

Skyward update met with mixed reviews

By Brooke Stewart and Jaylen French

This year the Battle Ground School District is using a new Skyward program called Qmlativ, or “Q.” Many have asked why we switched programs this year. According to Superintendent Shelly Whitten, “Honestly, we didn’t have a choice. Skyward in the version we were in prior to this year was no longer being upgraded and the new version (Qumlativ or Q) is the upgrade of Skyward.”

Among staff, students, and parents there have been many mixed feelings about the new program. The program includes new features such as a new layout with access to customization, specialized tabs, and more. Two polls were created to assess the personal opinions and feedback of staff and students anonymously. A

total of 41 staff members and 136 students responded to the polls. Responders were asked what they like most about the program, and collectively staff and students like the new customization features. The new customization features allow for the page to be color coded, which staff have liked because they are able to color code their different classes. In addition to the customization features, people have also liked the new specialized tabs as they feel it provides more organization.

Responders were additionally asked what they like least about Qmlativ. Many students and staff alike responded that the platform is confusing and not user friendly. Students have

found that every time they click on their class grade or missing assignments it opens multiple web tabs. Students also have had trouble accessing their grades outside of school due to the website's difficulties with logging in as well as navigation.

According to senior Mariah Deegan, “It's difficult to use outside of school because it always tells me my password is wrong and makes me create a new one each time.” Students wish the program had a mobile app similar to the one of the old program, as they found access convenient and the program easy to use at any place and any time.

Staff have found concerns in various restrictions, gradebook access, and more. One staff member included that there

are too many layers to the program, such as the seating chart. “The seating chart function is beyond garbage, restricted desk settings, pictures are way too small. Old Skyward’s ability to use class pictures as the seating chart was ideal,” they said. Staff were asked to rank how prepared they were to use the new program on a scale

from 1-5 (1 being the least prepared and 5 being the most prepared), the average rating was a 1.74 out of 5. “While there were many trainings that occurred prior to the conversion it is never enough,” Superintendent Whitten said. “We continue to have challenges because the system does not have all

the same features. Some things are better and easier to navigate in this system and some are more difficult or don’t exist,” she added. As the year goes on and students and staff become more familiar with the program, many are hopeful that it’s easier to navigate and use effectively.

Minga system: efficiency or disruption?

By Riley Powers, Jackota Salmi, and Howard Finley

The new Minga pass system is the new system designed to track the frequency and length of student bathroom breaks; it will also be used soon to track if a student has an off campus pass, flexed or focused status, and even if they are in a club. All of the student tracking will be packaged together in one app.

Students now are timed in an app and given five minutes per break. Students are allotted three bathroom breaks a day. In an anonymous survey sent out to students, over 70% of the 184 respondents are displeased with this new

system. Some students say that it interferes with learning, having to go to their computer and go through all steps in an app just to sign a digital hall pass. All the while, most teachers have their own system for bathroom breaks and hall passes. One student said “Students should be allowed to go to the bathroom without some system controlling them, and teachers should trust students more. The new system is awful and it’s super unnecessary.”

Of course every demographic is different; teachers are mostly in support of Minga, stating

that for the most part it doesn’t interfere with their teaching and helps them keep better track of students. One teacher stated, “From a safety standpoint, we need better control of students who are out of the classroom during class. In the event of an emergency, we need an accurate and timely account of where students are located.”

Some teachers, however, are not so supportive of Minga. One teacher said, “I have to stop and check them out and then stop and check them back in. It would be helpful to not have this so

teacher driven.” Currently, Minga can be very teacher dependent, especially if a teacher is moving around the classroom most of the class. They would need to stop helping a student, or stop instruction to go sign a student in or out of the app to start or stop the timer. It can be a real hassle for teachers who are always moving around. There is good news, though, for teachers who find Minga a hassle. Sometime soon students will have the ability to sign themselves in and out of class on a dedicated setting of the program.

Minga is planned to be used for Tiger Time as well. Also, another possible benefit to the Minga pass system is when you check out to use the restroom, it will show you if the nearest bathroom is occupied by a red toilet icon so you don't have to waste time in a line and can instead walk to another close bathroom.

