

## **FALL ACTIVITIES SUMMARIES:**

### **GIRLS TENNIS:** Head Coach Charley Keifenheim (30<sup>th</sup> and final year)

Wonderful weather and a very classy group of young athletes made for a fantastic 2014 fall girls tennis season! With great leadership from our captains, Jennifer Allen and Mackenzie Malewicki, our team became very comfortable and played at its best. In all my years of coaching, I cannot recall a more mature group of leaders than this year's seniors. In addition to our captains, Megan Doose and Alicia Hackworth contributed their senior leadership. Junior leaders, Matti Lubben, Claudia Botzet, and Abby Wyatt pushed this group to excel with a very strong work ethic. We were fortunate to have an optimum number of players (29) and with Coach Peterson's work, our less experienced players made some major improvements. Tom Kuzma acted as a volunteer coach once again this year and gave hundreds of hours selflessly to our team. With some early non-conference wins, the team hit the conference schedule with some momentum and at one point we were tied for the lead at 6-0 with Princeton. A couple of late season losses left us at a respectable 3rd place in the M8 at the end of the season. In section play, we were eliminated by a very strong Eden Prairie team and our only win in the individuals was from Matti and Claudia. This was my final season as head girls tennis coach and it has been an amazing experience. To have joined so many passionate coaches, players, and fans in the pursuit of great tennis over the years has been quite a ride. To try to sum it up in a few words seems futile. My thanks to the athletes, coaches, and parents for a wonderful experience. Thank you to ISD 877 for continuing your support of our tennis program.

### **BOYS SOCCER:** Head Coach Jeff Lindstrom (14<sup>th</sup> and final year)

The Buffalo Boys Soccer Program had a banner year. After a slow 0-3 start to the season, the team finished the regular season at 10-5-1 (8-0-1) with the losses coming in overtime at Anoka and at St. Cloud Tech. The team won the Mississippi 8 Conference Championship clinching the championship with a thrilling 2-1 victory at Cambridge-Isanti in the final game of the regular season. In Section 8AA play, the Bison advanced to the semifinals before bowing out to eventual state champions Anoka, finishing the season with an 11-6-1 record. The Bison had a well balanced attack with several players scoring goals. A school record was set with 50 goals scored in a season. Six players were named to the Mississippi 8 All-Conference Team which is also a school record. All-Conference recipients were Ryan Bunting, Jacob Jungwirth, Trevor Lewellen, Miguel Arroyo Hernandez, Luke Folkerds, and Matt Simeon. Trevor Lewellen was named Team MVP. The Bison had great seasons at the lower levels as well with the Junior Varsity 1 team finishing 12-1-2 and Junior Varsity 2 team finishing at 9-1-2. Numbers continue to be strong in the program with total participants again exceeding 60 players.

**GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY:** Head Coach Jill Hanson (28 years)

The season began again with more girls joining the program. And with numbers growing the chances of finding a “rare” gem increase and we were blessed with several “gems”. Our program finally had some competition for positions and that helped to develop the program. The runners really pushed each other. As I have experienced before, boys will always try to beat each other, girls have tended not to want to beat their friends. This team had several girls who wanted to make that varsity team and were willing to “beat” fellow teammates. Yet they continued to show the compassion that has always been part of the girls program. This year, Dave Knutsen became the boy’s head coach. Dave had been an assistant for seven years and has done an outstanding job. His coaching of the distance runners in the spring has been a great asset in both recruiting and involvement with the runners. Nothing really changed with his promotion. We continued to run the program as one. Dave is great with communication and kept both the parents and runners in the loop. The girls success in running showed with a 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish at Big Lake, a 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish in the Conference meet and a 5<sup>th</sup> place finish at the section meet. All Conference athletes were Amanda Montplaisir, Erica O’Borksy, Meredith Reynolds, and Afreefa Seepersaud. Amada Montplaisir took 8<sup>th</sup> in the section meet and placed 60<sup>th</sup> at the State meet. On the academic side, the team received the Silver standard both at the conference and section levels. It was another great season and I appreciate the privilege of coaching these runners.

**BOYS CROSS COUNTRY:** Head Coach Dave Knutson (1st year, 8<sup>th</sup> in program)

The Boys team came into this season with some high expectations. 12 out of the 30 boys coming into the season were seniors. During the year, the boys team won two meets. They placed first in the Big Lake Invitational for the second straight year, and won the Bison home meet for the second straight year. The Bison were led by Senior Frank Graham who was our #1 runner all year long. Our #2 runner all year was Junior Jacob Kluver and our #3 runner this season was 8<sup>th</sup> grader Issac Basten. The boys were second at the Conference meet to a very good St. Michael team. Making the All Conference list were Frank Graham, Jacob Kluver, and Issac Basten. The boys placed 4<sup>th</sup> at the section meet. Making the state meet as individuals were Frank Graham ( 3<sup>rd</sup> straight year) and Jacob Kluver.

**FOOTBALL:** Head Coach Todd Bouman (1<sup>st</sup> year)

The Bison football program began the season with a lot of excitement and expectations, but also some unknowns. One of the most exciting things we learned as a coaching staff came early on in the season - our kids were willing to work hard, both mentally and physically. There were some big challenges as we introduced both new offensive and defensive schemes. With that came learning new terminology, as well as a different approach to a normal practice day schedule. Despite these obstacles, none of our guys flinched at this opportunity to improve each day. The season began with a tough schedule, facing two of the top teams in our class with STMA and Rogers. This was a great test and also shined a light on exactly what it would take to get where our vision is for the future. We ended the regular season winning three of our last four games. This included the electrifying win over Princeton during Homecoming, followed up by another exciting win the very next week against Cambridge. This was some of the most exciting football I have ever been a part of. These two games proved to players and coaches alike that

when we come to work and never give up, we can accomplish greatness. We had five players selected as All Conference athletes and nine named Honorable Mention. Adam Treptau was named Co-Defensive Lineman MVP of the Conference. We will lose a lot of great senior leadership, but are excited about the direction of Bison football, especially with a bunch of great young athletes returning and new stadium planning underway. Along with my coaching staff, I am honored for this opportunity to coach these great students/athletes in such a positive environment and with great community support. Go Bison!!

