

LEONID



Canevin Celebrates 60 Years

Birthday Is Testament to Community Longevity

Tim Durkin | Editor-in-Chief





Brandebura to Dance in

The Nutcracker

Anessa Preteroti | Staff Reporter





n Friday, Nov. 22, Bishop Canevin celebrated a birthday, 60 years to the day when the high school was officially dedicated to the Chartiers Valley community by the Most Reverend John J. Wright, S.T.D. This monumental achievement was celebrated by faculty, staff and students all day long, beginning with a re-reading of the first ever announcements delivered 60 years earlier over the intercom system. Before each class period ended, Principal Joyce would ask a trivia question relating to Canevin's rich history. The student to email the correct answer to Miss Doyle, Admissions Director, won something from a variety of coveted Canevin merchandise. Some of the questions, developed by Mr. Checketts, Athletic Director, and Mrs. Smith, Mosaic yearbook advisor, were simple, such as "Who is the new fitness center dedicated to?" However, other questions were more difficult, like "What were the school's original colors?"

During the last hour of the school day, all of Can-

evin's present-day faculty, staff and students gathered in the gym for a group photo, taken by Mr. Polk, the school's professional photographer. Then a fun game was played where a participant was blindfolded and would taste some food and then have to describe it to a teammate without identifying the item specifically. Alexa Malloy and Ms. Barber competed against Mr. Casavale and Jack Jenkins. After several rounds, the game was a true draw. Both teams were excellent at guessing and describing food.

No food would be complete without cake. Following the game, everyone could eat a piece of cake and were encouraged to take selfies inside a large Canevin picture frame. Students and faculty could also sign their names on a piece of Canevin memorabilia shaped like a giant paper birthday cake.

It was a great birthday party. After 60 years, the community is still continuing strong. Here's to another 60 years. Go Crusaders!



enior Lindsey Brandebura will perform the starring role of the Sugar Plum Fairy in The Nutcracker at the Andrew Carnegie Music Hall, 300 Beechwood Ave., Carnegie. She has been taking ballet through the Carnegie Performing Arts Center for the last 14 years and this is her biggest role to date. "We started practice three months ago in class and then weekends are involved with rehearsals, too," said Brandebura.

Tickets for The Nutcracker are available at the door. Shows are Dec. 13-14, 20-21 at 8 p.m. and Dec. 15 and 22 at 2 p.m. Cost is \$20 adult and \$18 students and seniors.

THE LEONID

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Balobeck Recognized for Diabetes Fundraiser

Has Raised \$60,000+ in 11 Years

Hanna DeLisio | Staff Reporter

enior Julia Balobeck and her family have raised money for the American Diabetes Association for the past 11 years with an event they organize called "Step Out Diabetes." On Nov. 14 at a ceremonial dinner at the LeMont Restaurant in Mt. Washington, Julia was recognized by the American Diabetes Association of Western Pennsylvania with a "\$60,000+ Fundraising Milestone" award.

This year alone she raised \$8,000 at her event which consists of raffles, great food, many auction baskets, and



a live performance by Scott Blasey of The Clarks.

"I enjoy putting together this fundraiser because not only is it a cause that's close to me but it is also a good thing to do," said Balobeck. "I know a lot of people who have diabetes and it helps all of them. My favorite part is seeing people enjoy the items my mother and I put together for the raffles and the basket auctions. I'd love more people to come to this really fun event."

Congratulations, Julia, for your charitable efforts and amazing work!

Ask Antonio Big Questions for a *Big Boy*

Antonio Battista | Staff Reporter

Q: Do you enjoy having a sister?

A: Yes, I do. My younger sister, Marlena, has been a good friend to me for many years. We try to hang out and



Q: How was your Thanksgiving?

A: I had a quiet Thanksgiving, like I usually do. My family stays home over the holidays and we eat by ourselves; most of our extended family lives too far away for plausible travel. I enjoyed delicious turkey and stuffing, and I watched football throughout the day. It was a very relaxing day which I used to catch up on rest.

Q: Which is your favorite board game?

A: There is a long list of board games that I am fond of which makes it difficult to say a specific one is my favorite. However, if I had to name a favorite game, I would say "Axis and Allies." It is a global World War II game in which five players battle for world domination. The only drawback to the game is that it is very complex; but, if you are willing to put in the effort to learn it, you will have loads of fun.

