

BHS 2012-13 Spring Activities Reports

Spring Musical: Director Tracy Hagstrom Durant (21 years)

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee

Music by Rachel Sheinkin, Lyrics by William Finn and book by Rachel Sheinkin and additional material by Jay Reiss.

The Tony Award winning *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* was based upon *C-R-E-P-U-S-C-U-L-E*, an original improvisational play created by Rebecca Feldman.

Music Director: Michael Walsh

Choreographer: Debb Bestland

Tech Director: Greg Bestland and Tim Kiernan

Asst. Tech Director and Lighting Designer: Greg Bestland

Student Tech Director: Grace Walker (Sophomore)

Costumer: Erica Hoops (Junior) assisted by LeAnn Miller and Carlene Raitor (Parent Volunteers)

Musical Synopsis:

Six young people in the throes of puberty, overseen by grown-ups who barely managed to escape childhood themselves, learn that winning isn't everything and that losing doesn't necessarily make you a loser.

THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE is a hilarious tale of overachievers' angst chronicling the experience of six adolescent outsiders vying for the spelling championship of a lifetime. The show's Tony Award winning creative team has created the unlikeliest of hit musicals about the unlikeliest of heroes: a quirky yet charming cast of outsiders for whom a spelling bee is the one place where they can stand out and fit in at the same time.

Performances were April 18, 19 and 20 at 7:30 pm and April 21 at 2:00 pm. Tickets were available in the high school office and at Gartner's Hallmark at a cost of \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for students and senior citizens; they were also available at the door. This year we featured a cast of 21 high school students in our production, along with another 30+ students involved in various crews, lighting/sound booth, and pit orchestra positions. It was a quirky musical that explored very real (both painful and delightful) situations in the lives of children.

The show was a huge hit, both heartfelt and entertaining. Crowd size was excellent, even though we lost a performance due to a snow day. Again, learning took place.

Girls Softball: Coach Brad Zrust (9 years)

I was very proud of how our girls managed a tough spring. We probably had twice as many practices indoors than outdoors this year, yet every day the players came to those indoor practices with a very positive attitude. I attribute this attitude to the type of players we were able to coach this year. They were outstanding on and off the field. As a coach this makes our job much easier knowing we will only have game concerns about the team we are playing. As for games, we finished first in the conference with a 7-3 record and we were 12-8 overall. In the playoffs, we went 2-2 and made a pretty favorable showing. In closing, I always believe that athletics build character and the will not to quit. This season in battling teams and weather, a lot of character was built.

Baseball: Coach Mike Beilke (10 years)

The Bison finished the year with an overall record of 7-10-1, and a conference record of 5-5. One of the highlights of the year was a five game winning streak. We had 6 players receive conference awards. Senior SS Jared Wycoff, Senior 3B Brennan Gilyard, and Senior P/CF Jason Senger were named to the All-Conference Team. Senior SS Jared Wycoff was named Mississippi 8 Defensive Player of the Year. Senior OF Eric Nelson, Junior 1B Jay Bolum, and Junior P/3B/OF Mitch Annis received Honorable Mention All-Conference. We are very excited about the players we have returning for next season. We will have seven starting position players and three starting pitchers returning. Go Bison!!!

Boys Golf: Coach Charley Keifenheim (14 years)

Our numbers were up this spring with 22 boys trying out for the team. We struggled trying to find quality indoor practice ideas with the extended winter like all the other teams. We received a nice hitting net as a donation from Geisha Holland and it would be nice to have a place to use it for next spring (this would really have come in handy this year!). When we did finally hit the links, we had to do so without our #1 golfer (Hunter Bruhn) who had fractured two vertebrae in hockey. Even without Hunter, we had some good outings and placed 3rd in conference (1 point away from 2nd). With Hunter finally back in the line-up for the last week of the season we were a much stronger team and we hope to compete well in the Section 8 AAA tournament next week. Gunnar Goodmanson received all-conference honors and Jake Ramsey was honorable mention.

Girls Golf: Coach Riti Sanderson (23 years)

2012 was the best weather we had ever witnessed, but 2013 was the worst weather ever since I started coaching. Despite the weather, we only missed 2 invitational matches.

