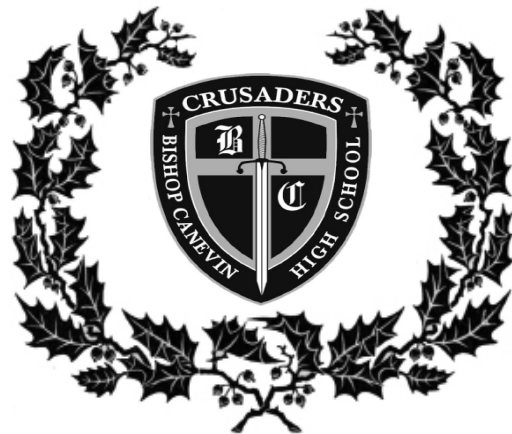


THE LEONID

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Bishop Canevin High School, Pittsburgh, Pa.

December 20, 2017



Partners in Crime

Dave Ellis and Tom Kennedy's experience working for the Maintenance Department

Marissa Pekular | Co-Editor-in-Chief

Many students have the privilege of seeing the spunky, high-spirited Dave Ellis marching through the hallways with his reserved and noble partner-in-crime Tom Kennedy. However, what students may not know is what exactly Ellis and Kennedy do for the school and how valuable they are.



Photo by Marissa Pekular

Dave Ellis (left) and Tom Kennedy (right) pose with their trusty tools in what they call their "lair."

Ellis has been the Maintenance Department Director for three years, but he has been involved in the school community much longer.

"I was the coach of the hockey team 15 years ago for Canevin. I knew all the coaches and Ken Vance asked if I was interested in it," Ellis said. "I enjoyed it very much. Jon Shultz [math teacher] was one of the players."

Ellis eventually retired from his coaching role and made his way back to the school, working for the Maintenance Department. His typical day is unpredictable to say the least.

"My regular day starts at seven. We make sure there are no big problems. If there are, we have to try to resolve them before the kids get here," Ellis said. "We make sure everything is operational so there can be a school day. After that, it's just upkeep and different little jobs."

When asked if he enjoys his job, Ellis replied,

"I enjoy it [working at Bishop Canevin] very much, mostly because of the people and kids. It's an old school so there are some problems that keep me busy."

Ellis has been fortunate enough to foster some memorable moments at the school.

"The best memories I have are doing things with the school community," Ellis said. "The faculty vs. students' tug of war game and the hayride were very fun."

Ellis is an animated individual who works hard to keep the school functional. It is almost impossible not to crack a smile because of his friendly and humorous demeanor.

The other half of the dynamic duo can only be completed by Kennedy. He has been uniquely born into the school community as

his mother and father worked here before he was even born.

"If you consider my mom, she's essentially been here since I was born which is 26 years," Kennedy said. "I went to high school here, and I liked it. I met Zaina [Boulos] here and we're engaged."

Kennedy has been working for the Maintenance Department since 2008, subbing between 2013 and 2014. His typical day can vary.

"I get here at six and open up the building. Dave and I usually go over what we have to do during the day," Kennedy said. "There's always something that comes up unexpectedly. Once the radiator core in the conference room froze, cracked and then burst. We were here from six a.m. to eight p.m. fixing it."

Kennedy and his family definitely have a solid history with the school, helping it to be what it is today. Kennedy can be described as a determined, hardworking man who is a valuable member of the Maintenance Department and the school.

Both Ellis and Kennedy are important members of the school community. Without them, the lawn would be unkept, students would have nowhere to sit for mass and would not be able to enter the school in the morning. The list that the dynamic duo completes throughout the year could go on and on.

Although their efforts may sometimes go unrecognized, they work hard taking care of this 60 year old school. Some may even describe them and their crew as the perfect "dream team."