Skindzier's Essay Named "Best of School"



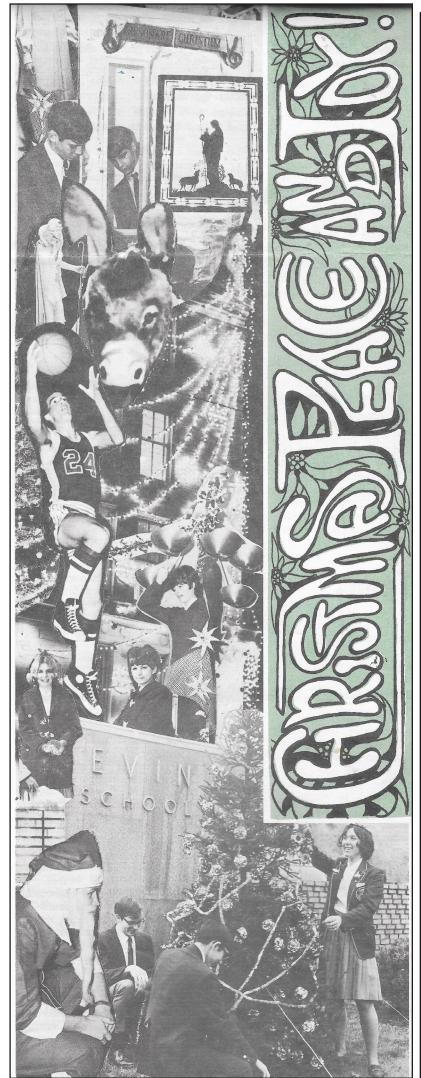
ophomore Theresa Skindzier was recently notified that her essay "A Day of Equality" was named "Best of School" in the 2020 Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Writing Awards sponsored by Carnegie Mellon University. She and her family have been invited to attend the award ceremony, which begins with a reception and light buffet dinner, on January 20 in Rangos Hall at Carnegie Mellon University, Oakland

She is an honors student, a member of the Marching Crusaders Band and the

Library Club, the Head Photographer/ Graphic Artist for The Leonid school newspaper, and on the photography staff of The Mosaic school yearbook.

Since 1999, the Carnegie Mellon University Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Writing Awards have provided an outlet for young people to express their personal experiences with differences and discrimination of all kinds through poetry and prose. The contest was open to all high school and college students in Western Pennsylvania.

Kappy Kolidays! From, The Leonid Staff



Reprinted from the Dec. 19, 1967 Leonid, getting into the holiday spirit.

BC Competes in Lit Fest at Baldwin

Renee LaGrosse | Staff Reporter



enior Lily Chabala and sophomores Katie Drach, Renee LaGrosse and Theresa Skindzier competed in the South Hills Literature Fest held at Baldwin High School on Nov. 25. This was the first year Canevin participated in this event. Prior to the competition, they had to read Educated by Tara Westover, Maus by Art Spiegelman, Small Great Things by Jodi Picoult and Hidden Figures by Margot Lee Shetterly, as well as create a movie poster based on one of the books.

The day began with local author

Stephanie Keyes' speech about her experiences in writing and publishing her novels. Then the teams participated in various trivia games, followed by a literary discussion based on scenarios from Educated. The favorite movie poster was chosen and then everyone watched the film Hidden Figures.

Canevin's team did not win but was happy to read the books and to compete against other high schools. "The fest was a great experience, and getting Dunkin' Donuts was pretty great, too," said Skindzier.

Winter Approaching **Equals School Ski Trips**

Anessa Preteroti | Staff Reporter

s winter approaches, preparations for two school ski trips are well underway. The sponsor, Mrs. McLemore, learned to ski at a young age from her grandfather. Skiing, to her, is a family sport. She has passed her knowledge and love of skiing to her two sons.

"When I took my boys to the slopes for the first time, I made the mistake of putting their skis on first, then went to get mine. When I turned around to get my skis, my four year old slid backwards and fell. He refused to put the skis back on, so I had to sit him at the top of the beginner slopes, where he literally watched icicles melt while his brother and I did several runs. The next time we went, he tried a snowboard and has never looked back."

McLemore reminisced. Her son is now ranked second in the nation in the U17 age group and will compete in the Youth Olympic Games in January.

"I started the ski trips at Bishop Canevin because I believe that everyone who is blessed to live so close to mountains where it snows annually should try skiing," she enthused.

