

City Proclamation Caps off Catholic Schools Week



Bishop Canevin High School was recognized during last month's Catholic Schools Week by Pittsburgh's City Council with a ceremony that honored the school's 60 years of building faith, developing communities and promoting service. Attending the proclamation presentation were Principal Michael Joyce and several current students who come from families who are

significant contributors to Canevin's present and past history. For instance, Sam Simpson, senior, is the seventh child to attend Bishop Canevin from the Simpson family. Others in the picture include Abigail and Thomas Deasy, Ava and Carson Gaitens, Josie and Francis Bochicchio, Geno DeFrank, and George Shorthouse.

Nate Kirsch is February AMDG Winner



Senior Nathan Kirsch was named the February recipient of the AMDG award, established this past December for the student who best demonstrates Bishop Canevin's mission of "Do

All Things for the Greater Glory of God." He is a member of NHS and the St. Ignatius Scholars, carries a 4.6 GPA, and is also on the soccer and basketball teams.

Second Model Classroom is Completed

Renee LaGrosse | Staff Reporter

Bishop Canevin's second model classroom is located in G107, homeroom of Mrs. Marguerite Miller where she teaches freshmen and junior English and senior AP Literature. The renovated room is equipped with an Aquos board, carpeting, and all new whiteboards and furniture. Agreeing with Mr. Joe Romano who stated that this

type of room "enhances education," the students feel that a brighter and cleaner space has been created which makes for a comfortable and fun environment in which to learn.

The first model classroom, Mr. Casavale's homeroom, was completed last spring. As funding becomes available, more will be renovated in this fashion.



Look inside for Writing Contest information!



Some Thoughts from the Senior Class

Antonio Battista and Tim Durkin | Staff Reporter and Editor-in-Chief

The Senior Class of 2020 is an interesting group with diverse goals and memories. We sat down with seven of them and, in-between all their many activities and classes, were able to ask them the following five questions:

1. What was your favorite class at Canevin and why?
2. What was your favorite club and why?
3. What was your favorite school event?
4. If you could go back to freshmen year, what is one thing you would change?
5. What year of high school was your favorite and why?



Hanna DeLisio

1. AP Spanish 4. Ms. Barber is fun and it's fun to speak in another language.
2. Volleyball because I love the sport and all my teammates created a really good atmosphere.
3. Prom 2019.
4. I would have joined the spring musical freshman year.
5. Freshman year because I didn't have to worry about anything.



Steve Davis

1. I have to go with Business Management because of Mr. Wanamaker.
2. I played basketball for like a week and it was fun.
3. Homecoming 2019.
4. Apply and go to Canevin.
5. Senior year because of the great people here at Canevin.



Jenn Burton

1. I liked Chemistry a lot because my class was really fun, but my favorite is probably art.
2. Soccer because we have all been super close since freshman year. I am always excited to go and see everybody.
3. This year's boys' soccer game against Seton-LaSalle.
4. I would maybe try to join a different sport in addition to soccer, like swimming.
5. Sophomore year. I really liked the classes I took and it was a lot of fun.



Michael Caputo

1. Modern World freshman year because it was relaxed. The kids were hilarious, the work load was low, and I learned the five themes of geography for the first time.
2. Ping Pong Club because the people are really fun to play with and there's a lot of action, like tournaments. It is all good competition. I also got to make my own paddles which was fun.
3. Fall Fest 2017.
4. I probably would have joined spring musical sooner.
5. Freshman year because of track and Mr. Lang's class. I met a lot of good people as well.



Luke Fabry

1. History class with Mr. Checketts because he is a god.
2. Football because I love the sport.
3. Fall Fest 2018.
4. I guess I'd play another sport or something, probably baseball.
5. Senior year because it's my last year of school.



Lily Chabala

1. Multimedia because I really like doing the projects and let my creative side out.
2. Book Club because I like the atmosphere. The people are really nice and I like that we talk about different books and everyone has a chance to read what they like.
3. Fall Fest. I like people could hang out and you could talk to people you wouldn't normally get to during school.
4. I would be more outgoing.
5. Senior year because it has been a very easy year.



Connor Jacobs

1. Personal Finance because I really like Mr. Wanamaker and it is a very useful class.
2. FBLA as it is fun to compete with other kids my age.
3. Homecoming because I had a good time with all my friends.
4. I would have studied harder.
5. Sophomore year because it was a pretty easy year and homecoming was fun.



