



# HILLS-BEAVER CREEK NEWSLETTER

April 2026

Happy Spring!

Here's April, there is a distinct sense of energy in our hallways. Whether it's the summer-like weather, the final preparations for our spring concerts, or the focused buzz of classrooms heading into the home stretch of the academic year, the "Patriot Pride" is alive.

April is often a month of transition. We are balancing the rigor of state assessments and year-end projects with the excitement of planning for graduation and summer programs. It is a time to reflect on how far our students have grown since September and to ensure we finish this school year with the same excellence and determination that we started with.

**EARLY DISMISSAL:** Friday, April 24 is a 12:45 Secondary School and 1:00 pm Elementary School Dismissal.

**SCHOOL DAY:** Monday, April 6 is now a day of school for students.

**MCA ASSESSMENTS:** MCA (Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments) Please take time to encourage your child/ren to do their best on these high stakes tests. The assessment schedule calendar can be found on the district's website. The school asks that diligence is taken on the parent's part to ensure that their students are in attendance.

## [ELEMENTARY MCA TESTING SCHEDULE LINK](#)

April 22-23 MCA Reading Grades 3/4/5 Comprehensive assessment to determine standards proficiency.

April 28-29 MCA Math Grades 3/4/5 Comprehensive assessment to determine standards proficiency.

May 5-6 MCA Science Grade 5 Comprehensive assessment to determine standards proficiency.

## CONGRATULATIONS

**Girls and Boys Basketball teams** on the great success that they achieved this past season!

**National Honor Student Inductees** - On March 16 H-BC inducted a number of students into the National Honor Society. Way to go!

**H-BC Lego Robotics Teams** and coaches with their success in moving to the national competition in Worcester, Massachusetts in June! Great work!

**4TH QUARTER MID-QUARTER:** April 23rd is the mid-quarter point for the 4th quarter marking period. Please go to the [hbc Patriots website](https://hbc Patriots website) to monitor your student's progress.

**2026-2027 DISTRICT CALENDAR:** Find the 2026-2027 [H-BC Academic Calendar here](#)—You will want to familiarize yourself with this calendar.

**NOTE:** HBC begins school for Grades 1-12 on September 1 and Kindergarten begins on September 2. **THESE DATES ARE PRIOR TO LABOR DAY.**

**LOOKING AHEAD:** The Elementary School will have Puppy Relays (Elementary Track and Field Day) on Friday, May 8th begin around 1 pm. Further details to come.

I want to extend my personal gratitude to our dedicated staff, supportive parents, and—most importantly—our resilient students. It is your collective effort that makes Hills-Beaver Creek a premier place to learn and grow.

Let's make these final months count. Go Patriots!



**Mr. Holthaus**  
Elementary Principal, Superintendent

Please don't hesitate to email ([Cholthaus@isd621.net](mailto:Cholthaus@isd621.net)) or call (507) 962-3240 ext. 2016 if you have questions or concerns.

# THE INSIDE NEWSLETTER



## CHAMPIONSHIP RUN

PHOTOS OF PLAYERS, FANS, THE BAND AND CELEBRATIONS - PAGES 4-7

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**Congratulations to our 2026 National Honor Society Inductees!** This year's inductees are Katelyn Chesley, Hailey Moser, Ava Steinhoff, Brynn Bakken, Mya Erickson, Ella Sammons, Eduardo Wegener, Gavin Voss, Josh Ternus, Hadley Spath, Abigayl Olson, Abigail Harris, Sarah Prohl, Claire Knobloch, and Isabel Wysong.



# Mr. Kellenberger's Secondary Monthly Report

Spring Greetings! The year is flying by, and we are ready for Spring! We had a lot to Celebrate in March: basketball, music and academics.



Congratulations to our Varsity Boys Basketball team! For the FIRST TIME EVER - 2026 Class A State Champions! Stay tuned for basketball awards banquets which are coming soon.

Congratulations to our Girls All-Conference team members! Ella Sammons, Brynn Bakken, Abbie Harris, and Olivia Deelstra. Honorable Mention All Conference-Ella Rheault.



Congratulations to the 8-12 Concert Band and High School Choir for their great performances at Large Group Contest and to our Second Year Honor Band Members!