Making History One Medallion at a Time

The mission of St. Lucy's Auxiliary to the Blind came to life at the 2017 Medallion Ball

Schanelle Saldanha | Co-Editor-in-Chief

While Black Friday usually entails hours upon hours of shopping, for seniors Emily Brosky and Schanelle Saldanha it meant something more. On Nov. 24, they joined 132 fellow senior girls from across the Diocese in the 54th Annual Medallion Ball.

The Medallion Ball is an event, sponsored by St. Lucy's Auxiliary to the Blind, that honors young women who have made valuable contributions to their community by obtaining at least 150 hours of service.

Brosky and Saldanha, who have been best friends since they were 10 years old, began the process to become candidates in eighth grade.

"It started with the application that had to be submitted in November of

our eight-grade year," Brosky said. "Once we were accepted, we were then able to start accumulating the 150 service hours."

They spent most of their summer days from freshman to junior year volunteering: Brosky at Scott Township Public Library and Saldanha at Peters Township Meals on Wheels. And with the months of service behind them, they got to watch their hard work pay off as they celebrated alongside their fellow candidates at the Wyndham Grand Hotel.

Nearly 1,250 guests flooded into the Ballroom of Wyndham to laud the 134 candidates for having collectively donated more than 25,000 hours of their time to volunteerism.

The candidates, dressed in white ball gowns, were presented with the Joan of Arc Medallion from Bishop Zubik. Arm in arm with the escort of their choice, they then made their way to the center of the hall where the Grand Promenade and

Medallion Waltz took place. Harrison Klein '17 escorted Brosky, while Daniel Bigley '18 was Saldanha's escort for the evening.

"My experience at the Medallion Ball was great! Waltzing definitely isn't in my wheelhouse of skills, so it was interesting to try my hand at that," Bigley said.

At the conclusion of the presentation, Bishop Zubik delivered his closing remarks with one powerful statement.

"Tonight, you made history. At no other time in the history of this event has there been as many recipients of the St. Joan of Arc Medallion," Zubik said. "We applaud the efforts of these selfless women."

"We applaud the efforts of these selfless women"

Bishop David Allen Zubik

As Zubik departed and dinner ended, everyone had a chance to make their way onto the dance floor and enjoy the

night.

"Although it was a little out of my comfort zone, being able to experience such a once in a lifetime night with my best friend by my side meant everything to me," Saldanha said.

However, even with friends and family looking on, Brosky could not help but think of one very special person – her late grandmother, whose last wish was that her granddaughters partake in the Medallion Ball.

"I know she was looking down on me. I hope I made her proud through my service," Brosky said.

Service is a key component in fulfilling the mission of St. Ignatius of Loyola. So while the extra piece of jewelry was a nice bonus, both Brosky and Saldanha have more importantly exemplified what it means to be men and women for others. May they never forget that a life of service is truly a life well lived.

Rowing Into the Deep

Crusaders advocate for social justice in Washington D.C.

Schanelle Saldanha | Co-Editor-in-Chief

From Nov. 4 – 6, eight students traveled to Washington, D.C. with religion teacher Sean Fox and Assistant Principal Karen Walker to take part in the 20th Annual Ignatian Family Teach In for Social Justice.

The Ignatian Family Teach In is the largest annual Catholic social justice gathering in the United States. Although there were 2,000 students from across the world attending, everyone arrived with three goals: to educate, network and form advocates for social justice animated through the spirituality of St. Ignatius of Loyola.

Junior Annie Walsh attended the Teach In for the first time. Although she has previously participated in many social justice events, this conference carried a new element for her.

“My first teach in was not like anything that I expected. There were so many people and they were all there for the same thing – helping those who need it the most,” Walsh said.

The theme for this year’s conference was “Rowing into the Deep.” This theme was fostered by the ideology that although rowing into new waters can challenge us, it is through that challenge that we move toward a magis, a greater and stronger passion for justice.