Overall there are some very mixed opinions regarding the new system, but the school has made it clear that it will likely stay and be further developed in following years. There may be plans to integrate the new system with

grading and discipline but not likely until next year as those features are currently implemented only at Prairie High School. According to Principal Ichimura, “We will compare how the systems are shown in the district and expand accordingly.” All this goes to say that Minga is a controversial system and more developments may be made; how these changes will affect the following school years remains to be seen. With staff and students both having mixed opinions, it's hard to say how this will shape the future.

Veterans Day Panel inspires and entertains

By James Adams

This week had an exciting event for students attending BGHS. On Monday, November 10, Battle Ground High School hosted the “Veterans Day Panel.” According to Colonel Andrew Woodrow, “The Veterans Day panel is an event sponsored by BGHS AFJROTC that invites veterans from all services and eras to join in

on a 'round table' conversation.” The colonel also said the purpose of this event is to “highlight what it means to be a vet.”

All social studies classes and AFJROTC students were invited and encouraged to attend the event. Different

parts of the event resonated with different students.

Senior Reina Hubbard

liked the fact that the vets mixed in some



One of the vets at the panel affectionately known as BMD.

light-hearted fun. “My favorite part about the Veterans Day Panel was

BMD because he sang “Uptown Funk” in a microphone for four minutes straight,” she said. Other students shared that it was good to see and hear the vets in person. Junior Ryan Curry said, “I like the fact that they took time out of their day to come talk to us about the military.” The panel started during first period and went through the whole school day. There were current and former veterans from many branches of the military such as the U.S Navy, the U.S Army, the U.S Air Force, and even the Washington National Guard. This panel has been

hosted at BGHS for six years now, but the school has been honoring these local veterans and their stories with similar events for decades!

The AFJROTC program loves this event as well as the veterans; Colonel Woodrow said that this event is a “great opportunity to hear the stories of veterans from different eras and specialties discuss what it meant to serve our country. Because only about 1% of the population serves in the military, there are many families who do not have a connection to the experiences of a service member. Plus, this is a

great way to honor our local vets who spend the whole day with us!” This was a great event to hear about the lives and hardships of veterans and what it really means to be a soldier in our military. The panel even made some students reflect on their own family history. Senior Madison Steinman said, “It was cool because it reminds me of my dad who was a Marine in the 80s. Once a Marine, always a Marine.” Most importantly, this event gave us an opportunity to show our appreciation to the people who protect our country.

An evening with BGHS band and choir

By Owen Clark

The BGHS bands had their first concert Tuesday, October 28 at 6:30 p.m. at Battle Ground High School in The Lair. The Lair has a great seating area that pulls out, which held many parents and fans watching the first concert of the year. Their regular band set consisted of many songs such as “Bravo” and

“Chillers Thrillers.” Both Jazz bands were also there and performed their great setlists which consisted of the songs “Satin Doll,” “Engine 9,” “Bill Bailey,” “Si,” and “MF.”

The next band concert will also be held in The Lair on December 16.

According to senior band member Chris Leu,

“The band all played correctly and in tune, which surprised me.” A lot of thought goes into each concert. Band Director Ms. Armstrong said, “I spend a lot of time studying the music for the upcoming concert and choosing the music takes up most of that time.” BGHS has about seventy members

combined between the jazz bands and the regular concert bands and all were there in their full might. The concert itself ran for an hour and forty-five minutes, and ended at about 8:15 p.m. sharp. The band has been practicing since the beginning of the school year but rehearsed

for this particular concert for about the last five and a half weeks.

Not to be forgotten, the BGHS choir also performed at this event. Their list of songs consisted of “Love and Still,” “Hela Rotan,”

and “More Waters Rising.”

The band and choir will have more concerts throughout the school year and are looking forward to

performing again.



Aubrielle Clark and Eli Lennick

The BGHS thrift store has deals for everyone

By Koen Holm

You may or may not know that our high school has its very own thrift store. The thrift store was started by former counselor Mr. Santilli as a fun way to help support some of our school programs but also to

help provide BGHS students quality clothing at a very good price. The store sells everything: winter jackets, awesome shoes, and even epic shirts.