Freya, Chris, Joshua, Benjamin, Ari, Berlynn, Ben

## Standardized Spring Testing Coming Up

MCA tests are also coming up in mid-April. Students will be practicing with some test taking strategies in the classroom leading up to the exam. Students in grades 6th (reading & math), 7th (reading and math), 8th (reading, math & science), 10th (reading & science) and 11th (math) will be taking the MCA Assessments. [Link to H-BC Assessment Calendar.](#)

## Spring Sports Begin

Spring Sports (Track & Golf) are HERE, please make sure to look at the [H-BC Website](#) or download the H-BC App. You can also visit the [Red Rock Conference website](#) for the most accurate information for games/times/locations.

Thank you for supporting H-BC Athletics!



## ACT Prep Course

Our Juniors will take the ACT - American College Test, on Tuesday, April 21, 2026. This test is FREE of charge and will allow students to test in the subjects of Reading, English, Math and Science. This important test is a GREAT way to help students show off their academic skills and get more financial support via scholarships.



**Mr. Kellenberger  
Secondary Principal**

([kellenberger@isd571.net](mailto:kellenberger@isd571.net)) or call (507) 962-3240 ext. 3009 if you have questions or concerns.



2026 CLASS A

**HBC 64**      **STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS**      **J-W-P 33**



**WILLIAMS ARENA**

YOT GR	P	A	R	F	DLS	P	A	R	F	DLS
20 Schwenrock	0	0	0	0	11	Matzger	0	0	1	0
22 Harris	0	0	0	0	13	Sammons	0	0	0	0
23 Bennett	0	0	0	0	21	Gasca	0	0	0	0
24 Schultz	0	0	0	0	31	Brosader	0	0	0	0
30 Johnson	0	0	0	0	37	Progenius	0	0	0	0

TOT GR 5    TOT FOLLS 0    22:00    FOLLS 0    5 DLS





CLASS A  
**CHAMPIONS**



Family  
and  
**FANS**



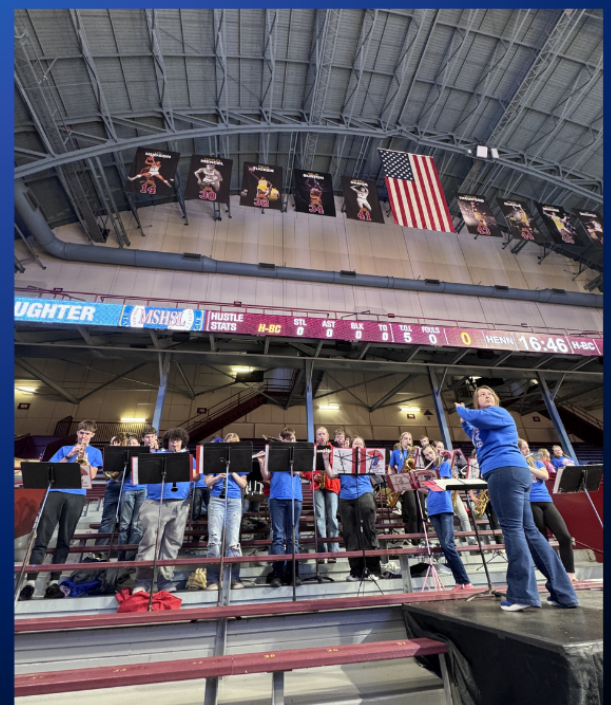
## TUFF HOME PERFORMANCES

The 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students performed American folk music at the Tuff Home this month, bringing joy to residents during the day. Thank you to our middle school choirs for sharing their talents with the community!

# THANK YOU PEPBAND



**FOR BEING THE  
SOUNDTRACK OF OUR  
CHAMPIONSHIP RUN!**





**Congratulations to our music department at Large Group Contest!**  
The Band received a Superior rating, and choir received an Excellent rating.



**Congratulations to our eleven students selected for the SWMBDA First and Second Year Honor Band happening on April 11.** Students will rehearse with their bands and end the day with a concert!