Whether one is a black diamond skier or a beginner who would rather slide down the hill on his or her belly like a penguin, participating in the ski trips can be a great way to enjoy the outdoors during wintertime. Consider joining Mrs. McLemore on Dec. 19 to Seven Springs or on Jan. 3 to Wisp Resort in Garrett County, Md.

A Day in the Life of the Principal

Mac Johnson | Staff Reporter

art of the reason why I decided professionally to pursue being a principal is that I like the unpredictability of each day," said Michael Joyce, principal at Bishop Canevin since 2018. He thought the uncertainty of each day best suited his personality. Now, with a year's experience, Joyce feels better prepared for his job and that nothing can surprise him.

During the school season, Joyce does not have a set schedule to his day. He tries to arrive at Canevin, depending on traffic, between 7:15 and 7:30 a.m. Then, throughout the day, he works on a list of goals he created. A majority of his objectives are about future operations, but every day problems can arise and overshadow what he would have liked to get done. Joyce tries his best to be a visible presence at Canevin, doing his best effort to greet students coming off the bus or when they are in the halls or in classes. Another of his responsibilities is checking in frequently with Canevin's different department chairs or other faculty members. As spokesperson for Canevin, Joyce works hard to find many ways to showcase how great the school, its students and its faculty are. He does this because he is very proud of all that happens at Canevin, including all the accomplishments of the students.

Joyce's workday ends when he feels he has accomplished all of his goals. Afterward, he spends quality time with his family. Weekends are not entirely free because of the numerous meetings he must attend. Free days are rare and usually come during the holidays. In the summer, his schedule is a little more normal, arriving at Canevin between 7 and 8 a.m. and perhaps leaving by 4 p.m.

Joyce began his education career as a social studies teacher at Seton LaSalle High School then became the Dean of Students as he started to pursue an administrative role. He then became the assistant principal at Seton while enrolling in classes at California University of Pennsylvania to obtain



his principal certification. "I thought it was the right time in my career to be a principal," he said. "I thought I was ready personally and professionally for those challenges." With certification in hand when the job opened, he was hired as the principal at Canevin for the start of the 2018-2019 school year.

"The building here is beautiful and I would take our campus over any school in the diocese," Joyce praised enthusiastically. "We have a beautiful courtyard and facilities. The best part of my days are when I can be among the students and faculty; getting out among the community is my favorite thing," he continued. He is very passionate about Canevin despite the challenges a principal must face.

The main obstacle, he feels, is time. "When I was in school for my principal certification, I remember being given an exercise where I was supposed to record every event that I did for the day and determine which events were done out of urgency and which were done out of future planning. Planning for the future of the school should take about 90% of one's time and putting out fires should be about 10%. In actuality, most of one's day is just the opposite," he reflected.

Joyce looks forward to the unpredictability of each day. He works very hard to give his absolute best effort because he feels everyone at Canevin deserves it. As principal, Joyce feels he has the opportunity to make an impact in that role. "I have the opportunity to improve the high school experience of a group of awesome kids who come from awesome families," he stated.

Movie Review: Frozen 2 **Skates on Thin Ice**

Adam Reyes | Staff Reporter

The sequel to Disney's Oscarwinning box office smash follows the continuing adventures of sisters Anna, played by Kristen Bell, and Elsa, played beautifully by Idina Menzel. The ensuing adventure is lively, amusing and predictable with revelations, reconciliations and some politics for the older audiences. It's never surprising, yet it has bursts of imagination that keeps you engaged, as do Elsa and Anna, who still aren't waiting for life to happen. They're searching, and their energetic and both active and reactive personalities make them very unique Disney protagonists.

Even better, this time the journey isn't as tethered to romance. Kristoff yearns to propose to Anna and spends much of the story fumbling to pop the question, a light comic refrain that smartly never overwhelms the story. But this movie does end up struggling

with its quite convoluted main plot. Especially without a clear antagonist, *Frozen 2* starts to struggle during its last half along with character choices and actions that betray their whole ark and development and end up feeling like lazy writing.

But most people watching this movie don't care about character development and plot; instead, they're here for the songs. The offering this time may not be as good as the first movie but the songs here are quite catchy and fit the same mold as the previous movie. Although this movie may not have as big a hit as "Let It Go," the songs here are fun and enjoyable to listen to. Overall, Frozen 2 is an enjoyable watch and a solid Disney movie that fans of the first and kids alike will enjoy. Although it suffers plot-wise and has some questionable choices, there are still fun moments and good songs to enjoy here.