Turn the page for Writing Contest details!



The Leonid

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Almanac Editor Speaks to Journalism Class

Tim Durkin | Editor-in-Chief



Last month, the Journalism students were visited by Eleanor Bailey, the sports editor of *The Almanac* newspaper which is distributed in the South Hills suburbs of Pittsburgh. During her 40 minute talk she discussed her education, the future of journalism and answered questions.

Bailey attended Duquesne University as a journalism and broadcasting major, played on the basketball team and wrote for the school newspaper and yearbook. Upon graduating, she freelanced for the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* and *The South Hills Record*, the latter of which was part of Gateway Publications and is now owned by *The Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*. In addition to covering scholastic sports at the *Record*, she wrote obituaries, covered weddings and school board meetings, attended council meetings and gathered police news.

Eventually she landed her first full-time job as sports editor of *The Almanac*, a weekly newspaper originally owned by the Observer Publishing Company in Washington, Pa. and now owned by Bob Nutting (of the Pittsburgh Pirates) and the Ogden Newspaper chain. She has been a part of coverage of major events like 9/11 and has interviewed people like George Bush, Hilary Clinton, Suzie McConnell, Dan Marino, LeBron James, Tiger Woods, and Kurt Angle.

As sports editor, she covers one sport event every day, from basketball to wrestling, and, to make her article stand out from other papers, she likes to center her work around a specific player or coach. Due to budget cuts and with the abilities of technology, she is able to work from home. She stressed that journalists need to maintain their objectivity while reporting the facts and need to possess multiple skills to obtain a job in a field where more newspapers are going online rather than publishing a printed copy. She is the only photojournalist in her company so having a skill such as photography is an asset in her position. She stated that freelancing is still a great idea but its downside is the lack of benefits, such as health insurance. She advised that students should get involved in organizations as so many occupations, outside of newspapers, also need writers for jobs in public relations and sports information departments, and marketing and advertising departments to produce ads, campaigns, annual reports, newsletters, websites, and technical guides. She reminded that journalism is supposed to “comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable” and thus one should always be a crusader for the truth. Her belief is that “there is always room for good people in any career.”

Attention All Writers!

*Do you enjoy writing poetry or short stories? The BC Leonid has just launched its first writing contest! Any poetry (any style, no longer than 2 pages) or short story (any genre, no longer than 750 words) may be emailed to Mrs. Charlotte Smith at smithc@bishopcanevin.org for a chance to win a 5-day Canevin cookie voucher and publication of the winning entry in both *The Leonid* and the *Oracle*. Only one submission per student, to be judged by an outside panel.*

Deadline is March 6.



Book Review: *Confessions of a High School Disaster*

A romance book worth reading?

Tim Durkin | Editor-in-Chief

Before beginning my actual review, I would like to preface this by pointing out it was not my choice to read this book. In our BC Book Club, we do an activity around Valentine's Day that we call "Blind Date with a Book." Mrs. R. wraps up several romance novels, then has us choose one of them based on a one sentence summary. I got *Confessions of a High School Disaster*. To be frank, I am not a fan of romance novels. I'm not really a fan of romance in any book, but that's beside the point. That is why I was astounded to find that I really enjoyed my time with this one. It's hard to get me to like any book, much less a romance novel. So how did this miracle come about?

Confessions of a High School Disaster is the diary of Chloe Snow, an incoming freshman. The diary documents her life during this year, which includes the rocky relationship with her parents, her desire for a boyfriend, and the challenges that come with growing up. Along the way, Chloe meets senior Mac, with whom she eventually falls in love. However, Mac is already dating someone. Chloe has to try and seduce Mac while making sure that his girlfriend does not find out, which eventually comes back to bite her.

In terms of an original plot, this book does not possess one. I have read the forbidden love plot trope so many times by this point. What makes this particular instance stand out is just how relatable and realistic it is. I remember freshman year quite well and this is a great representation of it. Chloe, through her diary, conveys how frightened she is by everything because it's all unknown. She is still figuring out the person she wants to be, but is scared of who she might end up being. Her interactions with other characters only serve to heighten this sense of realism. Her best friend since grade school, Hannah, becomes increasingly distant as the book goes on. It's unfortunate but that is a major part of life. It's sad, but normal.

