

School Board Meeting:

September 14, 2015

Subject:

2015 BHS Spring Activities Report

Presenter:

Nick Guida

Suggested School Board Action: None

Description:

Will provide updates on the following at the Board Workshop:

- Fall Seasons
- Why We Play Conference
- Coach/Advisor Survey's

Coach/Advisor Narratives

Spring Musical – *Children of Eden*: Director Tracy Hagstrom Durant (23 years)

Music Director: Michael Walsh

Choreographer: Debb Bestland

Tech Director: Greg Bestland

Lighting Designer: Greg Bestland

Stage Manager: Jamie West (Volunteer)

Student Stage Manager: Grace Walker

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

Book by John Caird

Music and Lyrics by Stephen Schwartz

Musical Synopsis:

Based on the story of Genesis, the age-old conflict of parents and children takes the stage in this epic, heartfelt, moving, foot-stomping musical from Stephen Schwartz (*Godspell*, *Pippin*, *Wicked*) and John Caird. This joyous and inspirational musical focuses on parents, children and faith... not to mention centuries of unresolved family business!

Adam, Eve, Noah and the "Father" who created them deal with the headstrong, cataclysmic actions of their respective children. The show ultimately delivers a bittersweet but inspiring message: that "the hardest part of love... is letting go."

BHS Performances

Performances were April 23, 24 and 25 at 7:30 PM and April 26 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; they were also available at the door. This year we featured a cast of 32 high school students and one BCMS student (Sam Carlson) and one Parkside Elementary student (Patrick

Lubben) in our production, along with another 13 BHM students (ranging in age from 6 months to 12 years old) who were featured as animals and members of Adam and Eve's family. Sixty+ students were also involved in various crews, lighting/sound booth, and pit orchestra positions. It was a HUGE undertaking for the BHS Theater Program but a show that has been on HD's "bucket list" for years. The time was right to tackle this production. There were several theatrical challenges with this show but thanks to the generosity of several volunteers and other high school theater programs, we were able to rent and borrow necessary equipment, costumes and props so we could do the production.

This year Hagstrom Durant decided to again 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. We received Outstanding Overall Production, Outstanding Overall Performance, Outstanding Overall Performance by a Chorus, Outstanding Performance in Dance by a Chorus, Outstanding Vocal Performance by a Chorus (the five highest awards we can receive), and Honorable Mention Performance in Acting by a Chorus. Several individual students also received awards (listed below). We received our honors on Sunday, June 14, 2015 at the Spotlight Showcase Program at the State Theater in Minneapolis.

The show was a huge hit. Crowd size was very large. There was excellent feedback in the WCJP. The BHS students gave us both a powerful and very professional level production.

Individual Awards

Outstanding Performance in a Leading Role:

Alec Waters as Father

Emma Maxson as Mama Noah/The Wasteland solo

Noah Gilbertson as Cain

Mallory Rabehl as Yonah

Honorable Mention Performance in a Leading Role:

Sam Hagen as Adam

Katie Swartzner as Eve

Spencer Herdklotz as Abel/The Wasteland solo

Honorable Mention Performance in a Supporting Role:

Emily Twardy as Aphra/Snake/The Wasteland solo

Jonah Schmitz as Snake/Generations solo male

Gabriel Brovege-Trossen as Snake/Death of Abel solo

Belle Wanke as Snake

Mattie Lubben as Snake/The Wasteland solo

Honorable Mention Performance in a Featured Role:

Mitch Benson as The Wasteland solo

Buffalo FFA: Advisor Gary Wirkus (1st year)

The Buffalo FFA had a very successful year. Our chapter had 29 students compete at the State FFA Convention in various Career Development Events. Our Ag Issues team and Maggie Socha in Public Speaking each placed fourth at the state contest. Morgan Krause was selected as the Minnesota State FFA Vice President. This is only the second time a member of Buffalo FFA was elected as a state officer. This is an amazing accomplishment. Ellen LaFave, Tammy Putz, and Katie Brown earned their State FFA degrees while Ryan Olson and Andrew Krause earned their American FFA Degrees.

In Spring, Maggie Socha and Shelby Campbell were selected as Region 4 FFA officers. Zara Wirkus was chosen to be a part of the National FFA choir which will be performing during the National FFA convention in October. We also had a number of students show animals at the state and county fairs. Buffalo FFA also won the landscape design contest at the Minnesota State Fair this year. It was a great year to remember.