BC Museum Source of Eagle Scout Project

Funding Needed to Finish Renovations



Durkin

any Canevin students are active scouts and some are working for their prestigious Eagle Scout Award. Senior Tim Durkin has chosen to make the renovations of an upstairs classroom into becoming the BC Hall of Fame/Museum as his Eagle Scout project.

The museum will hold all of its trophies, photographs, past yearbooks, uniform samples, banners, archival papers, and other memorabilia. The project includes placing navigational signs in various locations throughout the school and improving the site with new carpeting, freshly painted walls, and installation of an air conditioning unit. Durkin is also responsible for

raising money to complete this project.

To assist this Bishop Canevin student pursue his Eagle Scout status and contribute to the establishment of the BC Hall of Fame/Museum, please make a donation check payable to "Troop 23" and put "Durkin Eagle Project" on the memo line. Checks may be mailed to Bishop Canevin High School, 2700 Morange Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15205 or brought directly to the school office and given to Mrs. Len, the secretary, between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. when school is in session. All amounts of support are most appreciated. The museum is expected to open late this summer.

James Claus vs. Klazdeck

Gabriele Gerbino | Cartoonist



Original Uniforms Remembered 60 Years Later

Jack Mickle | Staff Reporter

f you were to flip through any Canevin Mosaic yearbook or issue of The Leonid that came out from 1959 through the mid-1970s, you would see the original girl's and boy's uniforms which had one thing in common: blazers. Although the official boy's uniform was a navy blue blazer and grey slacks, boys could wear whatever blazer, tie, shirt and pants they pleased, but girls did not have that luxury. They wore the infamous grey pleated skirt, white blouse, and a sharp navy blue blazer with white piping that had the seal of Bishop John Francis Regis Canevin on the front chest pocket. In addition, during Mass and chapel services, girls were required to wear "the hat."

"The hat was very funny," said Christine Manion '65. "The girls didn't like the hat because it messed

Probably more disliked than the hat was the fact that blazers must be worn at all times, with very few exceptions.

"The blazers were heavy so they were very hot in the spring, summer and fall. There was a rule that if the temperature got to 90 degrees we could take the blazer off and hang it on our chairs in the classroom, but we were not permitted to be in the hall without the blazer on," recalled Manion.

Another exception to the blazer rule can be found in the 1966 Student Handbook, "One day each month, usually the last Friday, is allowed for the cleaning of uniforms. On these out-of-uniform days, girls are to wear modest dresses (no tight, short, straight skirts, no sleeveless dresses, no pullover sweaters)," reads the Handbook.

Manion also remembers the uniform policy was enforced very strictly. "The skirt had to go below your knee. The nuns would make us kneel on the floor and if your skirt didn't touch the floor, you got a detention. This was the 1960s and mini-skirts were in, so as the girls left school, they would roll the skirt up at the waist and make



Current sophomore Anessa Pretoroti shows off the blazer.

it shorter," she said.

Long hair was also not allowed in the very beginning. Headmaster Fr. Gervase Beyer, OFM Conv., established a rule that no girl's hair was to go past her shoulders and boys' hair was to be in the crew cut style. Eventually the blazers were phased out for boys and girls, but the grey skirts lived on until they were finally done away with in the 1990s.

Today the uniform policy is much more relaxed with many options for girls and boys, while still looking prim, proper and modest, as expected of a student in a Catholic school.

Original uniforms will be on display in the Bishop Canevin Hall of Fame/Museum, to open this summer. An original girl's uniform can be found on display at the Carnegie Historical Society, Main Street, Carnegie. If anyone is interested in donating a uniform to the museum - especially the hat!! --- please contact Mrs. Charlotte Smith at smithc@bishopcanevin.org or Jack Mickle '21 at 21micklej@bishopcanevin.

Back issues of the Leonid in its present online format may be found at: bishopcanevin.org/apps/pages/leonid

BC Winter Classic Honors Alum Who Made the Ultimate Sacrifice

Mac Johnson | Staff Reporter

s a student, Bishop Canevin alumnus Lance Corporal Ryan J. Kovacicek battled the boards and fought for the puck as a member of the Crusader hockey team. After his graduation in May 2001, he continued to

display his fearless mindset by volunteering for the Marines after the Sept. 11, 2001 attack on the World Trade Centers in New York City. Because of this horrific event, he made the decision to battle and fight for his country. In March 2005, he was deployed to Iraq with the 3rd Battalion 25th Marines Kilo Company. He served as a true patriot in Iraq until July 10, 2005 when he was killed

in combat.

