



## Jingle All the Way

*Get ready to deck the halls and embark on festive and sweet traditions because Christmas is just around the corner*

Cameron Lokaitis | Staff Reporter



Photos by Marguerite Miller

Homeroom G107 went above and beyond this holiday season decorating the classroom while listening to festive Christmas music.

The Christmas season is a time filled with joy, traditions and celebrations. It brings together families and friends from all around the world to commemorate the birth of Jesus Christ.

From the beautifully decorated Christmas trees, to the exchange of heartfelt gifts, this festive time of year creates a magical atmosphere that warms the hearts of many. Whether it is exchanging gifts, decorating the Christmas tree or watching the twinkling lights illuminate the streets, the Christmas season is a special time that brings people closer together.

Festive traditions and customs take place all over the world, such as decorating the Christmas tree with ornaments, lights and a shining star on top. A tree brings a sense of warmth and joy to a home.

Gift giving is another Christmas tradition. Exchanging gifts is a way to show love and appreciation for loved ones.

However, the B.C. student body's favorite thing about this festive season is indulging in delicious treats and drinks. When it comes to Christmas drinks, eggnog is definitely a popular choice. Drinking eggnog has become a beloved holiday tradition for many people.

"Eggnog is my favorite only because it comes out during the holidays," English teacher Charlotte Smith said.

It is a creamy and rich beverage made with eggs, milk, sugar and a touch of nutmeg.

"Eggnog is my favorite drink because it is so sweet and rich. It brings Christmas vibes and tastes great with donuts," junior Jameson Vicario said.

The warm and comforting flavors of eggnog make it the perfect drink to enjoy during the holiday season. Whether you are sipping it by the fire or serving it at a Christmas party, eggnog adds a festive touch to any gathering. Plus, it pairs perfectly with another Christmas favorite: cookies.

Speaking of cookies, they are an absolute

favorite here at B.C. during the holiday season. From classic sugar cookies decorated with colorful icing to gingerbread cookies shaped like little people, there is something magical about baking and enjoying cookies during Christmas time.

"My mom's cookies are my favorite cookies because they are the best I have ever tasted and the chocolate just melts right in your mouth," senior Jade Bailey said.

Whether you leave them out for Santa on Christmas Eve or share them with loved ones, cookies bring joy and sweetness to the holiday season. When you pair them with a glass of creamy eggnog, it is a match made in Christmas heaven.

"...All the cookies or anything with chocolate and sprinkles make it better. I do a lot of baking so I like to eat my own stuff," Smith said.

This Christmas, make sure to treat yourself to a glass of delicious eggnog and savor some scrumptious cookies. Indulging in sweets is the perfect way to spread holiday cheer and savor the flavors of the season. Enjoy every sip and every bite.

Here at B.C., listening to Christmas music while decorating the classrooms and halls is a way to celebrate with our houses and homerooms. It is one of the school community's favorite traditions. Each homeroom decorates while playing their favorite Christmas songs.

"Little Altar Boy by the Carpenters is my favorite Christmas song," Religion teacher George Schlicht said. "Because I once was an altar boy."

So as we get ready to celebrate Christmas let us cherish the moments with our loved ones and enjoy the delicious treats and drinks that make this holiday so special. Get ready to enjoy the magic of Christmas with a glass of eggnog in one hand and a plate of cookies in the other. Wishing you a joyful and Merry Christmas.

## Adventure Awaits over the Winter Break

Isabella Lane | Staff Reporter

As the weather gets colder and the fires get hotter, we should take the opportunity to spend our days doing fun and joyful winter activities.

Since the year 1740 people have been spending the holiday season participating in activities, such as skiing, ice skating and spending time inside with family around a hot fire.

"I always loved snowboarding," English teacher Dr. Robert Hein said.

Snow sports have been considered professional sports since the very first mountain resort opened in 1872. It was called the Nansen Ski Club and was located in Berlin, New Hampshire.

The first skis were created around 600 BCE. They were used for long travels down snowy mountains to hunt or easily get to a village or market.

As skiing became more popular, more ski resorts opened around the world. There are roughly 6,146 ski resorts in the entire world and about 480 in the U.S. alone. Over 140 million people frequent ski resorts each year. Resorts usually have at least 10 different terrain parks and hills.

Pennsylvania has eight ski resorts. The most popular are Seven Springs and Hidden Valley. They are owned by a company called Vail, which owns around 77 resorts around the world.

40% of people who ski in the United States own a season pass. The passes usually have amazing benefits.

Aside from skiing, ice skating is also a popular winter sport and activity.

"I really enjoy going Downtown and ice skating at PPG," junior Hayleigh Loeffert said.

Ice skating has been very popular since around 1749 when the first ice skating rink opened. As it became more popular there were sports created like figure skating and ice hockey. Ice skating is the perfect family outing on a nice winter day.

As the weather gets colder, however, some people automatically spend more time inside.

Curling up with a warm blanket and a cup of hot cocoa during a snowfall creates an amazing environment to unwind and read your favorite book. The crackling of the fire really adds an extra touch of comfort. It is really a wonderful way to escape into the imagination of your mind.

"Staying inside by a warm fire place reading a book is so comforting," junior Evie Marshall said.

The winter season provides so many amazing opportunities to get outside and try a new winter sport or if you prefer a more cozy environment, you can watch the beautiful snow fall from the comfort of your home surrounded by friends and family.