2013 was another successful year for the girls golf team at BHS. Sixteen girls participated in Varsity and JV matches for the Mississippi 8 Conference, 5 Varsity invites were scheduled and 2 were lost to weather. We also had one JV Invite. Once again we were the M8 Champions. That makes 9 years in a row, the last 8 years in the M8 and our final year in the old North Suburban Conference. This year we dominated by finishing first at every conference match. All

Conference honors were awarded to juniors Lexi Bollant, Lauren Schultz, and sophomores Madi Jewel and Kirsten Olson. All academic honors were awarded to Bollant, Schultz, Jewel, senior Laura Dirks, and 8th grader Jordan Wurm. During the section tournament, Buffalo was one of the 4 top teams advancing to the second day to then determine a section champion. The Bison ended up in 2nd place. Both Bollant and Jewel earned the honor to participate in the state meet as individuals. Jewel finished 5th and Bollant finished 6th. Since 2004, this was the 10th visit to state with at least one Bison Girls golfer competing. In 2007, the Bison advanced as a team. The Bison were ranked 4th most of the year by the MN Golf Coaches Association. Individually, Lexi also was ranked 4th most of the year. Bollant ended up in 8th place (76/77) at the state meet. Jewel ended up in 15th (79/81). The future looks bright for the team with only 1 senior graduating. Our section team included the above all conference players, 8th grader Jordan Wurm, and 7th grader Hanna Morin. Both of the younger girls scores were used in the team total of 4. That is a wrap up of yet another successful season for Bison Girls Golf.

Adapted Softball: Coaches Ruth Clarke (9 years) and Dave Kaufmann (6 years)

This was a great recruiting year. Our numbers were very low last year and we gained 8 new players, bringing our roster to 17. This brought on many new challenges as most of them were new to the game. The Bison finished with a 1-11 record. The team really improved as the season progressed. This year our captains were Rachel Schmidt and Tessia Silbernagel. Co-assistant captains were Lindsay Wahlstrom and Justin Philipps. Their positive leadership really helped to encourage the team and keep them focused. We have five seniors this year and we will greatly miss their leadership. Our goal has always been to keep improving; not only in the number of wins but also in our skills and playing together as a team. We see great potential in our new players and are really looking forward to next year.

Boys/Girls Track and Field: Scott Palmer (18 years)

The 2013 Track and Field campaign was marred with snow, rain and cold weather causing many cancellations of meets in April as well as in May. Despite the poor weather conditions, the Bison Track and Field athletes continued to shine. The girls team finished a strong third in the Mississippi 8 Conference behind perennial powers Monticello and STMA. The Bison girls came away from the Mississippi 8 conference meet with 11 all conference performers. One school record has fallen; Emily Spier broke her own record in the shot put throwing 41' 2". The boys team won the section 8AAA true team title for the second year in a row and went on to finish 8th at the state true team meet in mid May. A week later the boys were able to defend their conference title at the Mississippi 8 conference meet outdistancing STMA by sixty points to win their tenth conference title in a row and taking home fourteen all conference athletes. The Bison girls finished in 6th place in the 15 team section while the boys successfully defended their section 2AA title. For the girls team, Emily Spier was the lone representative at the state meet. Emily competed in the Shot Put and finished in fourth place. The boys sent fourteen to state covering 11 of 18 events. State place winners were as follows; Mitch Valli set a state meet record and came home with a state championship in the pole vault. The boys 4x200 broke a school record set in 2009 by running 1:28.90 finishing in 4th place. Relay members were Josh

Alden, Austin Youngs, Michael Swearingen and Tyler Olson. Seventh place finishes were turned in by Tyler Olson in the 400 and Austin Youngs in the 300 Hurdles. Placing ninth in the high jump was Jackson Schepp. Turning in good performances but not making it to finals were Austin Youngs in the 110 Hurdles, Tyler Olson in the 200, Bo Brallier in the 800, Dan Pettit in the 1600 and the 4x800 relay team of Bo Brallier, Jon Eastlund, Reed Morehouse and Michael Wegter, and the 4x400 relay team of Josh Alden, Michael Swearingen, Brandon Johnson, and Dan Pettit. The Bison Boys finished 11th in the State Meet.