### 3rd-5th Fine Arts Extravaganza

Congratulations to the 3rd-5th grade students on their performances at the Fine Arts Extravaganza! In addition to wonderful band, choir, and art, the students premiered a new song dedicated to the opening of the brand new school and the supportive HBC community. Thank you to the PTO, Mr. Holthaus, and everyone involved in making this project possible!

Prior to the Fine Arts Extravaganza, our 3rd-5th grade students had the opportunity to attend the South Dakota Symphony's Young People's Concert. Students enjoyed listening to the symphony perform selections from operas and other large works.



### Vocal Spotlight: Adrik Harsma



Congratulations to Adrik Harsma for participating in the Cantus Tenor/Bass Festival in Worthington on March 19th. Earlier in the day, Adrik rehearsed with over 100 tenors and basses from Southwest Minnesota with the choir premiering anew piece at their evening concert. Thank you for representing H-BC, Adrik!

## MUSIC DEPARTMENT FUNDRAISER PICKUP

Students, be prepared to pick up and deliver your Artisan Breads fundraiser items on Thursday, April 2 between 3:00-3:45 PM. Items are frozen, so have a plan to keep them frozen until delivery within one week.

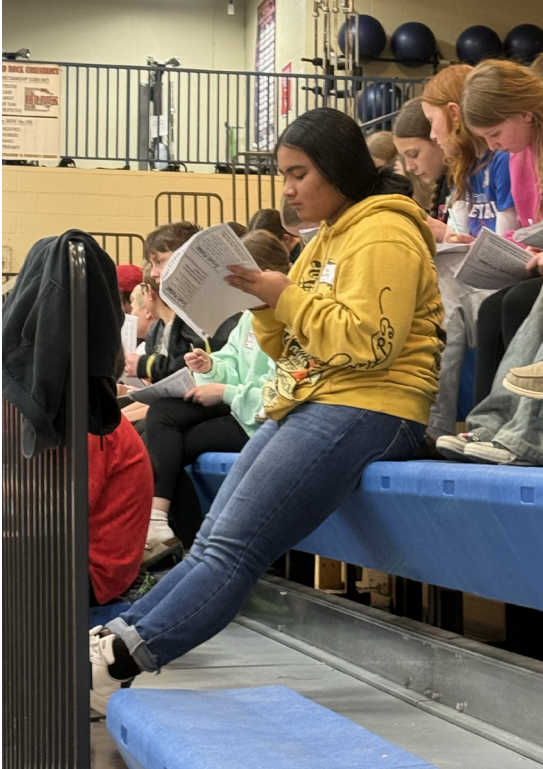
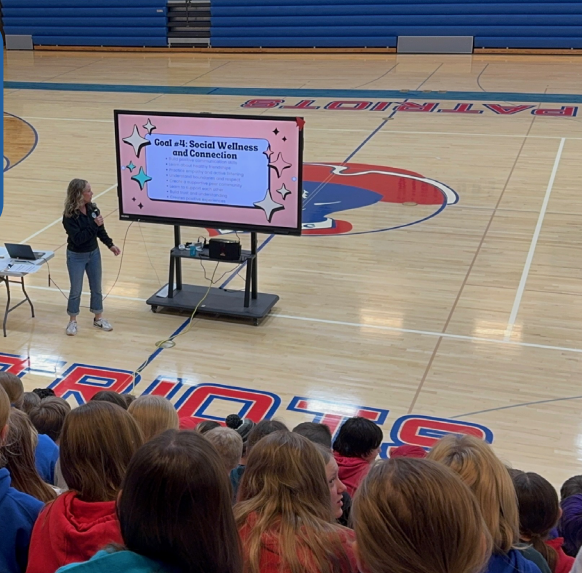
**MUSIC DEPARTMENT DATE**  
May 11: 6-12 Band and Choir Concert with 6-12 Art Show at Hills



HUMANITY  
LAUNCH



In late March the high school student council hosted a Wellness Afternoon for students in grades 6-7-8.