Throughout the weekend, participants had the opportunity to listen to three keynote speakers and six network speakers discuss issues on immigration reform and terminating racial bias within the criminal justice

system. Senior Kara Schaffnit was one of the attendees and was drawn to one speaker in particular.

“I loved the first keynote speaker, Father Bryan Massingale. He opened up the conversation to racism, and his talk was hitting many hard points people never like to mention,” Schaffnit said.

While everyone listened to the conference speakers, the most enticing aspect of the weekend were the individualized breakout sessions that allowed students to get more information about specific social injustices.

“I really appreciated the fact that we were able to attend different speakers that we were interested in. Almost all of my speakers were so interesting to listen to,” Walsh said.

After two days of education and discussion, students headed to Capitol Hill to lobby with representatives from the offices of Pennsylvania Senator Toomey and Representative Doyle. They addressed their concerns with the recent DACA termination and reformation within the criminal justice system.

“I love moderating Crusaders for Justice because it



Photo courtesy of Karen Walker

Students arrive in Washington D.C. to fight for justice. Left to right: juniors Darius Legleitner and Annie Walsh, seniors Andres Recalde, Chuckie Rakaczky, Kara Schaffnit, Olivia Clark, Schanelle Saldanha and Danny Bigley.

provides me the opportunity to see students passionate about social issues and a desire to change the world for the better,” Fox said.

As a Jesuit Inspired school, students are instilled with a sense of purpose to “set the world on fire” and see God in all that they think, say and do. Through this conference, they were able to accomplish just that.

“It is very rewarding to put your faith into action, to truly set the world on fire and actually do something about the injustices you see,” Schaffnit said.

Homeless Crisis in Pittsburgh

How Bishop Canevin is working to end homelessness

Rebecca Fitzharris | Arts and Entertainment Editor

After a long day at work or school, you just want to unwind in the comfort of your home, but have you ever considered the people that do not have that option? Last year in Allegheny County, there were a total of 1,492 homeless people in the city of Pittsburgh. Although there are currently 1,401 of the 1,492 living in homeless shelters, there are still 91 homeless people living on the streets.

With the days getting colder and colder, the people of Pittsburgh are thinking about how to stay warm for the winter. Though it might be easy for those who have a roof over their heads to find relief from the cold, what about those who are left on the streets? From frostbite to hypothermia, the homeless of Pittsburgh are in serious danger during the winter months.

Though the citizens of Pittsburgh are well aware of the harsh conditions that winter brings, they are not doing enough to help their fellow people during this time. There are still many in need of help, especially when the environment around them is not forgiving.

Though homelessness is an issue that people are aware of, it does not get enough recognition and is usually put on the back-burner of people’s minds. However, there are still people who are raising awareness and continuing to try to help end homelessness.

Organizations such as Operation Safety Net provide medical and social services to the homeless of Allegheny County, and have been using their effort and resources

to decrease the homeless population.

Operation Safety Net was started in 1992 by Dr. Jim Withers, who began by making medical “house calls” to those who were living on the streets and had no way to receive the medical care they needed. He has always shown kindness to those in need and yearned to help them.

This organization has reached thousands of individuals and helped more than 1,500 homeless people find homes. It continues to help those who are less fortunate, providing the care that they need. They also partner with other homeless service providers.

Another organization that has been providing care for the homeless of Pittsburgh is the Jubilee Soup Kitchen. This is also the main charity that Bishop Canevin has decided to focus on this year. This association has been providing food as well as other necessities for the homeless community for the last 36 years. It was also founded by a group of people dedicated to the Judeo-Christian values and Catholic worker ideals of honoring the human dignity of each guest in a non-judgmental way.

Though the threat of being homeless might not be something you need to worry about, it is a concern for many people. Day after day there are people worrying about where their next meal will come from and if they will have a roof over their head that night.

Currently, the school community is collecting items for both the Jubilee Soup Kitchen and the John Heinz Child Development Center. Donations will be collected by the Homeroom teachers.

“We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give,” Winston Churchill said.



