

Semester one done, semester two soon to come

By Elijah Hagelstein

That's right folks, semester one is drawing to a close, and preparation for second semester is already underway. First semester ends on Friday, January 23, and second semester begins the following week. Students are already prepping for finals as well, which will take place on Thursday, January 22, and Friday, January 23. Both final days are half days; periods one, two and three will be on Thursday, and periods four, five, and six will be on Friday. A reminder to all students: it's not middle school anymore, and grades do matter. If a student has below a 60% (D) they will fail and will not earn credit for the class, impacting their graduation status. Students need a total of 24 credits to graduate, typically earning six

cumulative credits per school year. It's crucial that students take class seriously because failing even one class can seriously impact their graduation.

Class schedules for second semester will be rolling out over the next couple days. Students should check their schedules to see if there have been any changes in preparation for the upcoming semester. For some students there will be no impact, but some students will have a completely different schedule with new classes and teachers. During second semester, freshmen, sophomores, and juniors will begin forecasting for the upcoming school year. While there has been no official date posted for forecasting, it typically

happens in early February or March, so students should keep their eyes peeled for an announcement relating to forecasting in the near future. For seniors, while not needing to forecast, have a bunch of events and opportunities coming up as well. Seniors also have the opportunity to attend the College and Career Fair, where multiple employers and colleges will lay out options for soon to graduate seniors. There is a senior meeting on Feb. 17 in The Lair during Tiger Time. Graduation practice will take place near the end of the second semester. Students, as first semester closes to a draw, make sure to keep those grades up and be ready for what's to come. GO TIGERS!

The sounds of jazz in the air

By Owen Clark

On January 31, 2026, the BGHS band will head to Clark College for the Clark College Jazz Festival to perform many great songs in their arsenal. The Advanced Jazz Band kicks off their performance at about 2 p.m. on that Saturday. There are five songs in total, and they are guaranteed to play three of them. These three include “Groove Merchant,” “Isfahan,” and “Royal Garden Blue.” The two other songs that will be played if the band makes the finals are “Daybreak Express” and “Bill Bailey.”

The Battle Ground High School Advanced Jazz

Band is in the top division this year at this event along with 18 other schools.

Throughout that Saturday all the bands will fill the stage with all sorts of different music. In addition to the top division, there are two other high school divisions and one middle school division. This event is a yearly experience that gives many bands a chance to perform, which includes BGHS who has done very well in years past.

This event is also very prestigious as spots fill up almost immediately. Ms. Armstrong’s friend helped arrange a position. “I knew someone who reserved a

spot for our best band, and that’s how we got in,” she said. The band with the most outstanding performance will be awarded the Dale Beacock Sweepstakes Trophy, which is named after the great Dale Beacock, owner of Beacock Music. Much of the music that is chosen to play at this event has a lot of input from students, but ultimately Band Director Ms. Armstrong chooses. Ms. Armstrong does “lots and lots and lots of listening and takes a lot of advice from students” when preparing for an event like this. Good luck to all the BGHS musicians!

Drama Club slays student production

By Riley Powers and Jackota Salmi

The Battle Ground High School Drama Club is currently rehearsing for the play “The Boy Who Cried Dragon.” The play will be performed in The Lair on Feb. 2-3 and Feb 5; the cost is \$10 and doors will open at 6:30 p.m. The play

is produced by students and is about an hour long.

“The Boy Who Cried Dragon” is a rendition of the fable short story, “The Boy Who Cried Wolf,” written by Aesop. The script was not written by BGHS students. This

rendition was written by Inda Craig-Galvan. In this adaptation a boy named Travis, a notorious fibber, finds a real dragon, though nobody believes him until the real threat emerges.

There are four actors who will be playing the

two big roles, Travis and the Dragon. The Dragon is played by two different people, senior Titan Kala and junior Asher Leavitt. Travis will be played by Zander Crawford and Joshua Postupak. Both Zander and Joshua are very close competitors for the Travis role. This play is almost fully directed by

our drama students, and the student director is sophomore Harlow Green. Drama Director David Lindner will be helping when needed and providing supervision during the rehearsals. Kala thinks the play is going well so far. "The student involvement is much higher in this play than the

ones in the past since it's our student directed play. We have the people backstage working lighting and sound as well as our student actors," he said. Make sure to be there if you want to enjoy another fantastic play from our school's drama students.

