

FALL ACTIVITIES SUMMARIES

GIRLS TENNIS: Head Coach Charley Keifenheim (29 years)

We were pleased to find our numbers up this fall. After a few seasons in the lower 20s we had almost 30 girls show up! We had some big shoes to fill as we had graduated some of our top players in both singles and doubles. Claudia Botzet, Jen Allen, and Mattie Lubben brought improved strokes and games to the team and played a huge role in our successes. We also returned Ellie Botzet, Whitney Nyholm, and Lindsey Roetheke as experienced doubles players. 8th graders Claire Stevens and Mya Lubben helped to fill out our line-up along with new varsity members Megan Doose, Abby Wyatt, and Roni Oistad. Our team finished in the middle of the M8 Conference and we did not advance anyone at the section tournament. On a high note, the varsity girls took home the trophy at our own Buffalo Invite. In academics, we had a strong group achieving Gold status in the conference and in state along with many individual academic conference awards. With our seasoned coaching staff of Joel Peterson (JV), and Tom Kuzma (volunteer) we were able to help our team achieve their best.

BOYS SOCCER: Head Coach Jeff Lindstrom (13 years)

Boys Soccer finished the 2013 season with a 4-11-2 overall record and a 2-4-2 record in the Mississippi 8. The team entered the season having lost 2/3 of the 2012 team to graduation with only two returning starters and with no offensive starters returning. The season was highlighted by consistent team defensive play. The team never surrendered more than four goals. The Bison struggled to score producing 14 goals in 17 games. The team maintained its competitive spirit and its work ethic throughout the trying season which speaks volumes about the character of the players. The season came to an end against Anoka in the section quarterfinals. Luke Folkerds and Ryan Bunting were both named to the Mississippi 8 All Conference team for their efforts. 2014 looks to have promise with only three starters being lost to graduation. The boys soccer program continues to have strong numbers with close to 60 young men participating for a total of three teams.

BOYS and GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY: Head Coach Jill Hanson (27 years).

The Cross Country team started on the 13th of August with a larger number of girls than we have had in the past few years. Our boys numbers are going down as that junior class had quite a few runners leave the program. When I connected with some of them, the reason given was to try other things. That disappoints me, not that I don't want kids to try something different, but I always hope that when I get them in my program, I keep them for life. Our season was good. We have excellent people who coach; hard working, focused, and just great human beings. Our boys who ran over the summer had great seasons and the kids who chose not to run did not come as far as they wanted. Our mission continues to be to get them all out running in the summer. Michael Wegter ran 400 miles this summer and placed 65th in the State Cross Country meet. He was joined by Frank Graham who finished 34th, (an improvement from 72nd place a year ago). Our boys finished 2nd in the Conference to STMA while the girls finished 3rd to Monticello and STMA. Our boys won three meets, the Irish Invite, the Big Lake Invite and Buffalo's Invite. Our girls took 2nd at both the Irish and Big Lake Invite. The boys took 5th in the sections, eight points out of second and the girls took 6th. The section meet was held at Buffalo Heights Golf Course for the second year in a row, and was run by Mr. Bauman. He did an excellent job along with the people who helped work the meet

We hope to continue to grow as a team and as individuals. We believe that these young runners are in the infancy of their running careers and we want them to continue their running far into their lives – and I will add what a privilege it is to work with these great kids.

FOOTBALL: Head Coach Gerard Rohl (22 years, 36 in program)

The Bison football teams ended up with the following records:

- The Ninth Grade had a very nice season and they finished with a 5-3 Record. Two of their losses were in overtime.
- The Sophomore team had a great second half of their season and finished 4-4 and they could have easily been 6-2 but they suffered two late losses as well.
- The Bison JV football team completed the season at 3-2. Both losses for this team were very close, late game decisions as well.
- The Bison Varsity finished with a 3 win 7 loss record. Two close losses at Princeton and at home versus Monticello kept the Bison from having a much better win loss record in the 2013 season.

The Bison Varsity got better each and every week, as evidenced by a very decisive win vs. the Willmar Cardinals on their field in the first round of the playoffs. The 6-2 Cardinals were the three seed and we were the six seed, a great upset win for our team. We played our best and most complete game of the year. We did lose decisively to St. Michael the next round. We really thought we could play another great game and make it to the finals but it was not to be. I am proud to say though, that our conference might be the strongest football conference in the state in Class AAAAA. I base that on the success of the M-8 in the playoffs with St. Michael looking like they might be state champs, (vs. Owatonna Friday at the dome).