To honor Kovacicek's sacrifice, the Bishop Canevin Hockey Association will sponsor the Winter Classic in his name. Not only did Kovacicek play for the Crusaders while in high school, he also played for the Southpointe Rink Rats and the Hockey Club at Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

The Winter Classic will be held at the outdoor rink at South Park on December 30 when the Bishop Canevin Crusaders will face the Chartiers Valley Colts at 3 p.m. The proceeds from the game will go to the Crabtree-Kovacicek Veterans House at the Washington City Mission.

Two BC Students Presented at Medallion Ball

Theresa Skindzier | Staff Reporter





eniors Lilly Chabala and Olivia Fiore were presented last month at the 56th Medallion Ball, benefiting St. Lucy's Auxiliary to the Blind. Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus William J. Winter presided over the event, held at the Wyndham Grand Pittsburgh Hotel ballroom, Downtown.

They each received a Joan of Arc medallion for doing a minimum of 150 hours of volunteer service. They were among a group of 131 other girls who volunteered a total of 23,339 hours.

The evening began with the entrance of the escorts in white tie and tails. Each candidate was then presented and afterwards joined her escort for the grand promenade and several waltzes.

In addition to all their volunteer work for Canevin and outside organizations, Chabala is a cast member of the spring musicals and a member of BC² and the Marching Band while Fiore is a cheerleader and member of the International Club and Crusaders for Justice. Chabala was escorted by Brett E. Nyman and Fiore's escort was Jordan P. Nutter.

"I think the Medallion Ball is a very fulfilling award to receive," said Fiore. "I am happy that I did it because it was such a good experience."

Book Review:

The Blackthorn Key

A Near-Perfect Mixture

Tim Durkin | Editor-in-Chief

he Blackthorn Key by Kevin Sands is one of my favorite books. It follows the adventures of Christopher Rowe, an apothecary's apprentice in 1600s London. A cult, calling itself the "Cult of the Archangel," has been killing apothecaries all across London. No one has been able to discern why but, as the murders grow closer to Christopher's door, he must use all of the wit he has accumulated as an apprentice to save himself, his master and his shop.

I have a lot of positive thoughts on this book. First, the setting is fantastic. Sands actually combed through history books to get an accurate depiction of London during this time period. His hard work certainly paid off. London is described in great detail, for the better or worse. London was not necessarily a sanitary location during this time.

Second, the story is great. It is no secret that I am a big fan of murder mysteries. However, a good murder mystery is remarkably hard to come by. *The Blackthorn Key* is a reminder of why I love this particular genre so much. It is expertly crafted so that the reader has no idea who the murderer is, but the clues have been there since the very beginning. It is impossible to go into further detail without spoiling the rest of the book, which would be doing it a major disservice.

Third, the characters are well-developed and fun to read about. Tom, Christopher's best friend, is a great sidekick. He exhibits just the right amount of concern for Christopher, while also being by his side no matter

what. Benedict Blackthorn, Christopher's master, is a caring, intelligent man. This is normally the part of my review where I write about the villain, but I cannot for fear of spoiling everything. Just know that the villain is as good as the rest of the book.

Finally, Christopher deserves a section all to himself. He might be the most relatable protagonist I have ever had the pleasure of reading about. The book is from a first-person perspective, so the reader really gets to know Christopher. What surprised me was how smart Christopher is. He is presented with several obstacles and puzzles throughout the novel, and he finds a creative way out of every single one. Christopher is what took this book from great to utterly fantastic.

For once, I am struggling to come up with anything negative to write about *The Blackthorn Key*. My only complaint, which is minor, is the overall pacing. The book has an exciting beginning and climax, but the middle can be a little slow at points. It is never boring, but when compared to other parts of the book, it can drag. Other than that, all my other negative thoughts would just be petty nitpicks not worth mentioning.

I cannot recommend this book enough. I have read this book several times now, and I find something new to enjoy every time. The book is not very long, so it is easy to just pick up and read. Once you are finished, there are three other books in the series for you to read. If you love great characters, settings, plots and puzzles, give this book a try.