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Are There Still No Girls Allowed?

The Boy Scouts of America spark controversy among members

Marissa Pekular | Co-Editor-in-Chief



Photo courtesy of Brianna Caridi

Boy Scout Danny Black (left) and Brownies, the first stage of Girl Scouts, Brianna Caridi (*18) (center) and Dakota Richardson (right) pose in their uniforms for the 2008 Memorial Day Parade.

The Boy Scouts of America (BSA) organization has recently announced that female participants would be welcomed into its program. This new rule, however, is creating friction among members and other people involved.

The 107 year old organization specified in their announcement that younger girls can join the troops as Cub Scouts, while older girls would be eligible to earn the rank of Eagle Scout, a prestigious title once only possible for boys to hold. Scout leaders are ready to launch this initiative in 2018.

BSA said the reasoning behind this historic decision was years of receiving requests and complaints from families and girls. The group had been contemplating this idea for sometime, gathering different input from high ranking leaders. BSA also took into consideration that today, families are more diverse and busier than ever before. They wanted to create a more convenient program that serves these families in an appealing and helpful way.

Although this idea may seem harmless and ultimately beneficial, some people are unwaveringly against the change.

Girl Scouts USA has outwardly expressed its grievances with the new policy, protesting that the BSA is courting girls in response to its dropping enrollment numbers. The Girl Scout organization stressed the importance of the need for female leadership in today's society. It claims to be one of the only tools capable of instilling these modes of empowerment in girls and young women.

Senior Tomasz Krukowski identifies as being one of these people who detest this change in policy.

"It says Boy Scouts in the name. Not boys and girls scouts," Krukowski said. "It was originally made to be a separate group and it should stay that way."

Some people believe that this new rule

has the potential to help girls in different ways that the Girl Scouts does not always offer.

Senior Jack Shorthouse is currently a Boy Scout on his way to achieving Eagle Scout status.

"I don't see an issue with allowing girls to have the same opportunities that boys have," Shorthouse said. "I believe it will teach girls things that they might not have been able to learn before such as camping, survival skills and life skills."

Former Girl Scout and senior Kara Schaffnit is also in favor of this policy.

"In Boy Scouts you learn actual values and lessons. I did Girl Scouts when I was in fifth grade for a few years, and I feel that the Boy Scouts were generally doing more," Schaffnit said. "We did trivial things like baking cookies and making homemade lipstick. That's why I quit. There was no point in it. If I had the opportunity to do Boy Scouts, I would have."

The BSA has a long history of discrimination within its organization, and now it is trying to take action. It is disheartening to me that we have reached the year 2017 and as a society, we still reject what is supposed to be a universally excepted notion--that women and men can respectfully and peacefully co-exist.

No harm could come from diversifying these troops. If anything, it will help to create a more tolerable and respectable attitude toward girls and young women in general. Incorporating girls into the BSA can only benefit these valuable females in the future. The idea of a young woman working her way through the ranks of the Scouts, learning life skills and achieving different merits should not be a notion worth opposing. It must be one worth celebrating. By diversifying, this organization has taken one step closer to unifying its members.

Home(work) for the Holidays?

Giving students homework over the break is preventing us from relaxing

Brianna Caridi | News Editor

School break has finally arrived and you are ready to relax and enjoy time with your family and friends, until you remember the history paper and the chemistry project that you have due when school resumes. How are students supposed to get a "break" from school when homework follows them home for the holidays?

While teachers may reason that they are only giving their classes one assignment over break, which does not seem excessive, they seem to forget that each student has multiple classes, not just the one that they teach.

When students end up with an assignment from almost every class that they have, their break becomes unenjoyable to the point that it does not seem like a break at all.

"I don't think that we should be given more homework just because we have more days off of school," senior Chloe Potosnak said. "The purpose of having the extra days off is to spend time with family, not on homework."