Advanced culinary art class cooked on this field trip

By Evan Ottman

Recently the Advanced Culinary Art Class went on a field trip to multiple locations to get some hands-on learning about the inner workings of the culinary world. This experience was extremely valuable to all of the students attending, as most of them aspire to work in cooking related careers. "So what this is, is an opportunity for the students in the Advanced Culinary Class to go visit and interact with industry professionals throughout the region," Mr. Fritz said.

Students got the opportunity to visit Brunch'd and Al and Ernie's here in Battle Ground and meet the owners. This was a great lesson on entrepreneurship; the students got to talk to the owners of multiple local restaurants, learning the ins and outs of running a business, including the challenges and fun aspects associated with this career field.

Culinary students also visited Amaro's Table to meet the owner of the establishment, Gino! Gino

was a great guy to consult for entrepreneurship as he owns five different restaurants across the region. Finally, the culinary students headed to the Ilani Casino. While there they got the chance to talk to the executive chef and the food service team. They also got some free food to end off their fun day at Ilani with a buffet sponsored by the casino. The Advanced Culinary Art Class had a wonderful time, and this trip was a great experience for each of them.

“Serving” at the Mil Ball

By Howard Finley

The ROTC Military Ball will take place on Friday, January 23, at 6 p.m. in The Lair. The Military Ball is a ceremony where the change of command occurs. This is when the highest rank student cadet steps down and presents the mantle to the second highest rank cadet. Following the changing of command, cadets begin to pack up the tables and begin a more traditional school dance while still in their uniform “Dress Blues.”

A tradition at the Military Ball is called the Grog. Six classes or “Flights” each

choose an ingredient to add to the Grog, which is a drink. The ingredients can be thin or extremely thick and they are usually extremely unpalatable. Cadets who misbehave or break the rules are made to drink it; however, exceptions are made for cadets who may be allergic to ingredients. Flight commander Bradley Sakrison noted that the Grog this year has a special theme. “The Grog this year is car themed; our flight is doing peanut butter as grease. I don't know what other flights are doing

for the Grog, but ours is going to be peak,” he said.

Additionally, cadets have a full dinner before the festivities. It is catered and a full meal, drinks, and dessert are all provided free of cost. The meal typically consists of some form of meat main dish, an artisanal bread, a salad, and a hot vegetable side. Following the meal, cadets clean, put up tables, and prepare for the more informal dance. At this point in the evening, cadets are allowed to take off the outer layer of their dress blues and enjoy themselves.



MLK Jr. Day and its origins

By Christopher Leu

Some people might think that Martin Luther King Jr. Day is just another day off, but in reality MLK Jr. Day is a day to help your community. Let's take a look at the history of this

day. The legislation for a holiday recognizing Martin Luther King Jr. was originally introduced on April 8, 1968; however, it still took 15 years to be approved by the federal

government and another 17 years to be recognized by all 50 states. On August 23, 1994, President Clinton signed into law the King Holiday and Service Act making the third Monday

in January Martin Luther King Jr. Day, but also a day of service to encourage all Americans to volunteer and support their communities. As famously

said by late Congressman John Lewis, it is “a day on, not a day off.” If you did something for your community during the MLK weekend, please

share with “The Tiger Times” at tigertimes@battlegroundps.org

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

By Nova Keeland

Macaela Heerlein is an amazing freshman. She is a very kind, funny, beautiful and such an understanding friend. Her favorite activities are playing softball and hanging out with her friends, especially her “pookster Nova Lee Keeland.” The things she loves doing with her best friend are going to basketball games, Dutch Bros, and McDonalds. Macaela has been playing softball for four years; her position is catcher, and she loves it. “What I love the most about catcher is being involved in plays,” she said. There are some challenges, however, that come along with being a

catcher. “It hurts my knees,” she said. Macaela is a part of the JROTC air rifle team and hopes to continue participating throughout high school. The thing she loves about being on the air rifle team is “the people probably.” She has two dogs named Viridian and Murphy. Viridian is a Dogo Argentine and Murphy is a German shepherd and chihuahua mix. One of Macaela’s favorite

vacations she’s gone on is a trip to Florida for Disney World. Her favorite ride there is Splash Mountain. Her top three Youtubers are Joe Bart, 3fs, and 4fun. Her top three favorite music artists are Dominic Fike, Modern Baseball, and Tate McRae. Her favorite songs from Dominic Fike are, “King of Everything,” “Think Fast,” and “Ant Pile.” For Modern Baseball her favorite songs are “Your Graduation,”



Top: Macaela Heerlein
Bottom: Nova Keeland

“Apartment,” and “Tears over Bears.” And finally, Macaela’s favorite songs

from Tate McRae are “Tit for Tat,” “Just keep

Watching,” and “Run for the Hills.”

