

# THE LEONID



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## Ends Bring New Beginnings

### In the role of principal, Michael Joyce offers a new approach to leading Bishop Canevin

Edward Stankowski | News Editor

Over the summer, there were major changes at Bishop Canevin High School. There is now an Innovation Center and a recycling campaign, but the major changes came with new personnel. Michael Lesifko, Sean Fox, Adam Purdy, Amber Tonacchio, Ken Sinagra and Karen Walker all left, to be replaced with biology teacher Denise Streeter, STEM teacher Sherri Randolph and math teacher Joe Fearer, but the most noticeable change was the hiring of Michael Joyce to the role of principal.

Joyce has degrees from Penn State University and Duquesne University. He worked at Seton La Salle High School for 11 years holding various roles. Joyce is an experienced leader and plans to continue Bishop Canevin's tradition of putting students first.

Joyce is happy to be working with such qualified faculty, and he is impressed with the student body's commitment to the school and each other. He is glad to see that the students are showing their support for the school's sports teams, participating in the pep rallies and attending sporting events. He acknowledges that this sort of enthusiasm is uncommon and should not be taken for granted.

Joyce wants to get accustomed to the school before making major changes,

but he has implemented a few. He has instituted a one-day schedule instead of the prior six-day schedule. This simplifies things and streamlines the schedule, making for an easier adjustment for incoming students. Also, Joyce established a Campus Ministry team in order to reinforce and guide Bishop Canevin's faith life. As a Catholic school, having such a guiding team makes sense.

### "He is taller than Mr. Sinagra"

Joseph Romano, Dean of Students

The school is now more democratic, with administrative duties spread between Joyce, Dean of Students Joseph Romano and Vice Principal Lori Rossi. This council is working toward including the students in more decisions, making the school's activities even more transparent and inclusive. In conjunction with Student Government (Led by Faber House's very own Briana Patterson), this increased democracy and inclusiveness will allow for more student involvement in the school's decision making process.

Joyce's arrival has certainly been met



Photo by Allison Bender

During history class, Joyce and junior Alyssa Pollice discuss an interesting lesson.

with changes, but also with approval from the students. Senior Alex Fleming said that Joyce is "very proactive in the school....and seems to be happy to be in this job."

Romano noted some significant differences between Joyce and Sinagra.

"He is taller than Mr. Sinagra," Romano said. "Second, he likes football, where Mr. Sinagra is primarily baseball and hockey."

Romano also expressed his excitement for Joyce's arrival.

"Mr. Joyce brings the enthusiasm and the willingness to listen and the desire to help out the school that makes me as a faculty member really excited to teach here."

Joyce definitely has height, youth

and apparently football on his side.

Joyce is working to make the entire school more open to student participation, and he hopes he is engaging and approachable. He is trying to get to know each student personally and go to as many events as he can.

Joyce is endeavoring to become an accepted part of the Bishop Canevin community, one that he sees as unique and exceptional. He encourages anyone to approach him and initiate a conversation.

Joyce is married to Stephanie Joyce, a teacher at St. Louise de Marillac. They have a two-year-old son Benjamin and a dog Petey. In his free time, Joyce enjoys biking, golf and softball.



Photo courtesy of Stephanie Joyce

After a day of apple picking at Triple B Farms in Elizabeth, Joyce and his family smile for a photo.



Photo by Alex Light

Addressing the school during the Fall Pep Rally, Joyce hypes up the student body.



Photo by Alex Light

Following Bishop Canevin tradition, Joyce presents junior Lillian Chaballa with a class ring during the Junior Ring Ceremony.

## Actually She Can

Senior Sydney Serena starts a program to help girls gain confidence and power in sports

Makenzie Butler | *Managing Editor*

The Boys and Girls Club at Sarah Heinz House helps young people develop healthy lifestyles, academic success and leadership skills, all while having fun. The Boys and Girls Club offers students real world skills to use throughout life.

Senior Sydney Serena has been a member of the club for 12 years. She is a Youth of the Year finalist, is secretary of the leadership group called the Keystone and participates in dance. Serena also volunteers eight hours a week at the Heinz House.

Serena started a program called "Actually I Can" on Sept. 21.

"The program is a weekly program about self-empowerment," Serena said. "It is meant to encourage a safe environment where girls are not afraid to come in and shine."