Let's address the elephant in the room: the romance. Do I think it's good? Not at all. Do I still really like it? Absolutely. It may be cheesy and contrived, but Chloe is such a great main character that any

scene with her is enjoyable. Mac is also written very well. It's really interesting seeing how he is unbearable to everyone except his girlfriend and Chloe. Chloe never outright says that people dislike him, but it is hinted at a lot. Speaking of hints, I was genuinely impressed by how subtle this book was. I pay close attention to the details, which is where most books fall apart. With this book, the details are everything. For example, in the beginning of the book, Chloe is talking about the different people in her life. At one point, she mentions Snickers. The reader has no idea whom she's talking about until she mentions how she never gives him scraps from the table. At this point, the reader knows that Snickers is a dog. This is actually incredibly smart exposition. This is Chloe's diary that she is keeping secret. Why would she explain who Snickers is since she's the only one reading it? She wouldn't, so she doesn't. Small details like this are all throughout the book and kept me engaged until the very end.

All books have problems, and this book is no exception. For one, the plot is pretty basic and predictable. BC Leonid staff member Hanna DeLisio was able to correctly guess about half of the plot after I read her the back of the book, yet she had never read it before. This leads to an overwhelming sense of tedium within the book. By the last 30 pages or so I could not wait for it to end because I already knew what was going to happen. My final complaint is that it is not exactly school appropriate. Unfortunately, this is the risk you take when doing "Blind Date with a Book." *Confessions of a High School Disaster* features many instances of swearing, underage drinking, and other unsuitable material.

I give this book a lot of credit because it surprised me. I went into this believing that I would absolutely despise this book, but that obviously was not the case here. Despite a somewhat dull plot and inappropriate parts, I still enjoyed *Confessions of a High School Disaster* a lot. If you don't like romance books that much, I implore you to give this one a shot. It won't disappoint.

Cheers to the Cheerleaders!

Hanna DeLisio | Staff Reporter



Last month the BC Cheerleaders competed in the WPIAL cheer championships at Hempfield High School. This event capped a year-long practice of difficult stunts that made up their routine. In December the team had also called in choreographers from Pitt Elite Cheerleading to choreograph and put the finishing touches on their dance and stunt sequence.

Although the girls did not place at the competition, the team is very proud of their work. Seniors Rosa Dugan, Hanna DeLisio, Jenny Umalin, Olivia Fiore and Abby Gales were happy that they had finished their

competition season with a near-perfect routine.

"The girls went through a lot of changes this season, but we were able to compete and even with injuries, we worked extra hard and we are proud of what we accomplished," Dugan said. The girls are now finishing out their winter season by cheering for the basketball teams.

"I love cheering for our basketball teams," stated Umalin. "I hope they make it far in the WPIALS as I'm excited to travel far to cheer them on."

Tumbling into WPIALS

Anessa Preteroti | Staff Reporter



Bishop Canevin's one and only gymnast has qualified for the WPIAL championships to be held Feb. 14-15. Senior Annie Colantonio has been a gymnast for the past eleven years, embracing the commitment needed to excel in this sport. She trains 4-5 hours a day, five days a week, all year round at the Gymsport Athletic Center. She trains for both high school gymnastics and Junior Olympics at the center.

Annie's floor routine this year is her favorite. With the help of a choreographer, she created her own routine. Her First All-Around title from the meet against South Side Beaver

and Central Valley was her second straight meet finishing first All-Around. After the WPIALS, hopefully, will come competing at the PIAA State Championships.

She is excited to experience the team aspect in gymnastics when she goes to Gannon University in the fall to continue her academic and athletic career. For now, though, being the only individual at Bishop Canevin competing in this sport has given her the opportunity to spread our name to everyone. "I love representing my school, even if I'm the only one," Colantonio stated proudly.

The Time Traveling Teenagers Meet St. Valentine

Gabriele Gerbino | Cartoonist



Buy your copy of the Yearbook before March 1. Delivery Day is May 8. Go to www.jostens.com to order today!



BC Museum to Open Early Summer

Will Hold School's Artifacts



Set to open this Summer, the B.C. Museum and Hall of Fame seeks donations.