According to a research study on the effects of homework from Duke University, there is a positive correlation between homework and student achievement, and the correlation only becomes stronger as students get older.

However, the study also found that students began developing negative attitudes toward learning when they were given too much homework. Students also reported that their leisure time was limited due to the amount of homework that they received.

The only time that homework over break could be justified is if the homework is given in an Advanced Placement (AP) class. Because these classes move at a much faster pace, it is understandable why homework may be given to AP students over break; however, the homework amount should be limited.

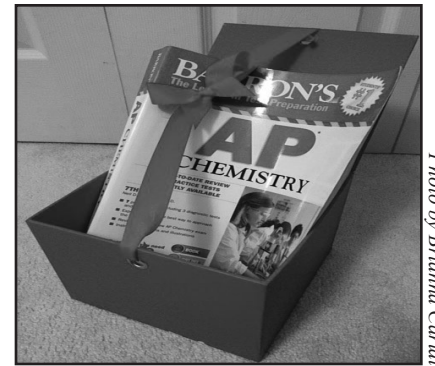


Photo by Brianna Caridi

A cheerful Christmas present turns torturous as the gift box is opened to reveal an AP Chemistry workbook.

"If you're away from the things that you're learning for a few weeks, you're going to forget some of the material," chemistry teacher Lucas Flaus said. "With the advanced classes, like the AP levels, we don't have time to go back and relearn something."

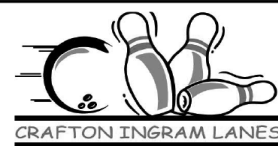
While AP classes have a very limited amount of time to learn the necessary material for a particular subject, AP students are constantly expected to complete more work than other students throughout the school year. They should be given a break for the holidays, but they do not get one.

"My AP students weren't happy about getting homework over Christmas break last year," Flaus said. "However, when they came back and realized they could pick up where they left off, they thought it was a good thing."

Even if students do eventually see some justification as to why they are given homework over the break, when they are actually completing the work, they are missing out on spending valuable time with family and friends.

Regardless of the level of the class, it is difficult for students to not begin to resent school and learning in general when they are not given a break from schoolwork.

Homework over the holidays causes a lack of family time, and, ultimately, it leads to students developing pessimistic attitudes toward school and learning.



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Red and Green: The Craft Show Scene

Vendors from the Pittsburgh area fill the school with Christmas Spirit

Schanelle Saldanha | Co-Editor-in-Chief



Photo by Vera Dagnall

Crafters transform the gym for Christmas with their unique creations, such as knitted snowmen and handmade angels.

From the festive Christmas music that permeated the hallways to the variety of unique items available for purchase, the school's 16th Annual Holiday Craft Show was once again a success. Organized by Guidance Secretary Vera Dagnall, this event attracts people from all around the Pittsburgh area and crafters from the tri-state area.

With nearly 170 vendors present, the gym, cafeteria and lower hallways were inundated with a myriad of homemade items on Nov. 10. Anyone who walked through the doors could see and feel the holiday spirit.

However, what many people do not see, are the long hours that go into planning such a large-scale event. Dagnall has organized the show since its start in 2002 as a school fundraiser.

"As with any event, organization is necessary. We have a committee of unselfish people who commit to the show each year," Dagnall said. "Each of them play an important role in carrying out the details of their specific area."

Students and parents sacrifice their Sunday to volunteer in any and every aspect that they can. Dagnall insists that, "The show would not succeed without them."

While some may volunteer for the Christmas spirit that is in the air, students are able to collect numerous service hours from this event as well.

Senior Emily Brosky has been a volunteer at the craft show for the past four years.

"It's a great opportunity to get service hours because it puts you in the mood for Christmas, and you get to browse around for potential gifts," Brosky said. "You

barely even think of it as volunteering because it is so much fun."

As for the crafters, many of them have been participating in the Craft Show for many years. Year after year they arrive early on Craft Show morning and prep their stations for nearly two hours. Each of them add their individual touches to make the event what it is.