The program helps girls to build their confidence and sport skills that will help them later in life. Serena first mentioned the idea of a club specifically for girls during her sophomore year.

"I wanted to start this program to end the stereotype that boys are athletes and

girls are made for the kitchen," Serena said. "I wanted to encourage girls to participate in sports without the fear of being labeled."

Serena works hard to make the club a success and to give girls the chance to play sports with confidence. She wants the girls to prove that they can play sports just as well as their male counterparts.

"Actually I Can" is supervised by Serena's gym teacher at Heinz, Hannah Komita. Komita helps Serena with planning and activities. Komita is just as committed to the program as Serena.

"I was really excited when Sydney presented this idea. Being confident in the gym and while playing sports is something I always struggled with growing up," Komita said. "So the fact that Sydney wanted to start a program for

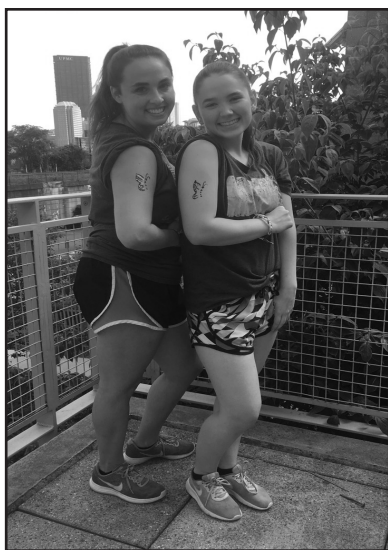


Photo courtesy of Sydney Serena

Serena and Heinz House staff member Hannah Komita show off their fake butterfly tattoos in honor of their womanhood.

girls to work in confidence in that area was so encouraging to me."

The program is to teach girls all different kinds of sports. From soccer to football, there is no limit to the sport the girls can play. Serena is very involved in the teaching process. For example, she taught the girls to dribble a soccer ball with their feet. Serena opens the program to girls in first through sixth grade.

"I wanted to start this program to end the stereotype that boys are athletes and girls are made for the kitchen. I wanted to encourage girls to participate in sports without the fear of being labeled"

Sydney Serena, Senior

its Women of Wellness program.

"I would like to build it up at Heinz so that it gains recognition from other clubs and we (Sydney and I) are able to help implement it across the country," Komita said.

Serena wants to work with children in the future as a Physical Education teacher at the grade school level. She also plans to expand the "Actually I Can" program to others Boys and Girls Clubs across the country.

Serena works hard to achieve her goals. She wants girls to be able to come into the program and learn from her. Serena hopes to change the world of sports for girls and to inspire them to be great.

## Hayden Hamilton's Fight

A football player from Laurel High School knocked unconscious in a conference game

Sydney Serena | *Editor-in-Chief*



Photo courtesy of Alex Light

Putting aside rivalry, the Bishop Canevin community shows its support for Hayden Hamilton.

As the sun sets, a slight chill fills the air. The sound of cheering can be heard two counties over as it pierces through the night air, the crowds adrenaline running. The drums beat from the marching bands, the cheerleaders scream as they cheer on their teams and parents yell about what is happening on the field. Yes you guessed it, it is football game night. Aug. 31 is one such night that Laurel High School will never forget.

It was the third quarter during the Laurel vs. Rochester high school football game when the entire crowd fell silent. Sophomore Hayden Hamilton was knocked unconscious while playing defense. He was trying to make a tackle against his opponent.

"He got hit from behind during the play," Rich said according to Tribelive. "When he went down, the running back's leg caught him in the side of the head. It was a neck-jarring hit."

Hamilton was life flighted to Children's Hospital unable to move his legs or arms. He underwent two surgeries that lasted nine hours. Both surgeries helped him get closer to recovery.

"His first operation was done while he was lying on his back and doctors repaired damage to vertebra 5, gaining access to it through his throat," Rich said on CNN news. "The second surgery was done with him lying on his stomach and doctors accessing the spinal area through the back of his neck to realign some vertebrae that were out of place."

Hamilton has been surrounded by

friends and family throughout his recovery. The recovery of Ryan Shazier, Steelers' linebacker, gave Hamilton more confidence that he will recovery as well. Shazier suffered a spinal injury last December.

The Laurel community painted the number 26 on the field in support of Hamilton. Football fans and students wore green shirts. Local school communities have been ditching their colors to wear green to show their support for the injured football player.