There has been a flurry of activity on the upper B side as Room B210 gets transformed from what was the 1970s era English Resource Center into the Bishop Canevin High School Museum and Hall of Fame. It will hold artifacts vital to the 60-year history of the school and make them available for everyone to view, reminisce and appreciate.

"The goal of the museum is to for everyone to be able to see these items instead of them being buried in a closet somewhere," said student archivist Jack Mickle '21.

Renovations to the room included removal of a door, painting, new carpeting and plasterwork. New lighting, Internet access, and an air conditioning unit will be installed shortly.

"The air conditioning is a necessity," Mickle pointed out. "Some of the items had seriously deteriorated because they were not in a climate-controlled environment and would continue to deteriorate further unless action was taken."

Among the items the museum will hold are back issues of *The Leonid*, trophies, plaques and awards, yearbooks, sports programs, vintage uniforms, club shirts, photographs, musical program books, and original furniture, among other objects. Some exciting finds made by the reorganization of the school's

archives were an original girl's uniform blazer from the 1960s, two photo albums that contained the school's dedication program from 1959 along with other promotional photos of the school's construction, and a couple of vinyl LP albums of recorded school events, one of which was the year-long project called "Sounds of Canevin '68." Nearly 1000 slides have been converted to a flash drive for easy access viewing of past history.

Although there are numerous artifacts currently in the school's collection, there are still many items the school does not have and Mickle hopes that those could be donated by the alumni, although there have been a few donations, such as the married couple who graduated in 1963 and 1966 who are donating their class rings.

The museum/hall of fame is starting a partnership with the Carnegie Historical Society and the Diocese of Pittsburgh Archives Center. There also will be a session at the upcoming Day Away #3 where students will learn about their school's history in a game format. Alumni are also encouraged to donate or "loan" items to the museum/hall of fame.

"We realize it may be hard for some to part with their high school memories, but we hope people will know the items will be going to a good home," Mickle reminded.

Movie Review: *Cats* Proves That Not All Felines Land on Their Feet

Adam Reyes | Staff Reporter

They say cats may have nine lives and the new movie *Cats* uses every last one of them. Tom Hooper's adaptation of Andrew Lloyd Webber's 1981 Broadway musical simply does not translate to the screen with cat-a-strophic visual effects and zero plot to chew on. Based on T. S. Eliot's 1931 poetry collection, "Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats," the story follows a tribe of London cats called the Jellicles. On this particular night, they must gather together to make the "Jellicle Choice," deciding which cat will ascend to the Heavyside Layer to be reborn anew. Yes, the plot is as dumb and stupid as it sounds and that was a generous description of it.

This obviously is not the fault of the script, which is faithfully adapted by Tom Hooper and Lee Hall, but rather is a fundamental flaw in the original stage book. Rather than build a character arc for the feline heroine, we get two hours of random character introductions. Speaking of these wonderful felines makes you want to claw your eyes out. Idris Elba is one of our finest actors; however, his "Cats" villain Macavity is too silly to be dangerous, sounding more like a dental hygiene issue than a threat. Not to mention Idris and all the actors who have roles in this movie all act as if they are being held at gunpoint

to act like they are serious about their roles, when you can clearly see they're holding back the urge to use their claws on Tom Hooper. Taylor Swift plays Macavity's glorified cheerleader and does the same job as Idris does in terms of acting, although she does have the best song in the entire movie which I thoroughly enjoyed, if only it didn't also play in the credits!

Finally, there is an obligation to humanity that I inform you of what is probably quite obvious. The cgi in this movie is cat-a-tonic: humans and cats were never meant to mix in this sort of way. Whenever you see a character on screen your brain automatically realizes that there is something desperately wrong with the picture. Note to all future directors: never mix naked famous actors with cgi cat features and human feet. At the end of the day, though, I recommend you see this movie as, honestly, it is so horrendous that I genuinely laughed and cringed at unmeasurable amounts of moments during the whole movie. Despite it not being a comedy, the fact that this movie takes itself seriously is what causes it to be a must-watch "purrfect" movie disaster. Don't let young children watch this movie or they may try to kill your own pet cats.