G107 is looking forward to being home for the holidays.

Canevin Decorates for a "Cool" Yule

Nick Paluso | Staff Reporter



G101 warms up by the fire.



B-Side lockers wrapped for the holidays.

ach year, art teacher Mrs. Karen Kennedy, Student Council, and a few student volunteers decorate the school for the Christmas season. They deck the halls, trim the trees, and string many strands of lights throughout the entire school. They typically stay 2-3 times after school the week after Thanksgiving to complete the decorations.

Mrs. Kennedy began decorating when she first started teaching at Canevin. There used to be a Christmas dance held in the gym. First the gym was decorated for the dance. When it was over, the students and Mrs. Kennedy would begin decorating that Saturday night all the way into Sunday morning. A Mass would also either be held at the beginning or the end of the decorating.

"We soon learned if we waited until the end everyone was so tired that they would fall asleep. From then on, the mass was at the start of the evening," Kennedy

The Student Council moderator used to find a large Christmas tree that would be cut down and hauled in to be at the dance. After the Christmas season was over, the live trees would be repurposed as landscaping around the school. There are several trees still living around the property, such as the two large pines in the front of the school, and the trees lining the driveway leading up to the back gym doors.

When the Christmas dance no longer was held, the students began decorating the main lobby, B and G side lobbies, and the first floor hallways. A few years ago, the principal at the time approached Kennedy about this decorating. He wanted her to give everything a more cohesive, festive Christmas look instead of the "scraggly mish-mash style" it did have.

"I tried to do that with traditional greens, rich colors, and classic decorations to show off Canevin. It is simple but elegant, and hopefully adds to everyone's Christmas spirit," she said.

Kennedy decided that custom-made wreaths for each of the classrooms and offices would be the perfect addition to hallway decorations. Each wreath is homemade and unique with a different theme. Faculty, staff and administration get to pick which wreath they want to hang on their door.

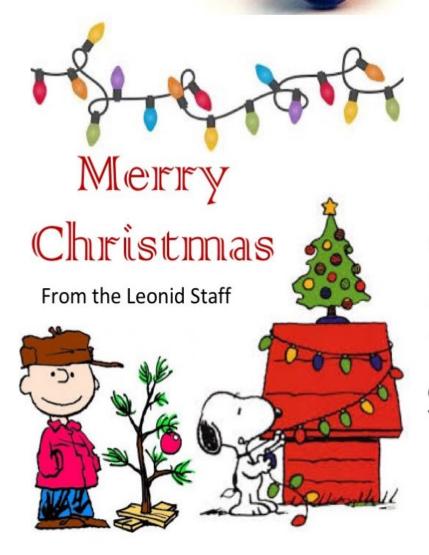
"The wreaths were a lot of fun to make as almost everything on them came from a thrift store, so the ribbon, figures, etc. turned into a nice design. I like to think of them as round works of art," she exclaimed.

According to Kennedy, Canevin is the only high school in the Pittsburgh area that decorates to this extent. Each homeroom is also responsible for decorating the interior of its classroom and hallway lockers. House points are awarded for best efforts. Bowlers are still needed for this winter, any student interested please see or email Mr. Checketts ASAP.

REMINDER

PSAT scores come out December 11th

for information explaining scores, practice for next year, and more.



Ski Trip 2020



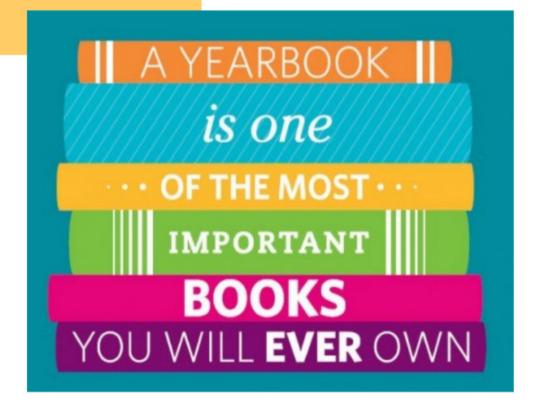


See Mrs. McLemore in G-214 for more information.

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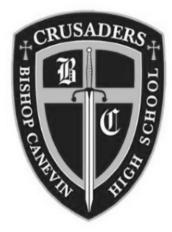
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THREE DESIGN CHOICES FOR 9x9 PLAQUE