**VOLLEYBALL:** Head Coach Lauri Zumach (7th Year)

The Bison volleyball program once again had a very successful season! We added a new coach at our 9<sup>th</sup> grade level, Meghan Sherer, who works well with all our staff and the student athletes. Our 9<sup>th</sup> grade teams finished with a winning season, ending up 4<sup>th</sup> in our conference tournament, and the ground work was set for their future in this program. Gerice Olson returned as our B Squad coach. Our 10<sup>th</sup> grade team also ended the season with a winning record and showed tremendous growth in their skill set to prepare them for JV and Varsity next year. This was Josh Erickson's final season coaching our JV squad, which finished with one of the best JV records so far in the conference! Our varsity record was 12-16, and although this was our first sub .500 seasons in years, I feel it was still very successful and rewarding. The new girls showed tremendous growth and development throughout the season and our returning seniors did a wonderful job being supportive and guiding them along the way. We ended our season with three All-Conference selections: Sammy Johnson, Hannah Daniel, and Bailey Brownlee, two All-Conference honorable mentions: Tori Weber and Kari Zumach. More importantly, we had a team GPA of 3.66 which puts us at the Gold Level in State and both Hannah and Bailey were All-State Academic Selections. We won our first Section playoff game in Hutchinson in three, although we were the lower seed and then played the then ranked #1 team in the State, Prior Lake. We did lose that game in three, but they were three very close games where it became evident to my assistant, Becky Karna, and I that our season was ending on a high note – with much improvement and with a group of quality kids. I am once again so excited to be involved with a program I see moving in the right direction!

**GIRLS SOCCER:** Head Coach Steve Doimer (6th Year)

Girls soccer played a difficult schedule again this year. The Coaching Staff has made it a priority to challenge the players with high level non-conference games each year. 2014 was no exception. We opened the season with two top 10 ranked teams, Hopkins and Eagan (Eagan went on to win the State Tournament). We lost both games. However, we were competitive and a standard was set for the season. I was proud of their effort and the manner in which they represented Buffalo High School! The skill level of girls soccer in the Mississippi 8 has been on the rise for the past couple of years. We will continue to encounter stiff competition for the foreseeable future. The good news is that we have some dedicated young ladies in our program, many of whom work on their game all winter. This will eventually pay dividends for them and the high school as we continue to push the top teams. I hope to challenge for a conference title next year. I believe the incoming players will be up for it. We sustained some injuries this season and two were season ending - one a concussion and one with ligament damage. There were various other injuries the players sustained which hampered our progress, but most were able to overcome and contribute most of the season. Kris Savaloja took great care of our athletes again this year. The girls will

miss her. The good news is that concussions were less of a problem this year than the previous two years. I will be working with Coach Karn to get players into the weight room this winter to work specifically on neck, shoulder and core strength. Recent studies have shown a significant decrease in injury when female athletes participate in a targeted weight training program. The challenge has been to get the players to take it seriously. Carrie Walz has completed her fifth year with the JV team. Coach Walz has had an impact on and off the field. She continues to grow in her abilities to teach the game and also in connecting with the players on a personal level. Coach Walz has committed to returning for the 2015 season. For the first time, every player earned a Varsity Letter. We graduated eight seniors this year and have the potential to roster ten seniors next year. I expect solid leadership from the incoming seniors. Behind them we are quite young, but I already see solid leadership from some of the underclassmen. Go Bison!

**GIRLS SWIM & DIVE:** Head Coach Melissa Miller (5<sup>th</sup> and final year)

We kicked off our season with a remarkable training trip to Clear Lake/Mason City, Iowa. This opportunity really set the tone for our season. The athletes loved doing Zumba, Yoga, decorating Coach Busch's cabin with toilet paper for her birthday, swimming at the outdoor facility complete with rope climbing to the high dive. The team really took advantage of the training and team building opportunities the trip had to offer. We competed in 11 dual meets, seven of which were wins. We continued to earn high awards in academics with our impressive 3.5+ GPA. At Sections we advanced two divers to State. Rachel Bertram finished 2<sup>nd</sup> at State and Alex Zeiss took 15<sup>th</sup>. The best our divers have ever done at the State Meet!

**FALL PLAY:** Debb Bestland (2<sup>nd</sup> Year)

Our fall play was *It's a Wonderful Life; a Live Radio Show*. The play challenged the students in some unusual ways including changing characters and providing for a variety of sound effects without resorting to electronic help. Auditions had over 40 students, a number that had to be reduced by half for the final ensemble. The play had a simple set and technical skills were used to create sound effects including a wind machine, a motor sound and microphone covers to create the look of the 1940's. Lucas Leiferman ran our light board and Grant Walker ran the sound. Greg and Phillip Bestland offered help in the area of Tech including set, lights and sound. Tracy Hagstrom-Durant and Pat Pawelk gave significant support. Highlights for us were the fun of watching old radio shows including Garrison Keeler's work which was brought home in authentic ways when we were given a free visit by an artist from Park Square who had worked with Prairie Home Companion as a Foley Artist (Sound Effects Person). The first two nights were a solid audience, but our final night was down due to snow. Still, students enjoyed the experience and grew in their ability to use their voices to create many aspects of theatre.