**Back issues of the *Leonid*
in its present online format
may be found at:**

**[bishopcanevin.org/apps/
pages/leonid](https://bishopcanevin.org/apps/pages/leonid)**



A Day in the Life of the St. Anthony's Program

Mac Johnson | Staff Reporter

One of the many aspects that makes Bishop Canevin unique as a school is the St. Anthony's Program. This program is a Catholic-based special education program that is open to children of all faiths who have intellectual disabilities such as Down Syndrome or Autism Spectrum Disorder. According to Mrs. Chris Westrick, the Resource Room teacher of the program at Canevin, the goal of the program is "for students to learn and grow with their same age peers in a safe, inclusive environment." The St. Anthony's Program gives students with intellectual disabilities a chance to go through the school day just like any other student would.

To begin each day, the students arrive at school and head to homeroom. They are given a schedule for what they will do each day. Each student has a different schedule to follow. The classes are inclusive so they can fit the needs of each student. Mrs. Westrick modifies the course material and homework assignments for the students as well. Additionally, the students may participate in any of the BC sports and club activities.

They are given special opportunities throughout the day and week to better enrich themselves. Added into their schedule are three periods in the Resource Room where Mrs. Westrick will teach reading in the morning and math in the afternoon. The third period is used for extra help or for studying. She also tries to incorporate life lessons into her classes. During this time, some of the students are taught in groups while

others are taught individually.

"The St. Anthony High School program also gives students the opportunity to learn work skills through our vocational program," she said. Once or twice a week, depending on grade level, the students travel to a job site where they work from third to eighth period. A paraprofessional drives them there and acts as their job coach. Some of these work sites include preschools, offices and hotels. The Annual Field Day at SS. Simon and Jude Church, Scott Township, is another favorite activity. On that day, they can bring a friend from school with them to compete in various athletic events. The winners receive trophies.

"One of the greatest aspects of the program is that most of the kids really enjoy participating in it," Mrs. Westrick stated. "My students really like attending inclusive classes with their peers. It is their favorite part of the day." Furthermore, the students enjoy going to the Days Away. It gives them more time to interact with their friends in and outside the program. The students would not be having so much fun if it were not for the welcoming and friendly attitudes of their fellow Canevin students. "The students at Canevin are very friendly towards my students. I often see students talking to my students in the hall, walking with them to class, etc."

The St. Anthony's Program provides its students an opportunity to have a specific education and to be a part of a normal high school setting. The fact that Canevin has this program makes the school better and more unique.

Alumni Spotlight: Rep. Daniel Deasy

Nick Paluso | Staff Reporter



No matter what political side you are on, there are Bishop Canevin alumni in the mix. Representative Daniel Deasy graduated from Canevin in 1984 and went on to the University of Pittsburgh to major in business. After graduation, he started working in the Department of Public Works of the City of Pittsburgh and began taking an interest in politics. When the City Councilman in Deasy's district was leaving to pursue other opportunities, Deasy decided to run for his position. Being a life-long resident and very active within his community, he did very well in his first campaign.

"I could not envision having a career in politics while I was a student at Canevin," Deasy commented. "I am encouraged that students nowadays take an increased interest in politics. A good way for students to gauge their interest is to volunteer with a political campaign. It is a beneficial experience to see what

it takes to run for office. There is a lot of work that must be done in order to be successful."

In office since 2009, what Deasy enjoys most about his job is that there is not a typical day. He gets many different opportunities to speak to people throughout the commonwealth and learn about the issues and concerns that affect their lives. He maintains an office on South Main Street, Pittsburgh 15220 where residents can visit, obtain information, and voice their questions.

"The residents place their trust in me, so I make sure that I am always accessible to discuss their concerns," Deasy assured. A family man, he is married to Kelly and his four children (Alyssa '17, Danielle '19, Thomas '20 and Abby '22) have either graduated or will also graduate from Canevin. His job as a Representative requires that he travel to Harrisburg where he spends roughly two weeks out of each month. During the months of May and June, however, he may be in Harrisburg for longer periods as the House will spend long days in session, sometimes from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m., trying to pass the annual yearly budget which must be done by June 30. The annual budget is the most important bill they pass as it affects all of Pennsylvania's 13 million residents and covers many issues such as resources for schools and senior citizens and investments in infrastructures.

"It is a great responsibility, but it's also very rewarding in the fact that we help many people," Deasy commented.

Ropchok Skates to Stardom

Senior Cameron Ropcheck is a star hockey player who was selected to the PIHL All-Star Game last month, along with his Bishop Canevin teammate Chase Evans.