The Bison had four all conference players: Andy Iverson, Levi Bean, Hunter Thompson, and Jonathan Senger. We also had nine Honorable Mention athletes, and 12 student-athletes who were Academic All-Conference as they owned grade point averages above 3.7! We were very proud of all these players and managers. This was a great group of young men to coach! They were able to play hard, practice hard and have fun each and every day. From camp in July to the playoffs in late October, these guys hung together well and many of last year's JV players became our best Varsity players this season. Hunter Thompson and Cameron Sonju were very good examples of this situation. Both of these players went from JV last year to All-Conference and Honorable Mention All-Conference in the Mississippi 12 this year! Thank you!

VOLLEYBALL: Head Coach Lauri Zumach (6 years)

Buffalo Volleyball had a successful season at all levels. Our 9th graders were able to compete in the 1st Annual Mississippi 8 Conference Tournament and our 9A team finished 2nd. Our B squad team competed well, finished with a better record than last year, and ended the season on a high note beating STMA at their last game of the season. Our varsity had a very successful season ending with a 24-4 record. Highlights from the season included winning the Richfield tournament, finishing 3rd in the Chanhassen tournament, and finishing 4th in the STMA tournament.

We achieved four major goals this year – We were undefeated and took home the Mississippi 8 Conference Title. Academically, we reached the highest level possible in the conference, Gold Level. We had a 20+ game winning season, and we made the final four of a very challenging 2AAA section. All in all – we had a very successful season!

All teams in the program showed much improvement throughout the season. We had a dedicated, hard working staff. At the 9A level we had Heather Thomas and at 9B we had a new coach, Jennifer Sheedy. Gerice Olson moved up from 9B to our B squad and did a great job with those girls. Josh Erickson coached JV and Rebecca Karna and I worked together with the varsity team.

The team had two seniors who earned All-State academic honors which means they had to maintain a 3.8 or higher GPA since the start of their sophomore year. This honor went to Natalie Velenchenko and Brooke Simonson. Kylee Zumach, Hannah Daniel, and Sammy Johnson were honored with All-Conference recognition along with Natalia Velenchenko, Bailey Brownlee and Tori Weber earning honorable mention honors. Kylee also earned 1st Team AAA All-State honors.

This was a very successful season at all levels in many ways. I see this program growing in the right direction. We are losing a key group of seniors, but I'm excited for the young talent we have coming up in the future!

GIRLS SOCCER: Head Coach Steve Doimer (5th year)

Girls Soccer ended the year with a 3-9-4 record. It was a rough year for the win column. However, it was a good year for our program. Our leadership consisted of four seniors. All were excellent role models for the younger players, both on the field and in the classroom and have set the bar for our 2014 Captains, Mikayla Billin and Abby Munsterteiger. We were competitive in all but one game. I am encouraged as I look to the future.

Buffalo Girls Soccer is in the running every year for Academic Honors. 2013 brought them the Mississippi 8 Conference Academic Gold Award with a GPA of 3.85.

Emily Greeley (Varsity Assistant) is primarily responsible for "team building" and physical conditioning. We have experienced a steady decrease in time lost to injuries over the past three years. Coach Greeley's innovative approach and results earned her Section 8AA Assistant Coach of the Year honors for the 2013 season. Carrie Walz (Junior Varsity) continues to prepare players for the next level. Each year Coach Walz has promoted players to the Varsity team well prepared emotionally, physically and tactically. Jennifer Heebink (JV II) is a builder. Her approach is focused on individual skills and how they apply to team tactics. Coach Heebink is an excellent teacher who is able to affect each player regardless of ability. The entire Girl's Soccer staff will return for the 2014 season.

GIRLS SWIM & DIVE: Head Coach Melissa Miller (4th year)

Girls Swim & Dive finished the season with much success. Many girls achieved lifetime best times and scores throughout the season. Our dual meet record was six wins and three losses. We finished 3rd in the conference and took 4th place at Sections. We had no state qualifiers this season, but came close with the Medley Relay and a few individual performances. Our captains were Cassie Bunkers, Paige Yager, and Bri Porter. The 2014 captains will be Sarah Kolling, Lauren Kaminski, and Kenzi Lauman. Next season promises to be a strong one with most of our sections swimmers returning.

Academics have once again been a strong suit for the lady swimmers and divers. The ladies ended the season with a combined 3.63 GPA, which earned them the Mississippi 8 Conference Academic Gold Award.