"I appreciate the new ideas and the creative energy that people have in making their items," Dagnall said. "There's something new every year."

Aside from the plethora of shopping, art and English teacher Karen Kennedy hosts a craft making station called "Crafts with Katie" on stage. Children of all ages can join Kennedy and student helpers in making Christmas crafts to take home.

The Craft Show is an important fundraiser for the school. Beyond the financial support it lends, it helps to spread the Canevin name beyond even the Pennsylvania borders. With crafters attending from as far as Erie, Pa., Ohio, Maryland and West Virginia, the show truly showcases the school in a positive light for all to see.

Dagnall hopes that the light continues to shine for years to come.

"We're already thinking of and planning new and exciting things for next year's show," Dagnall said. "Any students or parents interested in helping should contact Katie Stevens [Advancement Office]."

From the outside this may seem like an ordinary event, but the school's Craft Show continues to show its immense success and spirit through the smiles (and overflowing shopping bags) that leave the building.



Pittsburgh Wonderland

Spend your holidays participating in Pittsburgh Christmas traditions

Sydney Serena | Opinion Editor

Every family has its own special traditions that officially mark the start of the holiday season. Many Pittsburghers also share some common Christmas traditions. Wrap yourself in the holiday spirit by visiting some of the best Christmas attractions in Pittsburgh.



Photo courtesy of Sydney Serena

Every year the Serena/Fabry Bishop Canevin family spends the day at PPG Ice Skating Arena.

The debut Miniature Railroad and Village is a

Pittsburgh tradition that has enchanted visitors for almost 100 years. The Railroad and Village is located inside the Carnegie Science Center. The village consists of handmade, miniature scale replicas of historic sites from all around Western Pennsylvania. The cost is free with your paid admission into the Carnegie Science Center.

Take your celebrating on foot by skating around the 65-foot light up tree from Light Up Night Nov. 17 through Feb. 25. The Plaza between Third Avenue and Fourth Avenue transforms into the Ice Rink at PPG Place, a wonderful one-of-a-kind outdoor ice skating rink. Ice skating prices are \$8 for adults and \$7 for children. If you do not have skates, you can rent a pair for an extra price of \$4.

Visit a blast from the past at PPG Place. The "Spirits of Giving from Around the World" is open from Nov. 17 through Jan. 6. It has original paintings from all around the world. The Wintergarden has a tree larger than your childhood dreams. You

can also see a showcase of gingerbread houses and Santas from all around the world. This display of life-size Santas and original paintings captures a whole world of Christmas. The exhibit includes a collection of original paintings, each representing holiday celebrations from around the world.

Kennywood is not just an amusement park during the summer, it has many attractions during the Christmas season as well. Kennywood has a giant Christmas tree that lights up starting on Nov. 24 through Dec. 30. The admission fee is \$19.00 at the gate. You can also tour gingerbread house exhibits and watch live performances. Bring your family to Kennywood to experience this special Christmas time event.

As you can see there are many things to do in the Pittsburgh area to get you into the Christmas spirit. Come and join Pittsburghers as they sing, skate and dive into Christmas.



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Letters must be signed; names can be withheld.

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Eat. Sleep. Cheer. Repeat.

An inside look at the most spirited team around

Regan Adamski | Marketing & Social Media Coordinator



Photo by Missy Bly

Cheerleaders pose and smile for a picture before a home football game.

The cheerleading team has a new coach and new girls. What is not new, however, is its spirit and drive to be number one. Previously coached by Tiffany O’Shea the team is now coached by Deanna Jenkins.

“It took some getting used to for us [getting a new coach], but our team was very welcoming and we love to have her with us,” senior Gianna DeMarzo said. “After we were comfortable, it was like she’d been our coach forever. We clicked.”

The connection shows because at the team’s first competition, The Pittsburgh Home Run Championship, on Sept. 23 at PNC Park the girls took first place.