Luke Andruscik | Staff Reporter



Q. Why did you start playing hockey?

A. When I was younger I just got attached to the game by watching it with my parents.

Q. When did you start playing hockey?

A. I started skating when I was 2 and began playing when I was 5.

Q. Who is your favorite NHL player?

A. Favorite NHL player would probably be Sidney Crosby.

Q. What is your favorite team?

A. My favorite team is the Penguins.

Q. Who did you idolize your game after?

A. I try to idolize my game after Johnny Gaudreau because he is a smaller guy and I know I'm one of, if not the smallest, guys on the team.

Q. What does it feel like to be selected to the PIHL All-Star team?

A. It was an honor to be selected for the game. I know my teammate Chase Evans and I were both very excited.

BC Book Drive

FEBRUARY 17-28



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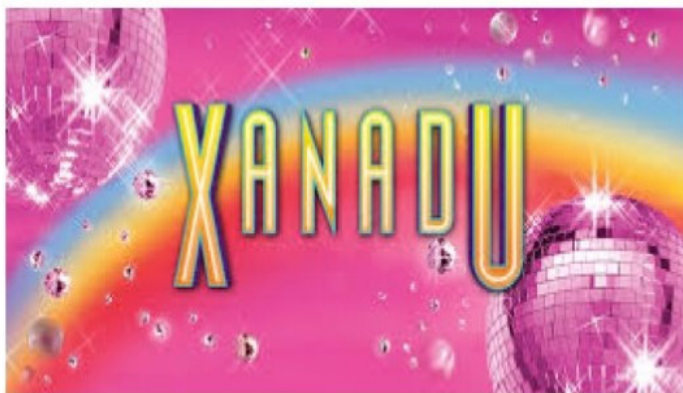
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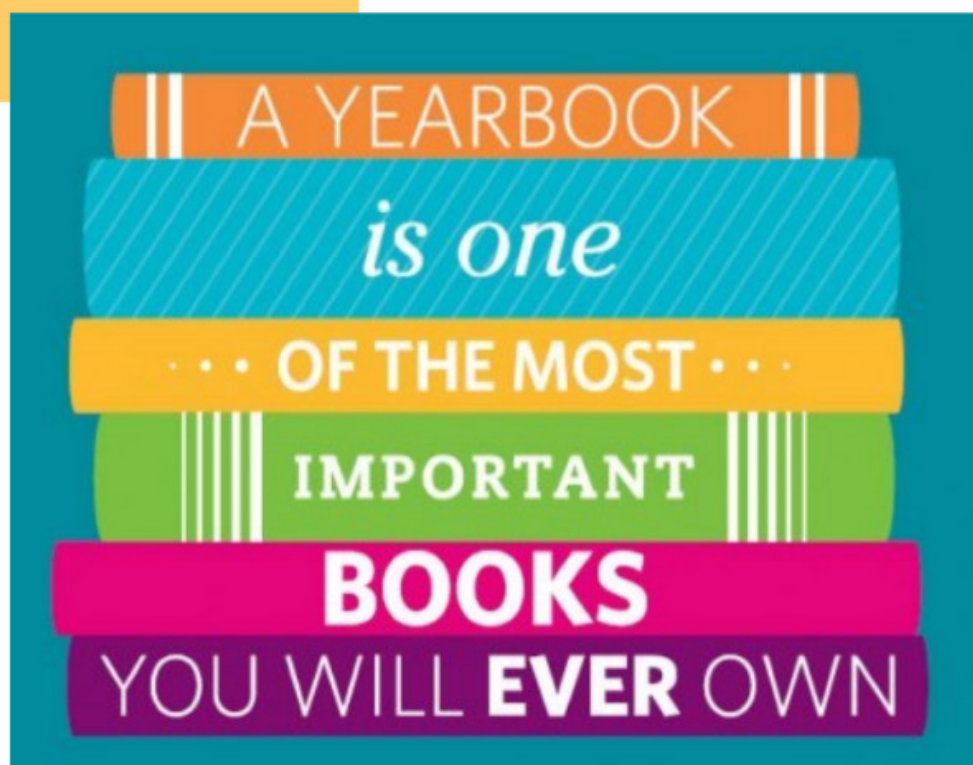


This year's musical is Xanadu! Anyone interested in buying ads for the program should see a member of the cast, stage, or lighting crews.

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