Bishop Canevin High School who lost to Laurel High School a week later also was in support of Hamilton. Canevin held a dress down day on Sept. 7. All of the proceeds were donated to Hamilton's GoFundMe which raised over \$59,885. The school community raised \$1,500 through the dress down day. The Crusaders wore the number 26 on their helmets during the game. The cheerleaders and Crusettes also wore green ribbons in their hair and made signs.

Hamilton is now out of Children's Hospital and in a facility where he is undergoing rehabilitation. He is able to feel movement in both his arms and legs. He plans on being home by the end of November. He is most excited to see his dogs, according to the Ellwood City News.

Although, a Friday night football game went terribly wrong for Hamilton it also brought the community together. Communities from all over united to support him and will continue to support him as he recovers. Keep Hamilton in your prayers as he expects to make a full recovery.



# Technology the Good, the Bad and the Internet

Rising technological advances leave students depressed

Sydney Serena | *Editor-in-Chief*

A young girl wakes up early in the morning to get ready for school. Before she gets out of bed, she checks her Instagram. In class, she checks if she has any text messages from her friends while making sure her teacher does not catch her. When she gets home from school, she scrolls the internet for a few hours before finally starting her homework. When she is about to go to bed, she checks her Instagram one more time. This time she sees a comment on a few of her photos. Someone she barely knows said mean things about her. That is all she can think about. Her day is ruined, all because of social media.

"First off, I am so thrilled to be discussing mental health in the Leonid! It is certainly a topic that needs more discussion and awareness," school counselor Natalie Liptak said. "Mental health touches every single person in some way. We need to be able to talk about it and have the knowledge of 'how to get help when needed.'"

On average children and teens spend about five hours a day on social media, according to CNN. It is one of the first things most young people do when they wake up and one of the last things they do before they go to bed. Technology use started when we were infants as we were taught to sit and watch tv and has continued throughout our young adulthood.

"The question of whether or not technology affects a student's mental health can simply be answered with, YES! However, this "YES" can be both positive and negative," Liptak said. "We live in a world where, for better or for worse, we are surrounded by technology; as a matter of fact each one of our students is handed an iPad on the first day of class."

Technology has grown throughout the years. We have lost the formality of face to face

communication. Teens feel alone because of the social status that they want to achieve. For example, they have to have the most likes on Instagram or the most views on Snapchat. This constant comparison and obsession leads teens to become depressed and isolated from the world.

"The negative affect of technology is that the constant access can lead to a loss of communication, which can in turn make us feel alone. If we begin to only communicate via technology, we lose that important human interaction that is so beneficial to mental health," Liptak said. "Although social media has some really great aspects and uses, it can certainly be a contributor to various mental health concerns such as depression or low self-esteem."

Although social media has bad effects there are also good aspects. With social media, you can catch up on the local news. You can also keep in touch with relatives and friends that live out of the state or country.

"The positive affect of technology is that individuals have greater access to help. Whether it be through apps or being able to Skype/Facetime a counselor, individuals have more places where they can turn," Liptak said. "There is a certain unfortunate stigma around mental health, so having other outlets to discuss with others through blogs or websites can increase the chances a student gets what they need."

Technology use is a matter of balance. It is not a bad thing to have but having too much leads to things like depression, fights and bullying. So, next time you want to go on Instagram, go outside instead.

"Always remember if anyone is struggling with mental health please know that my door is always open, or use the positives of technology and email me!" Liptak said.

# Nike Causes Social Media Uproar

The public is burning Nike products after the company announces its Colin Kaepernick campaign

Abby Griffith | *Copy and Design Editor*

Kneeling during the national anthem brought major backlash to the NFL. Colin Kaepernick, the former quarterback for the San Francisco 49ers, was the first person in the NFL to kneel during the national anthem. Kneeling during the anthem is a quiet protest, a protest that is intended to shine light on police brutality and the inequality that people of color face in the United States. The players' act of kneeling is often broadcasted on live television as well, letting the protests be seen nationwide.

"The players want to take a stand, and I understand that," senior Matthew Menosky said. "But disrespecting what our country stands for was not the right way to do it."

Kaepernick began his protests during the 2016 preseason. According to the NFL, Kaepernick's protests are in relation to the mistreatment of African Americans and minority groups in the United States.