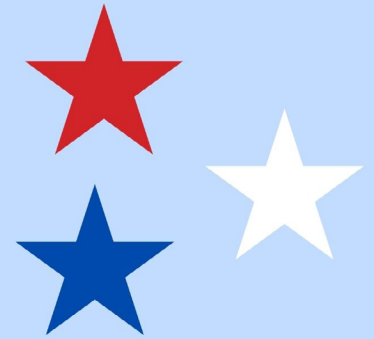


# H-BC COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Begins  
April 28

## SPRING ROBOTICS

This four-week mini robotics series teaches the fundamentals of STEM in a fast-paced, hands-on atmosphere. 4th & 5th grade students will get to explore the basics of coding, using block coding in SPIKE, as well as build their own robot with LEGO! Registration forms will be sent home soon. Class size is limited to 16 students.



## CENSUS INFORMATION

Thank you for helping to keep our census accurate. Please notify H-BC, if you have a new baby, or if you have a new neighbor, encourage them to call.

## SUMMER REC.

Registration is now closed for all the summer recreation teams. Watch for the team details to be announced. Thank you to Mr. Van Wyhe for all his work and special thanks to this year's sponsors.

## Patriot Pals Child Care Center

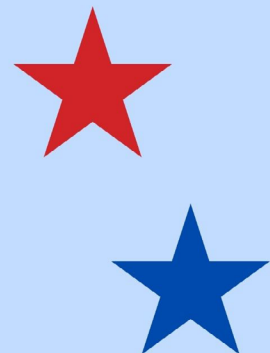
Wonderful things are happening at Patriot Pals! Interested in learning more about how Patriot Pals may be the perfect fit for your family? Email [t.voss@isd671.net](mailto:t.voss@isd671.net) for a tour or information.



## LOOKING AHEAD:

### May will bring the following summer registration opportunities:

- Summer Swim Bus at Luverne Aquatics & Fitness - June 15-25, omit June 19
- Summer 3v3 Basketball League- students going into grades 2-6 in 26-27
- Summer Speed/Strength Training - students going into grades 3-12 in 26-27
- Volleyball Camp - students going into grades K-6<sup>th</sup> grade in 26-27
- Art Camp with Ms. Sylvanie during the summer
- STEM Camp with Mrs. Moore



# PRESIDENT THEODORE ROOSEVELT



© Mark Glenn Studio

## THURSDAY | APRIL 16, 2026

Performed by premier American political reenactor **JOE WEIGAND**  
*Portraying President Roosevelt for over 20 years throughout 50 States*  
*Featured summers in Medora, ND | Home of TEDDY ROOSEVELT NATIONAL PARK*

**Enjoy a "FREE" Performance...all OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

**HILLS-BEAVER CREEK SECONDARY: 10:30 AM**

**LIVERNE HIGH SCHOOL PAC: 1:45 PM**

**HISTORIC PALACE THEATRE: 5:30 PM**

Theodore Roosevelt is considered one of America's greatest presidents. Our youngest president ever, TR was the recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize and the Congressional Medal of Honor. Our first conservation president, Theodore Roosevelt preserved two hundred and thirty million acres of parks, forests, national monuments, wildlife refuges, and game preserves. He led the nation to build the Panama Canal and sent the Great White Fleet steaming around the world. After his presidency, he hunted in Africa, toured Europe, ran as the Bull Moose Progressive, and explored the River of Doubt in the Amazon Jungle.

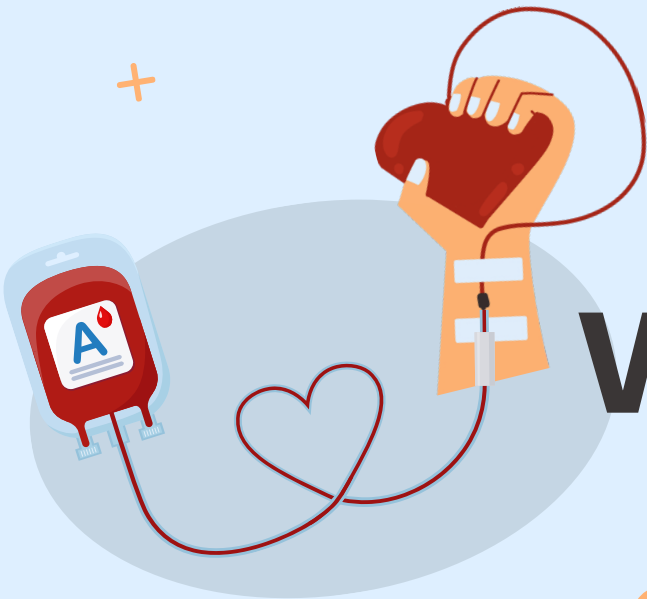
His was the strenuous life, the glory of work, and the joy of living.