The thrift store has been a part of our school for the past three years and is now

being run by Ms. Main, our school’s associate principal. Ms. Main is now in charge of the program after Mr. Santilli's



Jessica McGowan and Amy Warnke hanging items on a rack.

departure at the end of the last school year. The program works by selling clothes that

are donated, and all for only one dollar! That’s even cheaper than the Dollar Store now, and there’s no tax either. The program’s overall aim is to assist students who are less fortunate by allowing them to purchase needed clothes

for very cheap. Ms. Main explained why the items aren’t free. “Most kids can afford a dollar, but the reason that we did the money thing was because lots of kids don’t like to receive stuff for free because then they feel it’s like charity, and they don’t like that. The fact they buy it makes it feel a little different and also, if kids really need stuff and they don’t have any money, we secretly take them in there and let them go shopping so they can take things with them, and then we just restock it with our backstock.”

As of now, all profits go directly back into the

program, but it could hopefully go on to help support other programs in the high school. Students who are wondering how to donate can contact Ms.

Main. "It's really easy; we like to take donations on Wednesdays because of the late start for kids, so they can just drop it off in the front office!" Remember,

the store is for all students, and from November 17-25 all items will be two for one dollar.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

By Evan Ottman



For the monthly student spotlight, October's standout

freshman is Connor Grail. Because of his incredible work ethic and passion for education, he was a clear choice. This excellent young man has many hobbies and passions; if he had to choose just one, Connor said, "I like to play video games." He is also very social and outgoing. "I like to go to McDonalds with my friends and hang out."

Due to Connor's excellence, it seemed fitting to ask what his idea of a great student is. He explained a good student is "somebody who is kind to everyone they meet and who makes sure to complete all of their work on time." This is an excellent answer, and it reflects the values of Battle Ground High School. He is also well known for being a big fan of food. "I am a super big fan of cereal with Fruit Loops in particular being my favorite," he said.

Once he graduates from high school, Connor is

excited to pursue a career as a lawyer. One reason why Connor wants to be a lawyer is because he believes it can be a lucrative profession. "I heard that it pays a lot and can make someone lots of money if they stick with it," he said. It seems like with his work ethic, passion for McDonalds and gaming, that he's surely on the way to becoming a successful lawyer after high school. Clearly, Connor is setting himself up for a successful future.

By Christopher Leu



The October student of the month for the eleventh grade is Adalynn Coonrod. She is currently 16 years old, and one of the many things she enjoys doing outside of school is long boarding because to her “it is good exercise and is calming”. She also likes drawing due to it also

being calming, as well as volleyball because due to it being her favorite sport. Her goal for her time in high school is to stay on top of her grades and get steady A’s and not have any B’s. Another goal for her time in high school is to keep up on all of her assignments and not have any missing. Her plans for after she graduates high school are to go into the dentistry industry because

many of her cousins and family members are part of that industry and the fact that it pays well. Her favorite animal is a parakeet because “they are really cute” and her favorite food is sushi because it tastes good. Her dream vacation, even though she's already gone several times, is Seaside because she likes the atmosphere of the beach.

By Nova Keeland



Hanna Foley is the student of the month for October. She was born in a hospital in Salmon Creek and has lived in Battle Ground her whole life. She goes to Montana a lot. “It’s a cool place to visit, very pretty,” she said. The place she wants to visit the most is Sweden,

so she can see her friends from there.

Hanna doesn’t have any hobbies, but something she really enjoys is reading. She doesn’t have a dream car nor does she play video games. She knows a lot of funny people but can’t choose who’s the funniest. After she finishes school, Hannah plans to continue working. Her favorite smell is the smell of when

her laundry is fresh out of the dryer.

If Hannah won one million dollars right now, she said she has a few things in mind that she would do with the money. “Finish paying off my car, go on vacation, and save the rest for future needs,” she said. And lastly, and perhaps most importantly, Hannah likes pineapple on pizza!



STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Mr. Groat: a passion for math and his students' growth

By Avery Hill



David Groat, more commonly known as Mr. Groat, is a math

teacher here at BGHS. He started his teaching career many years ago and is still happy to be teaching to this day. From tutoring other students when he was in second grade to teaching classes to hundreds of students yearly, Mr. Groat discovered his true calling was in the classroom. "I belong in a classroom teaching," he said to himself years ago, leading him to pursue his teaching career.

Mr. Groat's passion for math has been undeniable ever since his early school years. Math has always resonated with him. His

favorite math subject is statistics, which he finds a natural fit with his love for all types of games. But beyond the classroom, Mr. Groat is dedicated to creating a healthy mindset in his students. He wants his students to believe they aren't doing classwork or homework but instead doing activities to learn the equations. For example, he asks students to come up to the white boards all over his room and practice the work provided. Mr. Groat believes that a willingness to try and make mistakes is crucial for learning, regardless of the subject being taught.

What truly drives Mr. Groat is his desire to help students become the best version of themselves. He wants his students to succeed, and he will do

whatever he can to see that happen. "I want to make sure that each student gets equal learning time and are all being taught together." He views teaching not just as random equations you need to memorize to pass the test, but instead as a way to prepare students to be well informed citizens in the world after school. With more innovative teaching methods, such as more standing around the classroom to keep kids engaged in the conversations and lessons, Mr. Groat hopes to improve student achievement. He is a valuable asset to our school and community, committed to making a difference in the lives of his students.

SPORTS

B.G. football gets historic win against Skyview

By Brock Hieb

The Battle Ground Tigers beat the Skyview Storm with a final score of 35 to 21. It was the first win against Skyview since September 24, 2004, and one of the biggest wins in our school's history. The Tigers were motivated to win as the team had a four game losing streak heading into the game against Skyview. The Tiger's offense, defense, and special teams did their jobs at a really high level, and the Tigers are a good football team because of it. Senior Ethan Adams, the starting quarterback of the Tigers, threw one touchdown, passed for 195 yards, rushed for 88 yards, and had one interception in the win. As one of the leaders on the field, he made sure that his team played together. "I'm proud of my team for not giving up during our four

game losing streak.

Everyone stayed locked in and focused on our goal, which was to go to playoffs," he said.

The offense played well in the win and Mr. Jayson Maddux, the offensive coordinator, was a big part of it. He is very pleased with the team's progress. "I feel great about it. It's something we've been working towards since last December, and to have that all come together really makes the time and effort worth it," he said. Maddux thinks that the win was big for the team, especially for the seniors. "It's a big win for the program, but most importantly for the senior class who has left a legacy in their final year. Not too many kids can say they snapped a 20-game losing streak, but those guys can. It's been years since it was even a close game, so it's a

pretty special win for everyone on the team," he said.

Senior George Tkachenko is a linebacker and wide receiver for the Tigers, and he played well in the win. He threw a touchdown pass during the game, his first ever in a game. "I just saw the safety jump the run and that they thought I'm going to run the ball, but then I saw Trent open up really well, and I threw the ball and made a good pass," he said. Mr. Bryan Levesque, special education teacher, is our school's historian on southwest Washington football teams, and he has some history about how big the Tigers win against Skyview really was. "Battle Ground's victory has a chance to be extremely impactful. Coupled with their league victory over Union, Battle

Ground has advanced to the playoffs in football for the second time in the past three seasons and only the seventh time in school history, dating back to 1973 when the WIAA began post season play.

Sometimes it just takes one game to prove to the future players that anything is possible,” he said. Unfortunately, the Tiger’s season has come to an end with a loss to the Bothell Cougars on November 7.

The game was close, but B.G. fell short with a score of 17-20. Overall, it was a great season for the Tigers, and they hope to be even better next year.