Boys Lacrosse: Larry Hunter (2nd year)

Record: 7 Wins 6 Losses

The 2013 Buffalo Boys Lacrosse Team completed their 3rd season in the MSHSL with our first and only shutout in team history over St. Paul North and our first ever overtime win over Tartan at home. Though our record was an improvement over past years; I'm most proud of the improvement our athletes made in and out of the classroom. On a number of occasions I was approached by officiating crews, opposing coaches, and school administrators who expressed their appreciation for our player's sportsmanship, manners, and all around class. At Buffalo lacrosse our players have three responsibilities: Academics, Character, and Lacrosse. Our coaching staff firmly believes that success in lacrosse is directly related to high academic marks and the ongoing maintenance of a strong, moral character. Thanks for the opportunity to coach in your community.

Girls Lacrosse: Andrea Lund (3rd year)

We had an overall record of 1-10. We lost our section game to Anoka. Last year we lost our entire Varsity team. We had a few seasoned players and some of those players were injured early in the season. I had to pull up several brand new 9th graders to fill those positions. Like everyone, the weather did not help in the team gaining any field experience so we went right to games. With all that said, I am pleased with the young ladies of our team. We all bonded well together and everyone stepped it up. We will be stronger in the years to come as these fine young athletes gain more skill and knowledge about lacrosse. I am excited about next year to see how we improve. Go Bison!

Boys Tennis: Ben Watkins (2nd year)

The boys tennis team had a break-through year, as five seniors led the charge to the undisputed conference championship. Through ten conference matches (with seven individual matches in each), the Bison finished with a 10-0 conference record and a total match record of 66-4 in the conference! Two 5-2 wins vs. STMA were the only blemishes on this team's conference championship run. Our non-conference schedule was strengthened considerably from past years and we finished with an overall record of 16-8, including a 4-3 win over then top-10 ranked Shakopee.

The team was also one of few to earn the Academic Gold Award, with a team GPA between 3.75-4.0. We had two athletes earn Academic All-State, Kevin Zheng and Austin Brandes.

The season ended in the section semifinals against a very tough St. Cloud Tech team that would eventually win 7-0 in the finals to go to state. The team has progressed tremendously, but we still do not have the top flight talent, nor the depth to dethrone Tech in the section. In the season ending match, our doubles lineup was deliberately watered-down in order to try to win a few of the singles matches, and with our full doubles lineup, I believe we had the best doubles in the section.

Individually, it was disappointing not to send anyone through to state, but we had many athletes who had fantastic seasons. Out of the ten all-conference athletes, six were from Buffalo! On the first team, we had Seniors Chris Polzine, Andy Hartung, Adam Hartung, Ethan Fabel, and Austin Brandes, along with Sophomore Andrew Christenson. Junior Jordan Danielson was also named Honorable Mention All-Conference.

Playing #1 singles for most of the year, Captain Chris Polzine ended the year with a 20-8 overall record. He was also voted as our Most Valuable Player. Chris showed incredible improvement during the last two years and beat some really great players. He ended his career as the best singles player in the conference - quite an honor! At #1 doubles, the Hartung brothers, Andy and Adam, were the best doubles team in the conference and in the top-3 in the section. Andy finished the year with an overall record of 16-8 and Adam finished 17-7. Two of the best doubles players to play for Buffalo in recent history, they will be missed. Sophomore Andrew Christenson had a great year at #2 singles, with a record of 17-9 and big things will be expected of him in the future. Captain Austin Brandes paired with senior Ethan Fabel at #2 doubles and they really used their talents and athleticism to have a fabulous year as they each finished with 16 wins. Jordan Danielson really stepped up his game at #3 singles after a disappointing sophomore season and helped us in singles and doubles with 12 wins. #3 doubles was manned by inseparable Sophomores Jake Jungwirth and Ryan Bunting, two soccer players that played tennis for the first time their freshman year. Jake finished the year with the most doubles wins of any player on our team, with 19 and Ryan won 16 matches. Rounding out our regular lineup was Sophomore Cole Hanson at #4 singles. As a team, we struggled in 2012 to find a player who could win at #4 singles and Cole really solidified our team by winning 14 matches for us. Senior Kevin Zheng and Juniors Alex Haas and Austin Maffei also contributed to our successful season.