Adapted Softball: Coaches Ruth Clarke (11 years) and Dave Kaufmann (8 years)

This year we have continued to grow and build. We graduated 4 players this year which left some big holes to fill. We gained 3 new players and 2 stepped into key positions, both did very well. Kail Dornbusch pitched another great season and led us to 3 wins. The Bison finished with a 3-9 record. We ended the season with a playoff game against Lakeville. The team really improved as the season progressed with very exciting, competitive games. Our captains were senior Alec Willard and junior Jared Peterson-Lomker for the second year. Their aggressive play and positive leadership really helped to encourage the team and keep them focused. 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 team. This year Kail Dornbusch received All-Conference and Jared Peterson-Lomker and James Madden received All-Conference Honorable Mention.

Boys/Girls Track and Field: Coach Scott Palmer (20 years)

Overall, the 2015 BHS track program recorded nineteen all time Buffalo top ten performances, two school records and one state champion - Jayson Gorton, who set a state record in the 100 meter wheel chair race. In a tough Mississippi 8 conference meet the girls showed their inexperience and finished in tenth, but rebounded nicely to finish in the middle of the pack at the Section 2AA meet sending Rachel Bertram to State in the Pole Vault. The boys on the other hand, finished third at the conference meet two points out of second and only ten points out of first. They carried that success over to the section 2AA meet where they young boys team finished in fifth place sending many to the state meet. Jayson Gorton in two events 100 and 200 meter wheel chair, the boys 4x800 meter relay team of Jake Kluver, Jon Eastlund, Lucas Smith and Reed Morehouse. The Bison boys and girls teams both achieved state gold status academically with many academic all state individuals.

Girls Lacrosse: Coach Andrea Lund 4th Year

It was a great Spring Season for 2015. We were outside on time and had a record of 40 players come out to participate in lacrosse. We had our returning players with Captains Brianna Marschell, Molly McMullen and Gabby Coudron. We had several new players who were able to catch on quickly and enjoy the game. We had one win this season but had several games that were very close and well played by the Bison. We only lost by one point to Mound, St. Cloud,

St. Michael and Monticello. We are ready for a rematch next spring. We only lost two seniors and have at least 15 girls from our youth program coming up. The girls did their best this season and as a coach I am very proud of their efforts. We are excited for 2016. Go Bison!

Boys Lacrosse: Joey Hartfiel (1st Year)

The season was a fresh start for the program, with new faces and new expectations, in hopes of growing in a new direction. We dedicated ourselves to the motto “Practice does not make perfect, practice makes permanent.” This is true in how the team conducted themselves on and off the field.

One of those expectations was coming together to volunteer for such things as the Autism Resource Fair, cleaning up the school grounds, and assisting with the youth programs. The team was also held to high expectations regarding conduct in the community, on the field, and in the classroom. The team, as a whole, just missed Academic All-Conference. The team also received many compliments from opposing coaches, referees and parents regarding sportsmanship. This also allowed us to minimize penalties, as we accrued the fewest penalties in team history.

There was also individual success, as we had our first player named a part of the All-Section Team, in Tommy Gaughan. Tommy received the honor as a part of the All-Section Second Team due to his hard work, determination and all around great effort on the field. There were several players who made Academic All Conference, and also received All Conference honors due to their play on the field.

The team saw success on the field due to their team play, discipline, and effort. There is still much work to do, and spaces to fill with the three seniors graduating, but those returning are looking forward to the task. The team finished with a record of 9-7, which included the team’s first playoff victory and chance to play one of the top teams in the state, and finishing the season strong.

Our season would not have been successful without the support of parents, the community, Mr. Guida and Mr. Baumann. We are looking forward to next spring!

Baseball: Coach Mike Beilke (12 years)

The Bison had a regular season record of 10-10 and a conference record of 8-5. We finished 3rd in the Mississippi 8 Conference. Our participation numbers were up last spring so we added a fourth team to our program, Varsity Reserve. We are very excited about the players we have returning for next season. We have a wealth of young talent returning. Go Bison!!!

Softball: Brad Zrust (11th year)

For Bison Softball it was a magical season last year. We went to state for the first time in school history.

At the beginning of the year we set four goals, win our conference, win our section, go to state, and win state. We accomplished three out of the four goals. It ended up being very successful for us. Even though we did not win state, the girls came away with a lot of life lessons. They

realized through team-work and hard work a lot can be accomplished. I truly feel the pressure situations that they were put in will make them better individuals down the road. One of the biggest factors, I feel, that led us this far was the team chemistry that we had. I had a mix of 9th graders all the way to seniors. The seniors did not feel threatened by the younger girls and took them under their wings. When you have seniors treat them as equal you have a cohesive group that is all on the same page.