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

JOE WEIGAND

GREG & DIANA SPATH





# Blood Drive

at HBC

## Wed. April 15

9-12 and 1:30-4

Call the office to set up an appointment  
(507) 962-3240

### Donor Eligibility and Preparation

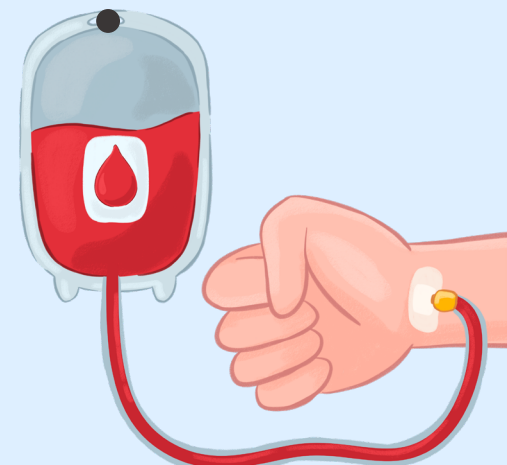
- Donors must be 17 (16 with parent consent, grab from the office)
- Minimum weight 110 pounds
- Donors must be in good health
- Eat a good meal and drink plenty of fluids within 4 hours of donating
- Avoid caffeine and energy drinks before donating
- A photo ID is required

### Facts about donating blood

- Only 5% of the population donates blood
- 8 out of 10 of us will require blood or blood products in our lifetime
- 550 units of blood are needed every week to meet the needs of our local hospitals
- One unit can be separated into several components (red blood cells, plasma and platelets) which will save up to 3 lives
- 15 to 18% of our community's blood supply comes from first time student donors

## Our Goal

# 35-40 Donations



# A Night In Paris

H-BC JUNIOR-SENIOR PROM 2026

April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Hills-Beaver Creek High School  
Gymnasium

Grand March will start at 6 pm

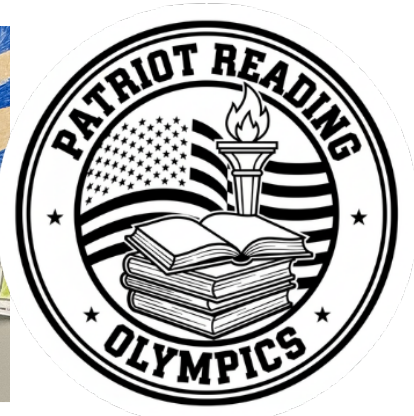
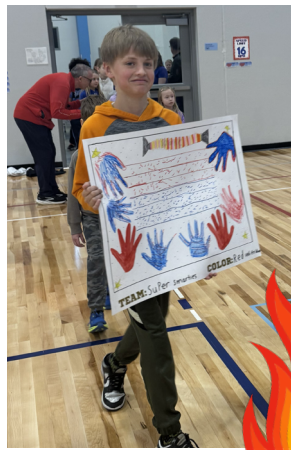
Admissions at the door

Adults- \$5.00

K-12 students- Free

Doors will open at 5:30 pm

Public will be allowed to take  
pictures in the gym for 15  
minutes after the grand march,  
dinner and dance will take place  
after this



# GOLD MEDAL STUDENT CLARA OLSON



ALL STAR  
READERS



LEARNING  
LIONS



**GRADES 3-5 RESULTS**

**479**  
TOTAL POINTS  
EARNED!

**GRADES K-2 RESULTS**

Over **270** HOURS OF READING!  
Equivalent to **11** DAYS to NON-STOP!



*Thank you*

Thank you to the **PTO** for sponsoring this event and to the **parents** who supported their students in reading.

# Early Childhood/ Family Education

ECFE is a program for parents/guardians and children from **birth to age 5**. ECFE is based on the idea that parents/guardians provide their child's first and most significant learning environment and are the child's first and most important teachers. We work to support you as a parent/caregiver and to strengthen families.

