dates**

The ACT is offered at Broome Community College. To register visit www.actstudent.org. The basic registration fee is $29.00, which includes reports for you, your high school and up to four colleges requested at registration. The optional Writing Test costs $14.00, which is refundable if you are absent on test day or you remove the Writing Test option before you begin testing. The late registration fee is $19.00.

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<td>March 8–21, 2008</td>
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**Help Make Senior Nite a Success!**

Dear Parent of a BHS Senior:

Although the school year has just begun, before we know it, our children will be planning for their prom. It is a tradition at Binghamton HS that the parents of seniors organize the chemical-free party (“Senior Nite”) that runs from immediately after the prom until 5 AM. There is no charge for students to attend this event; they may participate whether they attend the prom or not.

In order to make this event a success, we need ALL senior parents to participate in some way.

Please complete the form below and return it to: Toni LaSorte, 3 West End Ave., Binghamton, NY 13905
If you have any questions, please call Toni at 797-6918

YES, you can count on me to help make my child’s post-prom party a success!

I will gladly: ____ Serve on the planning committee  ____ Help on the night of the prom, June 6, 2008  ____ Enclose a donation to help cover costs of food, entertainment and prizes

(Please make checks payable to BHS Senior Nite)

Name __________________________
Address __________________________
Phone __________________________
Catch the Award-Winning Short Films from the Rod Serling Video Festival

The Rod Serling Video Festival will present an evening of student-produced award-winning short films from the 2007 Rod Serling Video Festival as part of the First Friday Celebration on Friday, February 1, 2008 at the Christ Episcopal Church located behind the Metro-Center in Downtown Binghamton. The screenings will take place from 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM. Refreshments will be available for sale during the screening to benefit the church.

The Rod Serling Video Festival was started in 1995 as a way to promote the creative use of video technology in both the home and the classroom. Over the years we have received thousands of videos produced by students ages kindergarten through grade 12 from across New York State. The videos are as diverse as the young filmmakers who produce them. Whether it is a comedy, drama, or animated work one thing you can be sure of... you will be both inspired and amazed at the quality of work being performed by these young people.

The Rod Serling Video Festival is thrilled to join with the Gorgeous Washington Street Association to support the growing art scene in downtown Binghamton.

Festival Sponsors are: Time Warner Cable, Hollywood Video, Knucklehead Embroidery, Unicorn Electronics, and WSKG Public Television.

Students Visit France

Fourteen BHS students and French teacher Judy Wetsig traveled to France in November. They spent ten days in Digne-les-Bains, a small city in Haute Provence, a mountainous region in the south of France. In April of 2007 these same students hosted nineteen high school age students from Digne, who returned the favor this time. While the weather was colder than expected, the rediscovered friendships were warm and the local sights beautiful.

The group arrived in Marseille and was met by the host families on November 11. On the 12th everyone attended school with their host students and/or teachers at the Lycée Sacré Coeur. The next day the American students traveled to see the spectacular Gorge du Verdon and the medieval village of Moustiers-Ste-Marie. On Wednesday, November 14, the group received a guided tour of Digne-les-Bains and learned the history of the city and surrounding area. hat afternoon they were warmly welcomed at a reception given by the mayor. Thursday morning was spent in the beautiful seaside village of Cassis and on a cruise in the Mediterranean Sea to see the unusual nearby cliff formations. Friday they were off to Avignon for a tour of the Popes’ Palace and some shopping time in the walled city. After a weekend spent with the host families, it was back to school on Monday and a farewell dinner that evening. On Tuesday, November 20, the group boarded the TGV (despite a week long rail worker strike!) and headed to Paris after tearful goodbyes at Sacré Coeur.

Paris was, as always, beautiful and the weather was perfect. The highlight of our Paris stay was our three course dinner at Altitude 95, a restaurant on the Eiffel Tower.

Students Travel to Peru

Thirteen BHS students and two Spanish instructors visited Peru in early December. The trip was the completion of an exchange between the Hiram Bingham IB School in Lima, Peru, and BHS. Binghamton High School had hosted 12 Hiram Bingham students this past February. The students and staff would like to acknowledge and thank all those who sponsored this very unique and educational endeavor.
Words of Wisdom . . .

“If you do not apply for any scholarships, you probably will not get any. If you apply for lots of scholarships, you may get some.”

Sounds pretty obvious, doesn’t it? Obvious or not, some scholarships go by with only one or two students applying. Students should apply for any, and all, scholarships in which they might qualify.

Nadia = Help with FAFSA

Need help with the FAFSA (Free Application For Federal Student Aid) financial aid forms? Help is here in the name of “Nadia”. Nadia is a financial aid expert from Binghamton University’s Educational Talent Search. She will be in The College Connection every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. To make an appointment, students should go to The College Connection and parents should call 762-8327. Remember the earlier you apply for financial aid the better your chances are of getting a good financial aid package.

The Big 3 – What to Do to Get the Money

1. For Federal, NYS and Institutional (college) money - fill out the FAFSA form. Sign up on line at www.fafsa.ed.gov or go to the College Connection and sign up to see Nadia.
2. For BHS and local scholarships – go to the College Connection and check the “Blue Scholarship Book”. Also ask at any community organizations in which you are involved.
3. For National Scholarships – go to www.fastweb.com

Financial Aid Workshop

FEBRUARY 2, 2008 is SUNY Statewide Financial Aid Day. A financial aid workshop will be held at BCC at 10:00 AM in Titchenor Hall. For more information, call Judy Watson at BCC 778-5374 or go to www.sunybroome.edu and look for “Need money for college . . .State Wide Financial Aid.”

ESOL Students Cook a Traditional Thanksgiving Dinner

On Thursday, November 15, Miss Rantanen’s ESOL classes prepared and enjoyed a traditional Thanksgiving dinner. Students prepared everything from scratch, from the turkey to the pumpkin pie. This is the fifth year that the classes have participated in the event, which was shared with the students’ friends, teachers, and administrators. This was the first Thanksgiving experience for some of the attendees, and for many, also their first true venture into cooking.
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<td>President</td>
<td>Rev. Robert Peak</td>
<td>797–1195</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mtpeak87@stny.rr.com">mtpeak87@stny.rr.com</a></td>
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