"I am not going to stand up to show pride in a flag for a country that oppresses black people and people of color," Kaepernick said in an

NFL interview.

Kaepernick's protests began during preseason, but once the regular season started other players joined in. Brandon Marshall, Marcus Peters, Marshawn Lynch and Michael Bennett were among some of the players that engaged in the protests.

Nike's use of such a debatable person for its campaign is in many ways a smart marketing plan. According to ESPN, the attention Kaepernick brought to the company managed to increase the company's sales. Within the time of hiring Kaepernick, Nike's sales increased 6.25%, over 6.38 billion dollars.

"The use of Kaepernick was good for Nike obviously, as it drew a lot of attention," Menosky said.

Using someone as controversial as Kaepernick can always be viewed as a risk for business. Nike knew what it was doing when they hired him.

"For any company, using anyone controversial is a risk," senior Briana Patterson said.

Once the Nike campaign went public, many citizens expressed their outrage. Videos of people publicly

burning Nike shoes went viral. People burned their shoes, socks and any clothing item they owned with the Nike label on it. Many also cut the Nike emblem off their socks and threw it away. Social media took the protests even farther. The hashtag #BoycottNike, started to trend worldwide. Multiple famous actors, singers and comedians also proceeded to tweet at Nike, questioning its decisions.

"Remember when Colin Kaepernick wore socks that depicted police officers as pigs?" author Bill O'Reilly tweeted. "So here's my question for Nike: if Mr. Kaepernick wore socks mocking Muslims or gays, would you hire him to endorse your products?"

Although receiving some definite backlash, the use of Kaepernick was a smart marketing ploy for Nike. It brought a lot of attention to the company.

Kneeling during the national anthem is a very disrespectful thing to do. Kaepernick was in the wrong for protesting, but Nike was smart when it came to using him as the face of its campaign.

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## A Week to “Spirit” Up

Students embrace the themes of Spirit Week with costumes, movies and games

Antonio Battista | Staff Reporter



Harry Styles (Senior Megan Hirschfield) and Damian (Senior Makenzie Butler) visit Bishop Canevin on Meme Day.

Senior Briana Patterson announces the next race on the microphone. To her left, pairs of “twins,” from seniors to freshmen, are ready to run with only three legs. Their goal: the coveted rewards of Dunkin Donuts gift-cards and bragging rights. Patterson starts the countdown, and the racers take position.

Sept. 31 was Bishop Canevin’s Homecoming, and while the dance itself might be one of the most anticipated events of the school year, the school week before is also full of fun and priceless memories. Spirit Week is always the week before Homecoming, and for the last few years, Student Government has been evolving the events to jam pack as much fun as possible into five days. This year, Student Council made no exception and tried to make this Spirit Week one to remember.

Freshman Katie Drauch openly expressed her love for the week. She mentioned a specific interest in Throwback Thursday, especially costuming and watching High School Musical.

“A lot of teamwork and competition unfolded,” Drauch said.

Monday’s theme was Meme Day. Many students and staff dressed up in a variety of costumes from the music artist Harry Styles to the character Damian from the movie *Mean Girls*. The costumes were creative and unique. The school community was not afraid to try new things.

Tuesday was Twin Day, probably the most anticipated theme of the entire week. Twin Day has always been a well participated event, but this year it was added upon with multiple twin races in the afternoon. The races included the wheelbarrow, balloon balance and the three-legged race.

Spirit Week is meant to unite the school in enthusiasm and merriment, and having the entire school participate or watch events achieved this goal. After the races, the school had ice cream served in the cafeteria for all students and staff.

Wednesday was Pajama Day. Student Council served breakfast early Wednesday morning before classes. Donuts, orange juice and coffee were among the treats.

Thursday and Friday dress down days were throwback and BC dress down day. The events on these days included watching High School Musical, playing Kahoot, participating in tailgating games and playing basketball and Ultimate Frisbee. The students chose what they wanted to do and they were able to go to a different event if they wanted to.

“The dress down days were my favorite because we were able to go all out and do more with them,” senior Makenzie Butler said.

It is important for all students to have fun during Homecoming week, even if they are not going to the dance. This Spirit Week was one for the books as the students and staff participated more than ever before.

History teacher and Student Council moderator Dave Casavale and the Student Government members were very happy with how Spirit Week unfolded and felt good about all of their efforts.