Despite its successes, DeMarzo feels her team does get overlooked.

“I feel a good amount of people think that we just put on some glitter and throw our hair up in a bow on Friday nights before a football game. Then go out there, say a few cheers here and there for an hour or so and that’s it,” DeMarzo said. “There’s a lot more to it than that.”

The team is in season year round, starting in July. The girls begin with a week long Universal Cheerleading Association Camp where they learn cheers, dances and routines that they will use through out the season.

When the team finishes camp week, the girls get down to business and begin to prepare for football season, practicing after school and even on weekends. By November the team starts learning routines and cheers for basketball season and not long after basketball season it begins to get ready for another competition season in January and March.

“We’re all so close. We can come to each other with anything,” DeMarzo said. “We’re like family.”

With all the time it spends together, the team’s bond has only become stronger, which, in turn, enhances the spirit of the school community.

The Bowling Team Strikes Again

Bowling season is in full swing with a girls’ win against Carlynton High School

Macaila Ziolkowski | Managing Editor



Photo by Macaila Ziolkowski

Chuckie Rakaczky perfecting his form at one of the team’s many practices, averages a 150.

The ball drops and rolls down the lane. As it comes up on the pins, the bowler waits and wonders how it will turn out. Strike. The ball knocks out all ten pins and the crowd cheers.

The 2017-18 bowling season has just started. In the past, the team has gone far and played well. The girls’ team is currently 1-0, while the boys’ team is 0-1.

This year both teams are hoping to capture a winning season. The captain for the boys’ team is senior Andrés Recalde. The girls’ team captain is yet to be determined. Recalde reminisced on his bowling journey from freshman to senior year.

“I started off freshman year with a 9-pound ball, averaging maybe 50 per game and I struggled,” Recalde said. “Today I am using a 16-pound ball and averaging a 180 and it feels great.”

Like most sports, bowling teaches life lessons and skills. Bowling requires focus, determination and teamwork and this year’s team demonstrates these qualities.

“Bowling has taught me that you can do anything, as long as you put your mind to it,” senior Emily Brosky said. “Also, each practice and match has shown me how supportive everyone is of each other, which is nice to see.”

Although winning is a big part of the bowling program, having fun and enjoying the sport is just as important to the team.

“The actual sport of bowling has been a lot of fun to learn, but I would have fun doing anything with great people on the team,” senior Chuckie Rakaczky said.

Come out and support the bowling team. Matches are every Wednesday beginning at 3pm at AMF Bowling Lanes.

Domenic Grimm Defeats the Witch

Now Showing: A Very Pittsburgh Christmas

Sarah Heinz House hosts *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe*

Sydney Serena | Opinion Editor

How adventurous can a story about four children and a magical land be? Junior Domenic Grimm who plays Peter in *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe* for Sarah Heinz House on Dec. 13 brings this adventure to life.

Grimm, under the Director of Staff at Heinz, Dan Turk, has committed to numerous practices and dress rehearsals to make sure the play will be a hit.

"To put on the play, the kids work extremely hard practicing and memorizing their lines," Turk said. "We have 10 full cast practices and the main characters practice their lines with me privately at least once a week."

Peter (Grimm) and his siblings Susan (junior Sydney Serena), Lucy (Hannah Paris, a member of Sarah Heinz House) and Edmund (Brenden, a member of Sarah Heinz House) find a wardrobe that leads them to a place called Narnia.

In Narnia, the four children are supposed to fulfill a prophecy and become the kings and queens of the magical land. However, there is an evil witch (Carolyn Roberts, a member of Sarah Heinz House) who tries to prevent the kids from fulfilling the prophecy. The prophecy states that the four children will become kings and queens of Narnia after they kill the witch.

"I am happy with the character of Peter because I fit it just right," Grimm said. "I get to have a cool sword and fight the witch, while taking care of my siblings."