## A TYPICAL ECFE CLASS INCLUDES:

- **Parent-child interaction:** Time together to enjoy a classroom filled with developmentally appropriate learning activities.
- **Parent education:** Relevant, effective education and support that encourage the growth and development of families.
- **Children's activity time:** Children explore, gain independence and practice social skills with the guidance of a licensed early childhood teacher.

6:00-7:00 pm in the Preschool Room

April 21 • April 28



# WRESTLERS FINISH THE SEASON

# CALLUM BARTELS

## TRAVEL TEAM, MIKE LUPICA

Well Mike Lupica's Travel Team is the book for you. Mike Lupica's Travel Team is a New York Times #1 children's bestseller and an ALA Selected audiobook. Mike Lupica has been inducted into the National Sports Media Hall of Fame, the Damon Runyon Award, and the Jim Murray Award (National Football Foundation). He's known for his columns in the New York Daily News, ESPN work, and popular sports books for kids (<https://library.teachingbooks.net/authorBookAwards.cgi?id=2509>). His main purpose for writing this book was to show kids, or even adults, that anything is possible even if it doesn't seem like it.

Travel Team starts out in Middletown, Connecticut. Danny Walker is the is a middle schooler who is pretty good at basketball. Richie Walker is Danny's father who used to be a professional basketball player. Ali Walker is Danny's mom who is really supportive of Danny. Finally, Tess Hewitt who is Danny's best friend is smart, loyal, and emotionally supportive throughout the story. Danny Walker is trying out for the Middletown Vikings, a prestigious middle school basketball team. Danny Walker ended up not making the team because he was too small compared to most kids. Danny's father who hasn't been in his life a whole lot shows up; he used to be a professional basketball player. He shows up and decides to form a new team with the kids who didn't make the Middletown Vikings. When they finally get a full team the first few practices and even the games are tough. But slowly, through hard work and perseverance, they finally start showing signs of life. As the season continues, they start competing competitively and show that they can play. Out of nowhere, Richie suffered another serious car accident which ultimately ended his professional career and he can no longer coach. So Danny decides to become a player coach and commands the team himself. The Middletown Warriors end up making it to the finale against the Middletown Vikings. Against all odds, Danny's team comes out on top and shows that anything can be done.

There are several messages in this book. Determination, hardwork, team work and heart are very important in this story. Determination is the most important though because Danny, who is the main character, doesn't make the main team and is distraught. But he responds by making a new team for the players who didn't make it. Danny showed determination by making that new team and leading them to the championship. Determination is important for anyone who might be or has been in the same shoes as Danny.

This novel by Mike Lupica was a masterpiece. His purpose for making this book was to show that even though it might not be going well, you can always persevere. I liked the book mostly because it's about basketball but also because the story is just amazing. I would recommend this book to just about anybody if you are somewhat interested in basketball or even just sports. Mike Lupica's Travel Team was one of the best stories I've ever read.



# JACK KRUGER

## THE LOST HERO, RICK RIORDAN

*"As they approached the lawn, spotlights along the fence fixed on them, blinding Leo. He heard bursts like tracer fire, the sound of metal being cut to shreds – and BOOM. Leo blacked out." (pg 335 & 336). This is just a glimpse into Rick Riordan's The Lost Hero the first book in a long series,. All of these books are full of action and mystery.*

*The book begins with the big three characters: Jason, Leo, and Piper. All three of them are "halfbloods", meaning that one of their parents is a Greek or Roman God. This book has a lot of Greek and Roman mythology. Jason is a son of Jupiter or Zeus, Leo is a son of Hephaestus, and Piper is daughter of Aphrodite. These three characters bounce off each other really well. Jason is the strong leader, skilled in combat and battle strategy. Leo is a jokester who happens to be the best mechanic in camp. Finally, Piper is a charmspeaking daughter of Aphrodite who can talk her way out of almost anything.*



# JACK KRUGER



At the start of the book, Jason, Leo, and Piper are on a field trip to the Grand Canyon. None of them know that they're halfbloods yet. Jason doesn't even know who he is, he has lost every memory he's had and doesn't even know the names of the people around him. They're attacked by monsters while at the Grand Canyon. This is where they learn that their class instructor, Coach Hedge, is actually a Satyr sent by camp halfblood to protect and lead the kids to camp. Once they arrive, Leo and Piper are claimed by their parents. Jason, on the other hand, is claimed by no one. After this, the trio is sent on their first quest: they travel to Quebec to talk to one of the wind gods. They're directed to Chicago but crash land in Detroit. They battle a group of monsters in Detroit then head for Chicago. When they finally reach Chicago, they battle a very powerful sorceress. Once again, they crash land in Omaha. Finally, they travel to California for their final battle.