“Mr. Romano and I worked throughout the summer to plan the week,” Casavale said. “It was great to see students enjoying the outdoor picnic area, being engaged in the Twin Races, relaxing watching High School Musical and playing Kahoot Trivia in the library.”

## Pies, Hayrides and Haunted Halls

Homecoming weekend kicks off with a Fall Festival organized by Student Government

Caroline Colantonio | Staff Reporter



Warming up her arm, freshman Lauren Kirsch gives everything she has as she pies Dean of Students Joseph Romano in the face.

Bishop Canevin’s second annual Fall Festival was a huge success with food trucks, a haunted house and fun fall festivities.

As you walked in to the festival entrance, the faint sound of music slowly invited you in to the event. The abundance of fall colored tables welcomed guests to sit, take a load off and enjoy the festival. The aromas wafting from the South Side Barbecue drew the attendees to the food trucks. After purchasing some delicious BBQ, a nice, refreshing cup of Airesman Apple Orchard apple cider helped the community to keep the fall theme alive throughout the night.

For fun, many enjoyed decorating pumpkins, riding the hay ride and getting a good scare as they went through the haunted house. Many students also enjoyed throwing water balloons at various Bishop Canevin teachers and watching Dean of Students Joseph Romano get pied in the face.

Many attendees also loved the music provided by senior Giulia Galante. All in all, Bishop Canevin’s second annual Fall Festival was a huge success.

This year’s Student Government worked tirelessly in order to make the Fall Festival a fun and exciting event that would kick off Homecoming Weekend.

“A lot of hard work went into planning Fall Fest,” Student Government President Briana Patterson said.

Fall Fest was a huge event that entailed a lot of “behind the scenes” work in order to make the event such a success.

“Our main goal was to create an excit-

ing atmosphere leading up to Homecoming, and I don’t think it could have gone any better,” Patterson said.

Fall Fest was created as a way to end Spirit Week at school and kick off Homecoming Weekend with an event that all students and faculty could enjoy. Student Government moderator and Bishop Canevin teacher Dave Casavale said that the Fall Fest was “very well attended” and that Fall Fest turned out to be “a really nice event for students, community members and families.”

The event had a genuine sense of welcoming, and it was a great opportunity for students and members of the BC community to enjoy themselves and take a little break from the school year. Overall, the students that attended Fall Fest had very positive comments about the night and seemed to have a good time.

“Fall Fest was fantastic this year, the haunted house was very spooky!” senior Alex Fleming said.

The Dugan’s, a Bishop Canevin family, put together an outstanding haunted house that actually took place inside of the B-side hallway of the school. Many enjoyed getting a good scare thanks to the efforts of the Dugan family.

The Student Government worked diligently to find something for everyone to do throughout the night.

“There was so much to do that I never got bored!” senior Annie Walsh said.

Overall, the event was a huge success. The majority of people that attended really enjoyed themselves and got to share in a festive fall time at Bishop Canevin.

# One Giant Leap for the City of Pittsburgh

## Pittsburgh's Heinz History Center features Apollo 11 exhibit

Abby Griffith | Copy and Design Editor

On Sept. 29 Pittsburgh's Heinz History Center welcomed its new exhibit Destination Moon.

July 1969 was one of the most memorable months in American history. The moment Neil Armstrong, a member of the Apollo 11 mission, touched foot on the moon the country changed. Students now learn about this day in history. Millions of citizens tuned into their televisions to witness this monumental day.

"It's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind," Armstrong said.



A local family explores an exhibit of space gear worn during the Apollo 11 mission.

As the 50th anniversary of this monumental day is approaching, the Heinz History Center and the Smithsonian

wanted to do something special. Destination Moon was created by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES). SITES has been a touring exhibit for over 65 years.

The city of Pittsburgh is one of four cities in the country to feature this traveling exhibit. Pittsburgh was chosen for the exhibit due to its connection with the Apollo 11 mission. Pittsburgh's famous company Westinghouse is one of the influential contributors.

"The camera placed on the moon surface to record the first steps was created by Westinghouse," Anne Madarasz, a curator for the Heinz History center, said.

The company teamed up with NASA to build a camera to withstand the forces throughout the launch and landing series. Along with Westinghouse, many other companies throughout the city were connected to the original mission.

"There are so many ties to Pittsburgh that the list could go on and on," Madarasz said.