Chamber Strings: Director - Michael Knutson

Chamber Strings had a busy year with performances at 5 concerts including a collaborative concert with Buffalo Community Orchestra. They also participated in the local and Region 2AA Solo & Ensemble Contests and provided music for the Academic Excellence award ceremony on May 13.

Vocal Music: Director - Michael Walsh

- BHS Concert Choir performed in November at the American Choral Directors Association of Minnesota 50th Anniversary and Fall Conference. They were one of only three high school choirs selected to perform at the conference held at Bethel University and they commissioned a new work which they performed with the wRight Ringers Community Handbell Ensemble.
- Leif Nelson, Megan Shipley and Bryce Bishop performed as members of the All-State Choirs in February at Bethel Great Hall.
- For the twelfth straight year, Buffalo had a Music Listening Team selected for the State finals in January.
- 61 students participated in a total of 50 vocal events at the Region Solo and Ensemble Contest hosted at BHS in April earning 36 superior and 14 excellent ratings. Four of the six vocal judges selected BHS events as the best performance in their site.

Pegasus Literary Magazine2013: Advisor David Robinson (26th year)

Pegasus is in its 32nd year of publishing student writing and visual art. Technology has improved the quality of the publication thanks to the upgrades in the past few years in the BHM Print shop and the acquisition this year of a MacBook Air funded collaboratively by the English Department, Arts Magnet Program and BHS Co-Curricular Activities. About 60-70% of the writing published comes from the BHS Creative Writing and English classes. The remaining poetry, prose and art submissions come “over the transom” or by invitation, cajoling, and strong-arming.

Pegasus now has a Facebook page and is on its second year of maintaining a blog. Friend them at: [facebook.com/pages/Pegasus-Literary-Arts-Magazine](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Pegasus-Literary-Arts-Magazine).

This year’s core editors have as a strength, their ability to copy edit and suggest content revisions to improve unity, coherence and force when they meet with the student writers and conference on the selected submissions. They still need to work on keeping the Pegasus web presence updated.

This year’s staff includes Editor-In-Chief: Emma Hage; Managing Editors: Marissa Meyer and Erica Hoops; Layout/Design Editor: Lauren Faulhauber; Assistant Editors: Emily Hansen, Megan LaFond, Savannah Smith, Emma Groth, Miranda Haaland, Kahley Stammetz, Digory Anderson, Mickey Capps, Erica Walstad, Andrew Hage, Cameron Eller, Erin Jenanot, Emma Remillard. Liz Walker, and Wingsze Chan.

International Club: Advisor Nancy Einyck

International Club is an organization that helps bring international topics closer for all students at BHS. We help broaden horizons by interacting with exchange students and inviting them to share information about their home countries with traditional students. International Club also

leads after school opportunities for students to explore other cultures through activities like the International Cheese Tasting Party and the Festival of Nations.

Student Care Committee: Advisor Lynn Andrews
Krista Kern will take over the Advisor Position for 2013-2014

Activities for 2012-13:

Sept. - Organizing
Oct. - Coats for Kids Drive
Nov. - 4 TLCs + 2 TLCs/Attitude of Gratitude Posters
Dec. - TLC/\$10 Stevens at WTC
16 Christmas care pkgs 4 Random Acts of Kindness honored
Jan. - Care Packages for Families in Need, Rave week: cards for Connecticut
Feb. - Care Packages for Students, Valentine care packages for new students this semester
Mar. - Care Packages for Cultures United/Larkin, Egg Hunt, 8 Care Packages for Counselors
Apr. - 4 Sympathy Care Packages for Families, 1 First Aid Package
May. - Care Packages for teen moms at both Wright Tech Center and BHS

Business Professionals of America (BPA): Advisor Brenda Diekman

BPA is an activity for any student in grades 9-12 but particularly helpful for students pursuing careers in business, management, office administration, information technology and other related career fields. Students compete against other schools in various competitions such as computer projects, video productions, programming, speech, interviewing, and other general business events like entrepreneurship and marketing.

This year 19 members participated in BPA with 8 moving on from Regions to State and 4 (Marah Moy, Emma Schneider, Rachel Koch, and Aaron Hamann) proceeded to National Competition in Orlando, FL.