By Brooke Stewart

This issue’s sophomore student spotlight is Diana Diaz-Montes. Diana has been attending BGHS since her freshman year and has enjoyed many aspects of her high school experience so far, especially spending time with her friends! During her freshman year, she played volleyball and also joined ASB, an organization she has been a part of since middle school. “I really like ASB because I enjoy helping with posters and Spirit Week and just helping out



Top: Diana Diaz-Montes
Bottom: Brooke Stewart

with the school in general,” she said. Being involved with ASB has allowed her to stay involved, help support school events, and most importantly, connect with other students.

Outside of school, Diana enjoys spending time with her cousins and friends. She is the youngest of three siblings and has a dog named Oso, a mix between Labrador and Chihuahua. In 2021, Diana moved to Battle Ground after living in

Vancouver for most of her life. After high school, she hopes to become a pediatric nurse. She plans to begin this journey by attending Clark College next year through their Running Start program, which will help her to get closer to achieving her career goal. In the future, Diana would love to travel to Bora Bora or Hawaii. One fun fact about her is that her favorite animal is a baby elephant. Diana’s involvement with the school and dedication to her future make her a good example of a motivated and hard working student at BGHS.

By Koen Holm

We give our first senior student spotlight of 2026 to “The Tiger Times” very own Evan Ottman. Evan Ottman, or some may know him as the “King of Journalism,” is our choice

for student spotlight because of his exceptional effort in his classes and his silly disposition that enriches the days of everyone whom he meets.

Evan is known for his unconventional humor that lights up every class he’s in. One of Evan’s teachers, Mr. Karraker, said, “I love his zany sense of humor and his good posture!” On

top of being a bit of a class clown, Evan is a very hard working individual, shown by his unwavering focus in everyone of his classes. One of Evan's fellow classmates, senior Cash Lovette, attests to the sentiment: "Evan Ottman is such a hard worker. He always prioritizes what is supposed to happen first



Evan Ottman

above everything else. He has great camaraderie and is a great worker." Evan is a man of many talents and hobbies that many have no idea of. Outside his academic endeavors, Evan has a passion for Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu and mixed martial arts in general. His favorite submission is the armbar,

with him even going on to say "Man, I love arm-bars yo; they're my favorite." Evan's favorite food is the torta, which is a hearty Mexican sandwich. Evan said, "Man, every day at lunch, I just love to run on down to the food trucks and just start cracking down some tortas bro." Evan Ottman is a wonderful representation of our school's values and that's why he was picked for this student spotlight.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

By Jaylen French



This issue of "The Tiger Times" staff spotlight stars Ms. Dunn! Ms. Dunn has been teaching at BGHS for three years, but has been teaching for 16 total. Prior to coming to BGHS

she was at Heritage High School for 13 years. Since transferring she has really enjoyed being here. "I like the policies they have here and just the people are pretty great out here," she said.

Ms. Dunn has always taught the subject of math, but this year stepped in to teach ASB leadership as

well. "ASB is definitely a different type of class, but it's pretty fun. I love my spirit days; I love assemblies, and it's been pretty fun to help try to plan stuff and really build the culture around here," she said. She has always been involved in spirit days, so stepping into the

teaching position has been a great fit.

Ms. Dunn's favorite memory at BGHS has been "teaching geometry and algebra II, so I've had several students two years in a row, like Jaylen French." Prior to beginning her teaching career, she planned to earn a degree in math to pursue math research or cryptography. Teaching was the one career she did not want to pursue, as her mother was

a teacher, and growing up she always saw how much work the profession required. Later on she shifted her career path to teaching as it just better suited her interest.

Outside of teaching Ms. Dunn enjoys going on walks with friends, doing puzzles, as well as relaxing and watching TV. Her favorite TV show is "The Office," and although she doesn't have a specific favorite character, she

really likes Pam and Jim. Ms. Dunn is married, and she and her husband have recently celebrated their 21st anniversary! Together they have two middle school boys: a sixth grader who goes to Vancouver School of Arts and Academics, and an eighth grader who goes to ITEC. Ms. Dunn has been an amazing presence to have at BGHS, and we are all thankful to have her here!