Destination Moon is based around

the moon exploration. The exhibit is said to take visitors through the moon landing and the space race, according to the Heinz History Center's website. The exhibit displays the command module Columbia and artifacts from the mission. The exhibit also features a 3-D tour to allow visitors to see inside the Columbia.

"The exhibit is kid friendly, as well as adult friendly," Madarasz said. "There is activities for the children to partake in, as well as factual information to give the background."

The traveling exhibit is hosting its first national tour since 1970. As the 50th anniversary is approaching on July 20, 2019, the Smithsonian is preparing to make it a memorable occasion. The Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C. plans to celebrate the anniversary by displaying Armstrong's space suit for the public to see. The spacesuit will permanently remain on display in the museum in Washington, D.C. The traveling exhibit will become permanent in 2022 in the Air and Space museum as well.



Children play inside the Apollo 11 module and experience what it was like inside the spacecraft.

Destination Moon will be in the city of Pittsburgh from Sept. 29, 2018 through Feb. 17, 2019. The exhibit is open from the hours of 10am to 5pm daily, with an admission fee of \$18.

## Lights, Camera, Annie!

### Senior Annie Walsh takes her talents beyond the high school stage

Caroline Colantonio | Staff Reporter

The crowd goes quiet, the lights begin to dim and the curtains slowly open. Senior Annie Walsh is ready to perform.

Over the past three years, Walsh has participated in the musicals at Canevin as a featured dancer in *Guys and Dolls* her freshman year, as the lead role of Dorothy Gale in the *Wizard of Oz* her sophomore year and last year she landed the role of the housewife in the production *Working*. But her acting career does not stop at Canevin. Walsh also attends the Center for Theater Arts, also known as CTA, to continue acting and singing outside of the school musical.

"I have been taking classes at CTA since I was in second grade, so this will be my 11th year there."

Her dedication and many years of practice really seem to be paying off. Over her career as a performer, Walsh has participated in nearly 30 shows, both with CTA and at Bishop Canevin.

When asked if performing for Canevin was any different than with CTA, Walsh explained that it is much different than one would expect.

"At CTA, the cast that I work with is huge. There are 80 people usually in one cast," Walsh said. "The competition to get role is much higher than at Canevin."

This heightened sense of competition really gives Walsh an edge when it comes to Bishop Canevin musicals, seeing that she is preparing herself for shows by practicing at CTA.

Even though Walsh does love being on stage, her main goal is not to be the lead all the time.

"For me, I don't care about getting the lead every single time," Walsh said. "I just like being on stage and performing for an audience."

The rush she gets while performing on stage is satisfying enough.

"To know that the audience enjoyed the show makes the hours of rehearsal 100% worth it"

Being a part of musical theater is a really special, important and enjoyable aspect of Walsh's life, and it truly makes her unique.

"When you're on stage," Walsh said, "You don't think about anything. You're in the moment embodying your character and every aspect of them."

As musical season approaches, Walsh is excited

to see what this year's show will be.

"It's always fun too find out what the show will be. It kind of sets the mood of the cast and gets everyone really excited," Walsh said.

This year's show is *Pippin*. Walsh's goal is to have a solid audition, and to see what this musical season has in store for her.



Walsh partaking in the performance of *Zombie Prom*.



## Road to Repeat

The Crusader girls' volleyball team wins battle for the WPIAL title

Abby Griffith | Copy and Design Editor

The crowd is chanting as the Crusader volleyball team receives another record breaking kill, winning the match.

After the loss of only one senior, the team prepared to receive a back to back WPIAL title. After successful previous seasons, the team was fully aware of what it needed to work on to reach the same success.

"We need to focus on serving consistently," senior and captain Kylie Airesman said. "Covering tips, making sure we are aiming for deep corners and blocking are all things we need to definitely work on."

The team went undefeated in its section and won three major non-section matches against Latrobe Area, Berlin Brothers Valley and South Park. The team competed in the WPIAL playoffs, making it to the final. On Nov. 3 the team completed their goal of a repeat for the WPIAL title.

"It gets stressful sometimes, and we just have to try and stay positive moving forward," senior Ally Correa said.

Along with the focus on winning a WPIAL repeat, the team also proceeded to break multiple school records within the first half of the season. Junior Alexa Malloy broke the school record for kills, beating Erin Cunningham of 2015. Malloy broke the record in the section game against Burgettstown with 621 kills. Airesman and senior Gabby Matakovich were the seventh and eighth players in history to break 100 aces this season.