Our coaching staff has now been the same for the third year in a row. Rachel Busch (Varsity Assistant) is a huge asset to the team. She contributes to the team in many different areas. The girls and I appreciate having a consistent connection to the High School as she is the only coach who works in the district otherwise. Tanner Bauman (Diving Coach) is in his third season with the team. Tanner is very strong at taking any diver at their current skill level and helping them to become the best they can. He has taught well and helped the girls pay great attention to detail. Pam Brophy (Middle School Assistant) led the 7th and 8th grade swim program this season. Her position was funded by the Buffalo Girls Swim Booster Association. There were nearly 20 middle school participants and they all had a lot of fun and improved their skills under Coach Brophy's teaching.

FALL MUSICAL: Director Tracy Hagstrom (21 years)

The Phantom of the Opera

Music by Andrew Lloyd Webber, lyrics by Charles Hart with additional lyrics by Richard Stilgoe and book by Richard Stilgoe and Andrew Lloyd Webber. Based on the book by the same title.

Music Director: Michael Walsh

Choreographer: Debb Bestland

Tech Director: Tim Kiernan

Lighting Designer: Greg Bestland

Student Tech Director: Grace Walker (Junior)

Costumer: Leann Miller, Laurie Hoops, Missy Wanke (Parent Volunteers)

General *The Phantom of the Opera* Information

- Won the Tony Award for Best Musical in 1988
- Based off of the novel by Gaston Leroux

Musical Synopsis:

An architect and designer, a composer and magician. He's a genius who must hide his facial disfigurement behind a mask and in the catacombs beneath Paris's Opera Populaire, known only as the Phantom of the Opera or Opera Ghost. His one companion is his young singing protégé, a chorus girl named Christine Daae who is drawn to and mystified but at the same time terrified of her Angel of Music whose rapturous voice sings songs in her head while she sleeps and whispers in her ear during day. Everyone at the opera house is used to the Phantom's deadly pranks when his demands are not met but when a canopy falls on top of her, nearly crushing her, the opera's leading diva, Carlotta, resigns. With no understudy, the managers turn to Christine who at the time was no more than a chorus girl. The show casts her into immediate fame. But when Christine, whom the Phantom has fallen in love with, accepts a marriage proposal from her childhood sweetheart Viscount Raoul de Changy, the Phantom's heart is broken. His despair quickly turns to furious, jealous rage and is willing to do anything to win her, even if it means raising the stakes to the ultimate level in Christine's choice between her love for Raoul and her strange attraction to the Phantom.

BHS Performances

Performances were November 14, 15 and 16 at 7:30 pm and November 17 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 others; they were also available at the door. This year we featured a cast of 50

high school students and one BCMS student (Elise Lubben) in our production, along with another 60+ students involved in various crews, lighting/sound booth, and pit orchestra positions. It was a HUGE undertaking for the BHS Theater Program. During HD's time here we have only tackled two other productions close to this magnitude (*The Secret Garden* and *Les Miserables*), but *Phantom of the Opera* is probably at the top of the challenging production list. So many people have seen the professional production. Performance rights for schools and community theaters have only recently been released. The 2013-2014 school year was the correct time for BHS to produce the show. We knew we had the voices to sing the roles. This year the pit orchestra was a combination of BHS students and local adult musicians. Basically, almost each BHS student musician was paired with an adult musician in a mentoring type of relationship. It worked well.

The show was a larger financial undertaking made possible by generous donations and affordable rental prices. HD is blessed with good relationships with several high school theater directors who were willing to reasonably rent to us some much needed and wonderful pieces (a motorized boat and two backdrops from Minnetonka High School for \$200.00, the chandelier from Elk River Community Theater for \$100.00, all swords and guns from The Academy of Holy Angels for FREE, 12 of the white wigs from East Central High School for FREE, and innumerable costumes from Buffalo Community Theater for FREE. The theater program also received two generous donations from the parents of two students involved in the production.

This year, Hagstrom Durant decided to enter the BHS production in the Spotlight on the Arts Musical Theater contest through the Hennepin Theater Trust (Mpls.). Our performances were judged by three professional actors/directors. As of 12-3-13 the results are not in. If we are selected to receive honors, the BHS students would be asked to perform a song or two on the Orpheum stage on either June 8 or 9, 2014. We will keep you posted...

The show was a huge hit. Crowd size was very large. We sold out two performances and had to set up chairs in order to get everyone in the PAC. The other two performances had about 700 in attendance. There was excellent feedback in the WCJP. The BHS students gave us both a powerful and very professional level production.