ENTERTAINMENT

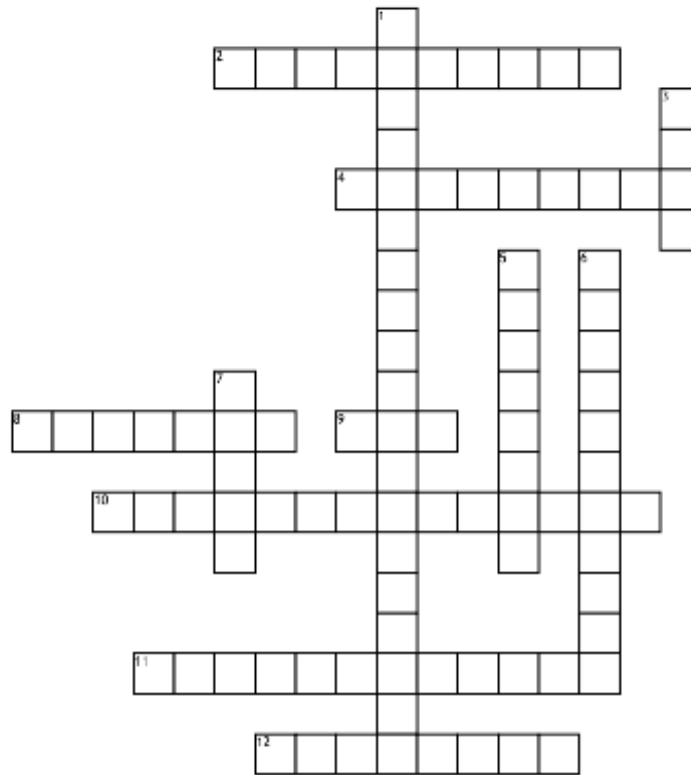
By Elijah Hagelstein

VETERANS DAY

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A Z D R F R U X S Z Q B V Q Y M R A S U E J Y A	GOD BLESS YOU
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Y V N O V E M B E R J R H E R O A U K F S N Q Y	SACRIFICES
Z H T R H F O E E S M G T S B K D E I L T B Y O	THANK YALL
N Z N S G Z S B S B I Z E N Z T T T Y Z R N P Z	GRATITUDE
X S G B E U J E J J O Y R S M U P L P Z E S W E	STRENGTH
Q R W V I C C G U G T U R O L Y H Z T Y N E P G	HONORING
B S B D P I I W Y N A D H A L V M B M I G C Q G	NOVEMBER
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W D A R C X R O I C E T F H B R A Z M G H O A D	SERVICES
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L S N R P I R I M T C V L D V T U F R P S O U L	AMERICA
S D Y H N C Z E O R G A N L S R N H I H R Y W E	SOLDIER
I U N A T I O N M W V V S C J T M R Y N D R K S	UNIFORM
V N M E V I M D U A H I U M V Y A E I U V T D S	MARINES
B D B K P D J F R E E D O M K W J T J T T N P Y	US ARMY
S O L D I E R B I S N A R E T E V J E K H U P O	FREEDOM
U Y A I V K M E D U T I T A R G P H D S K O R U	FORCES
V J B G V U B Y S E N I R A M Q L Y E S O C U T	SALUTE
G Z Y T R H Z O R E O Z H U D F Z F V F L R V X	NATION
H X I W H V D X S I K T K F U U S J P E X U P S	SAILOR
M N Y H O N O R I N G F T K B S B A M X A O B W	FLAG
N I J X B D Q O W Z E R P S Q T A L R X G C W P	HERO
	NAVY
	USA
	WAR



Veterans Day



Across

2. In 1954 President _____ officially changed the name.
 4. 2.8 million veterans served during the _____. (2 words no spaces)
 8. There are about 23.2 _____ military veterans in the U.S.
 9. _____ million veterans served in peacetime.

Down

10. Canada celebrates _____. (2 words no spaces.)
 11. Veterans Day was originated as _____. (2 words no spaces)
 12. Veterans Day originated on November 11, 1919, the first anniversary of _____. (2 words no spaces)

Down

1. Which bill was passed by Congress in 1968? (3 words no spaces)
 3. President _____ returned Veterans Day back to November 11th.
 5. It is celebrated on _____ 11th.
 6. Veterans Day should not be confused with _____. (2 words-no spaces).
 7. 1.8 million veterans are _____.

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