Along with breaking school records, Airesman was nominated for the Under Armour All American Watch List. Airesman was one of 797 high school players across the country to receive this



Photo courtesy of Gill Port

Airesman rejoices after a major section game victory.

nomination. Only 12 players from the state of Pennsylvania were nominated, Airesman being one.

"It's an honor," Airesman said. "I'm very appreciative of this award."

According to the team, they have a bond like no other. The players focused on keeping the strong bond throughout the year, even as new freshmen came in. The team had bonding activities after practices and team meals before every game. Throughout the season, the coaches were a major part of that bond.

"I think our connection with them [the coaches] is different than any other team," Matakovich said. "They're more like a family to us."

The team began their season with the absence of head coach Kevin Walters. Walters is fighting a battle with cancer, and the team is fully behind him every step of the way. Assistant coach Danelle Wagner stepped in to fill Walters' place.

"Every time something happens you just think of him," Matakovich said. "And you can hear his voice. We all know him so well we know exactly what he would say in any moment."

The players wish for the school community to keep their coach in its thoughts and prayers.

The season came to an end after a loss to Northern Cambria in the first round of PIAA state playoffs. The Crusader volleyball team will be back in action in May with open gyms, preparing to battle for a *three-peat*.



Photo courtesy of Gill Port

After a successful match, the Crusader volleyball team poses and smiles big for a photo on their road to repeat a WPIAL title.

## A Reason to Run

Crusader cross-country team runs for more than the win

Mac Johnson | Staff Reporter

When asked why he ran across the country and back, Forest Gump from the Academy Award winning movie of the same name answered, "For no particular reason, I just kept on going...I just felt like running."

Similar to Mr. Gump, the talented runners of the BC cross-country team felt like running, and they kept on going throughout the season. The team, however, ran for many reasons, including to win. With its hard work and skill, along with the enthusiasm and experience of its coach Eric Schafer, the team won and won some more. Both the girls' and boys' teams finished with a winning season.

According to Schafer, the cross-country season concluded with the WPIAL Championships, where the boys finished 15th and the girls finished 16th. In section competition, the boys finished third with a 7-2 record and the girls finished 4th with a 5-3 mark. Top finishers at the WPIAL Championships were senior Dante DeFrank for the boys in 38th place and freshman Erin LaQuatra for the girls in 49th place.

In the past, the sport of cross-country stayed in the shadow of other sports, such as football and basketball, because of the lack of media attention and understanding of the sport.

Schafer briefly explains the ins, outs and turns of cross-country.

"Cross-country is running over grass, dirt, gravel and courses that frequently have lots of hills both up and down," Schafer said. "It's the best sport!"

Races are mostly 5 kilometers or 3.1 miles. Since a pair of shoes is the only equipment required, it is easy to see why



Photo by Caroline DeFrank

Senior Dante DeFrank runs to the finish line as he completes a new personal record.

this sport is becoming more popular among both schools and parents. This is evidenced by all of the cross-country teams and meets popping up in the Pittsburgh Diocese primary schools.

In his 13 years coaching the BC cross-country team, Schafer knows many other reasons that running in this sport can be valuable for the students now and later in life. He enjoys his job very much.

"[I love] being able to inspire young runners to be their best and hopefully enjoy running enough that they want to continue running throughout their life," Schafer said.

Schafer teaches his team many valuable life lessons while also teaching them about cross-country at the same time. He believes the most important thing to be learned from cross-country is perseverance.

"...to persevere through fatigue to finish a race. Learning that one is capable of finishing a race helps build confidence that other difficult tasks can also be completed successfully," Schafer said.

Schafer wants his team to always give everything they have and to carry that work ethic throughout life.

"[I want my runners] to work hard and always give their best efforts. Very few runners can be champions, but every runner can work hard to be the best that they can be," Schafer said. "Also the value of sportsmanship. The runner that may have finished just ahead of you in a

race may have pushed you to finish with your best time."

For the BC cross-country team and its coach, it is more than just winning. This sport has taught them about many important qualities, such as sportsmanship, perseverance and always trying to be their best. Cross-country gives them a reason to run.



Photo by Caroline DeFrank

Right before competing in the WPIAL championship, the Crusader cross-country team poses for a team photo.