The team this year was excellent offensively as we hit over 20 home runs in 27 games. I'm not totally sure but I'm thinking this may be a school record. You put this along with the way we pitch the ball and how we play defensively and it showed why we had a successful season. I lost five great seniors, but we also return some quality players back next year. It should be some exciting times ahead for Bison Softball.

Boys Tennis: Ben Watkins (4th Year)

The 2015 boys tennis team had a very successful year, finishing second in the conference behind only STMA with a conference record of 8-1. Our overall team record was 11-12. The year had several highlights, including beating defending conference champions, Chisago Lakes, 4-3 midway through the season and beating a tough Cambridge team 7-0. We hosted a tournament for the third straight year and brought in great competition. We also went to Eau Claire, WI for the second straight year on an overnight trip where the team bonded incredibly, had a great time, and improved a ton in a tournament featuring state champion teams from Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Captain Jake Jungwirth, captain Andrew Christenson, and seniors Ryan Bunting, Sean Harnois, and Jon Immel all earned first-team all-conference honors. Cole Hansen, Eric Olson, and Victor Zwack were honorable mention all-conference. Team MVP honors were shared by Jake Jungwirth and Ryan Bunting. Bunting also won the BISON/Team Spirit Award. Andrew Christenson won the Most Dedicated Award, and Most Improved Award went to Freshman Nick Immel.

Academically, the tennis team was excellent. We won Academic Gold Award for averaging a team GPA between 3.75-4.0. The section roster averaged an average GPA of 3.91! We also had five seniors earn academic all-state awards individually, we had 12 athletes earn academic all-conference, and we had the highest team GPA in the Mississippi 8.

Boys Golf: Charlie Keifenheim (16th year)

2015 Conference Champions

2015 Section Champions

2015 MSHSL Tournament Appearance

The 2015 boys golf season was fantastic! Led by a talented group of seniors (Gunnar Goodmanson, Jake Ramsey, and Josh Fischmann), the team maintained it's lowest scoring average in the history of the program. After winning several invites during the season, the team really peaked for the conference tournament and section play. The conference tournament was held at Becker and for the second straight year the boys played well enough to overcome a slight season deficit and take home top honors. The team kept this momentum the following week at Lakeside Golf Club in Perham by winning the two-day Section 8AAA tournament and a ticket to

the state (second year in a row). At the state tournament Gunnar Goodmanson anchored the team by taking 6th place and the team finished in 7th place. Strong play by underclassmen Ben Zitur, Tom Russett, and Luc Persson were vital to our success. This is a great group of guys and it was truly a joy to coach them.

Girls Golf: Riti Sanderson (25th year)

The spring of 2015 started with two weather cancellations, first match - a two-hour snow delay and ended in ninety plus degree temperatures! Despite this beginning, we had the most exciting, memorable and successful year for Bison Girls Golf.

We finished conference action as champions for the 11th year in a row (10 Ms8, 1 North Suburban), Section 8AAA champions and 2nd place overall in State. We participated in six invitationals - placing first in 3 events, one at 2nd and two at 3rd. We dominated Ms8 West Division by winning all five matches as well as the two conference tournaments at Purple Hawk and Pebble Creek to determine the overall Ms8 champion. Pre-section and Section tournaments were held at Greystone Golf Club in Sauk Centre. We were fortunate to win both. The final two-day section win enabled us to participate as a team at the State Tournament. Unfortunately, we could not overcome #1 ranked Edina but stayed in front of #4 ranked Wayzata for our 2nd place finish.

Seventeen girls participated in both varsity and junior varsity Ms8 matches and invitationals. The Bison girls were medalists in seven Ms8 matches, scored one of the lowest 18-hole scores - 317 at Wild Marsh and Madi Jewell, medalist at St. Cloud CC Invite with a low score of 68 (-4 under par). Seniors Madi Jewell and Kirsten Olson were co-captains. This was Madi's 6th year on varsity and Kirsten's 4th year. Four girls were named to all conference honors - Madi Jewell (78), Kirsten Olson (81), Jordan Wurm (83) and Hanna Morin (85). Academically, the Bison team averaged a 3.8 for Ms8 conference and the six State qualifiers averaged a 3.69 for state honors. Buffalo was ranked #2 in the state coaches' polls most of the year and Madi Jewell was ranked #1 as an individual. Madi finished #6 in state tournament and Hanna Morin tied for 10th place.

The future continues to look very good for Bison Girls Golf with four returning section/state participants including 10th grader Jordan Wurm, 9th grader Hanna Morin and 7th graders Sofia Morin and Morgan Wurm.

This is a wrap up of a very successful season for the Bison Girls Golf team.