The settings change like the weather. When the book starts, they're at the Grand Canyon. When they are attacked by monsters and retreat to camp halfblood, home of Greek campers, which is on the North Shore of Long Island, NY. Then they are sent to Quebec. After that they crash land at a car factory in Detroit while en route to Chicago. Once they leave Detroit they arrive at an enchanted department store in Chicago. They battle a sorceress there and then travel to Aoelous's palace which is near Pike's Peak. Then they traveled to California, but before they got too far they crash landed in Omaha. As fate would have it, they landed in King Midas's yard. Finally, once they defeat Midas they travel to California for their last battle.

In this book, the heroes have a lot of moments of self doubt. But each time they overcome whatever hardship comes at them. The author wants everyone to have confidence in themselves. Anyone can overcome obstacles if you have the right mentality. The purpose could also be that with friends/teammates you can overcome hardships. All in all I think this is a great book. This is the first book in the Heroes of Olympus series. I'd honestly recommend the whole series. There's also the original Percy Jackson series which is also great.

# GAVIN VOSS

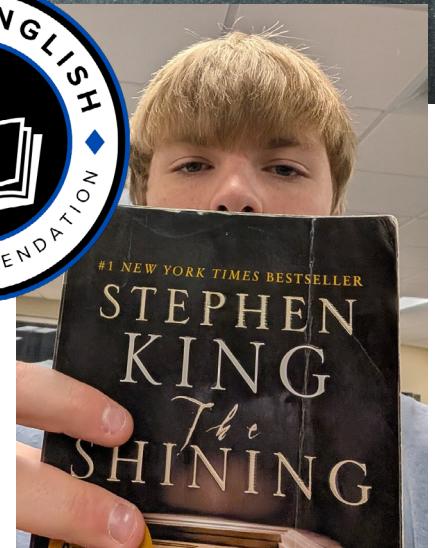
## THE SHINING, STEPHEN KING

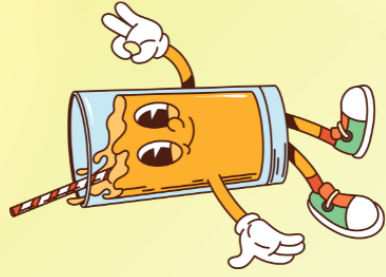
Isolation wears down even the most secure minds. *The Shining*, by Stephen King, follows the Torrence family, consisting of: Jack the father, Wendy the mother, and Danny their son; and their time spent at the Overlook Hotel. As the book continues, their descent to madness is apparent.

The book opens with the Torrence family, down on their luck and now unemployed, in part, due to Jack's anger, looking for work. Living in a small apartment the Torrence family is extremely dysfunctional and Jack is a massive drunk. Danny was a very special child granting him extra attention from the hotel due to his "shine". Jack finds work as the Overlook's winter caretaker while also dealing with the effects of being newly sober. The Overlook has a massive influence on Jack, causing him to try to dive deeper into the history of the hotel and going mad as he does. The book ends with the hotel's secrets being aired out and resolved.

False hope is a very prominent theme. The Torrence family was broken, teetering on the edge of divorce when the Overlook promised them hope. While, for a time, things looked good, the Overlook could never deliver and its promises were as empty as the hotel. Jack was a violent alcoholic and he promised he would stay sober, but as the mask of safety fell off the hotel, Jack's mask began to slip showing both of their truly rotten cores. Danny can see through the lies of the Overlook in the same way he could see through his parents' collapsing: his ability to see things is what the Overlook really wants. Stephen King, through this book, exposes the harms of isolation and alcoholism and how those can affect a man and wear away at him.