Photo by Sydney Serena

Dan Turk (right) reads over the script with Peter (Dominic Grimm) (left) and Robin Ringer (center) at Sarah Heinz House.

Both Turk and Grimm believe the play will be a huge success.

"In any play, you expect to have some hiccups," Turk said. "But no matter what, I look at the play as a huge success because we have over 45 kids going out of their comfort zones and going out on stage and performing, many of them for the first time, which is a huge confidence booster for many of the kids."

Grimm is also optimistic of the play's success.

"I feel the play will be great if everyone puts in the hours of practices and remembers their lines," Grimm said. "*The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe* is probably one of the most challenging plays Sarah Heinz House has put on, so it will take a lot more work than the others. But I believe we have a strong cast and this play will be the best one yet."

Congratulations to Grimm for stepping out of his comfort zone and defeating the witch. The play will be held on Dec. 13 located at Masonic Center in Pittsburgh. The show will start promptly at 6:30 p.m.

Pittsburgh celebrates the season with an abundance of Christmas shows

Brianna Caridi | News Editor

This holiday season the Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera (CLO) is producing a plethora of Christmas musicals, concerts and exhibits to get Pittsburgh into the holiday spirit.

Each year, the Pittsburgh CLO hosts countless Christmas shows. Some of these are considered Pittsburgh traditions while others will be performed for the first time this holiday season.

One show that has been performed for the last several years is the Highmark Holiday Pops Concert at Heinz Hall. This show features a variety of holiday songs performed by the

(PBT) performed an abridged version of *The Nutcracker* at Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens in order to present a preview of the full-length version that will be performed throughout December at the Benedum Center.

For those that may not want to be seated in a theater for several hours but still want to enjoy the Christmas season, the Pittsburgh Symphony Association is presenting Symphony Splendor. Symphony Splendor is a holiday home tour of eight beautifully decorated homes in Virginia Manor of Mt. Lebanon. All proceeds from this event will benefit the Pittsburgh

Symphony Orchestra.

Families may find it especially difficult to keep their children entertained during holiday shows, but one show that is popular among all children is *A Charlie Brown Christmas*. This show will be performed at the Byham Theater and is a real-life



Photo by Brianna Caridi

Heinz Hall glistens with the magic of Christmas as the venue prepares for Highmark Holiday Pops.

Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra and the Mendelssohn Choir of Pittsburgh. The show is entertaining for the entire family and even Santa Claus makes a special appearance at the end of the performance.

Another Pittsburgh tradition is *The Nutcracker* being performed at the Benedum Center from Dec. 1-27. This Christmas spectacular features over 100 dancers, 200 costumes and Tchaikovsky's classic score. The show also presents a massive Christmas tree and plenty of magic tricks along the way.

While *The Nutcracker* is considered a traditional Christmas show, Pittsburgh adds its own twist to the classic with the addition of famous Pittsburgh landmarks to the set design and famous Pittsburgh historical figures to the cast. Each performance features a unique casting combination so audiences are able to see a variety of dancers perform iconic roles like Marie, the Sugar Plum Fairy and her Cavalier.

This year, the Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre

stage adaptation of the beloved animated television special.

For those looking for a more extravagant holiday show, the Pittsburgh CLO is presenting *Mark Milovats: Forever Christmas*. This show is on par with those performed on the Las Vegas Strip and features an abundance of Christmas songs, a 16-piece orchestra, a holiday choir and Milovats' own Santa Belle Dancers.

After Christmas is over, *Cirque Dreams: Holidayze* will be performed at the Benedum Center from Dec. 29-30 for one final Christmas celebration. This modern take on a circus features 30 performers transformed into holiday characters as they fly through the air and walk on tightropes high above the ground.

Whether you are interested in hearing some classic Christmas songs performed by the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra or watching a Christmas-themed circus, the Pittsburgh CLO is truly offering a show for everyone this holiday season.

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