SPORTS

By Brock Hieb

The Harbor Cheerfest is a High School cheering event at Gig Harbor High School. Cheerleaders from over 100 Washington State high schools were competing in the event, and the competition started as early as 8 a.m. The cheerleaders were competing to see which of them were going to State. The squad got third in the Traditional category, and first in the Game Day category.

Some of the cheerleaders that competed for Battle Ground High School were sophomore Danika Torneby, junior Destinee Mezyk, senior Victorialynne Brown, senior Kira Moritz-Bear, senior Maylee Geilenfeldt, and senior Louie Ledbury. Torneby's favorite moment of the event was watching other schools and cheering for Hockinson and Evergreen. "We did really well! We had some difficulties with people not

being able to be there, but we were all able to work through it," she said. Torneby thinks that the squad can improve on many things and gain more confidence in themselves. Torneby is looking forward to future competitions. "State and Nationals for sure. We're holding State here on February 6-7, and then we're going to Disneyland for Nationals," she said.

Kira Moritz-Bear likes many aspects of being a

cheerleader. “I do cheer because it has been something I've grown up with my whole life; it's almost comforting. It's not like a regular sport. Every day is different, and you push yourself constantly to

gain a new skill,” she said. Her favorite moments are cheerleading, making new friends, and having real fun. After high school, Kira wants to continue being involved in cheer. “After graduation, I plan to

try out to become a NCA staff (National Cheer Association), so I can be a mentor at camps while still being involved and learning new skills!” she said.



ENTERTAINMENT

By Avery Hill

Martin Luther King Jr.

Coretta Scott King

African American

Washington DC

Civil Rights

Leadership

Fairness

Equality

Justice

Liberty

January

Protest

Freedom

Atlanta

Racism

Speech

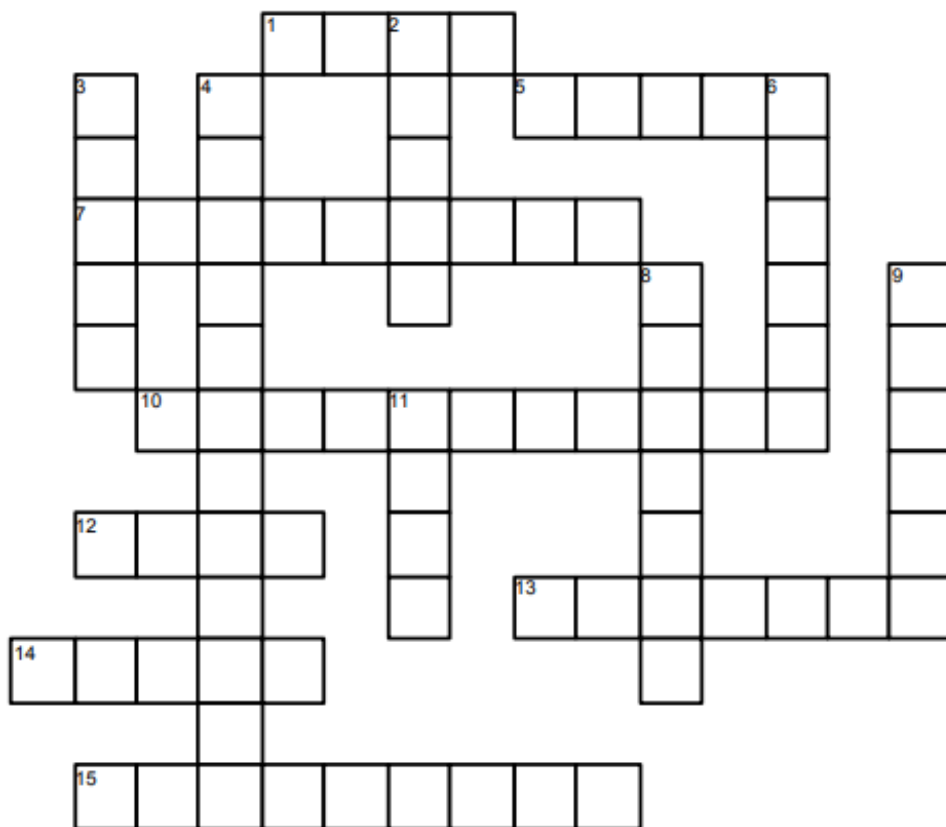
Nobel

Peace

Dream

Skin

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