*The Shining* was an incredible book. I really liked how slow some scenes were so you could feel tension building even as very little actually happened. The repetition of certain phrases and scenes really made it feel like you were spiraling down into madness with the Torrence family.





# APRIL BREAKFAST



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	saturday
	This is an equal opportunity provider.	Milk is served with all meals. Menu is subject to change without notice.	1 Pancakes Sausage Fruit Juice	2 Bread Variety Cheese Stick Fruit Juice	3 <b>No School</b>	4
5	6 Cooks Choice Fruit Juice	7 Benefit Bar Crackers Fruit Juice	8 Breakfast Pizza Fruit Fruit Juice	9 Donuts Cheese Stick Fruit Juice	10 Cereal Cheese stick Fruit Juice	11
12	13 Cookie Crackers Fruit Juice	14 Cooks Choice Fruit Juice	15 Dutch waffles Sausage Fruit Juice	16 Yogurt Granola Fruit Juice	17 Mini Donuts Fruit Juice	18
19	20 Cooks Choice Fruit Juice	21 Cheesy Egg Omelette Hashbrown Fruit Juice	22 French Toast Sausage Fruit Juice	23 Pancake Sausage on a Stick Egg Patty Fruit Juice	24 Poptarts Cheese Sticks Fruit Juice	25
26	27 Cereal Yogurt Fruit Juice	28 Mini Waffles Sausage Fruit Juice	29 Pancakes Eggs Fruit Juice	30 Cooks Choice Fruit Juice		

# APRIL LUNCH MENU

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	This is an equal opportunity provider.	Milk is served with all meals. Menu is subject to change without notice.	1 Cheeseburger Bun French Fries Peaches	2 Chicken Tender Mashed Potatoes Mandarin Oranges Dinner Roll	3 <b>No School</b>	4
5	6 BBQ Chicken Bun Green Beans Mixed Fruit	7 Italian Dunkers Sauce Corn Peaches	8 Pulled Pork Bun Baked Beans Pineapple	9 Pizza Broccoli Pears	10 Lasagna Carrots Applesauce Breadstick	11
12	13 Chicken Patty Bun French Fries Pineapple	14 Hot Dog Bun Baked Beans Mandarin Oranges Chips and Salsa	15 Taco Haystack Lettuce Apple sauce Bread	16 Chicken Gravy Mashed Potatoes Dinner Roll Pears	17 Max Sticks Sauce Carrots Peaches	18
19	20 Mini Corn Dogs Baked Beans Peaches Chips and Salsa	21 Chicken Alfredo Broccoli Tropical Fruit Breadstick	22 Walking Taco Lettuce Mixed Fruit	23 Tator Tot Hot Dish Carrots Pears Dinner Roll	24 Quesadilla Corn Mandarin Oranges	25
26	27 Chicken Nuggets Mashed Potatoes Pears Dinner Roll	28 Grilled Cheese Tomato Soup Apple Sauce	29 Sloppy Joes Bun Broccoli Pineapple	30 Super Nachos with Chicken Corn Peaches Bread		

# HILLS-BEAVER CREEK

# APRIL ACTIVITIES

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3 <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	4
<b>ELEMENTARY BOOK FAIR - OPEN DURING THE SCHOOL DAY</b>						
5	6 Golf @Larchwood <b>SCHOOL IN SESSION</b>	7 Track @Luverne	8	9 JH Track @Luverne Golf@Sanborn	10 Track @Garretson Boys Golf @Worthington	11
12	13	14 Golf @Luverne	15 <b>H-BC BLOOD DRIVE @ SECONDARY SCHOOL</b>	16 President Theodore Roosevelt @Secondary School	17 Track @ Pipestone Girls Golf @Worthington	18
19	20 JH Golf @Pipestone	21 Track @TMN JH Track @Pipestone <b>ACTESTING DAY ECFE MEETS</b>	22	23 Track @Worthington JH Track @Elkton Girls Golf @ Fulda Boys Golf @MTN Lake	24 <b>PROM NIGHT AT H-BC EARLY DISMISSAL</b>	25
26	27 JH Track @Worthington Golf @Larchwood	28 Track @Pipestone <b>ECFE MEETS</b>	29	30 Girls Golf @Sanborn Boys Golf @Slayton		