# The Leonid

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# Bishop Canevin Talks Christmas

Ashley Boehm & Lexie Guzel | Staff Reporters

In the halls of Bishop Canevin, we set out on a festive journey to capture the essence of the Christmas and New Year celebrations. We conducted a survey that reached across students, faculty and staff. Within the community of this school, we discovered a blend of faith, tradition and shared joy that paints a simple portrait of how Christmas and New Year's are uniquely celebrated.

up a tree at all.

Q: Do you normally eat turkey or ham on Christmas Day?

A: 64.9% eat ham, 13.5% eat turkey, 21.6% eat neither or something other than turkey or ham.

Q: How soon do you start Christmas shopping?

A: 94.6% said November/December, 5.4% said October/November.

### 37 People Surveyed:

Q: Do you celebrate Christmas?

A: 100% Said yes.

Q: Do you celebrate New Year's?

A: 97.3% said yes.

Q: Do you decorate your home?

A: 94.6% Said yes.

Q: Do you watch the ball drop in NYC on your TV?

A: 78.4% said yes. 21.6% said no.

Q: Do you put up a tree?

A: 97.3% Said yes.

Q: Do you stay up until 12AM?

A: 91.9% said yes. 8.1% said no.

Q: If you put up a tree, is it fake or real?

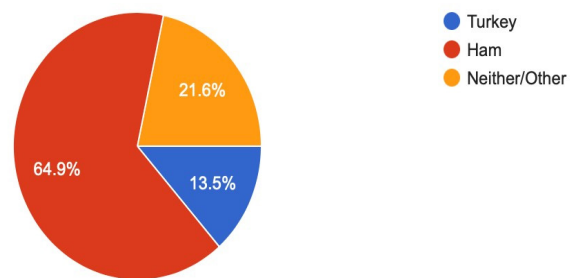
A: 78.4% put up a fake tree, 18.9% put up a real tree, 2.7% do not put

Q: Do you eat a New Year's Pretzel?

A: 62.2% said yes. 37.8% said no.

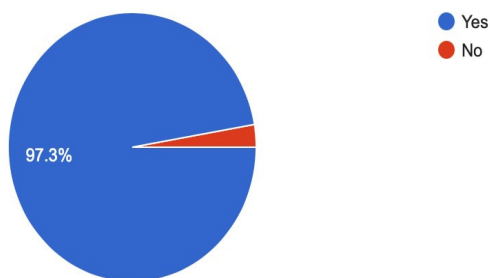
Do you normally eat turkey or ham on Christmas Day/Eve?

37 responses



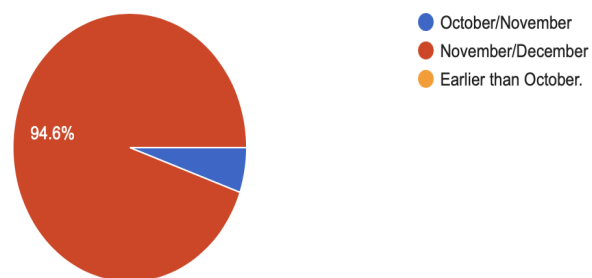
Do you celebrate New Years?

37 responses



How soon do you start Christmas Shopping?

37 responses



# Bishop Canevin House System Revamped

*The Bishop Canevin House System has made vast improvements since its initial launch*

Braiden Sudor & Aidan Didion | Staff Reporters

Bishop Canevin has been around for 64 years. It has celebrated many traditions throughout its lifetime, one of which is the beloved House System.

The House System has now been in existence for a little over eight years. It has been a cornerstone in B.C.'s growth and history. Its entire purpose is to bring the school's community of teachers, students and faculty all into one alignment with one of the school's mottoes, *Cura Personalis* or Care for the Whole Person.

In the beginning, the House System separated students of the same grade, putting them on a team with students from other grades. This was done through competitions, academics, service and more. The original four houses—Faber, Kostka, Rahner and Ricci—brought many students together and brought a different life to the school. This was until the system came to a halt when COVID-19 came along.

Students who had previously experienced all the House System had to offer were no longer able to participate in the events and activities due to the restrictions. The system began to dwindle. That was until the end of the 2022–2023 school year, when a few students and teachers got together to completely reconstruct the system in a fresh, new way.

"The original decision to redo the House System was made by the administration," senior and captain of the Michael Judge House Dom Varley said. "Many people thought the system was as good as it was before, but not enough was being done with it after COVID. We implemented some changes to try to get the House System back to its full potential. The biggest focus is getting the faculty and student body to buy into the new environment we are trying to create."

The students and administration decided to bring in new House leaders, symbols and mottoes with the help of the school community so that a deeper connection and un-

derstanding could be made. With much thought, Days Away and hard work, the three House patrons were selected late last year by soon-to-be seniors who were deemed House captains.

"We went into the process with a large variety of different saints and people on the path to sainthood that we knew would be great patrons and people to intercede for us," senior and captain of the Walter Cizek House Ella Whalen said. "By reading their stories and discussing their individual virtues, we think we did a really good job in picking patrons who both represented our student body and also represented the student body we aspire to become."

Although the revamped house system is still being polished, there has already been so much progress made by the student body. With the help of the faculty and the senior captains, there have been logos, prayers, songs, mottoes and more created and put into place so that the House System could return to its former glory.

"The House System shows school spirit and friendly competition. It also unites all students to be together and be able to meet upper-classmen," freshman Justin Melvin said. "It is also a good way to socialize with other students that are not in your classes or grades."

On top of all the friends and relationships you build, the friendly competitions are the real outliers. Students participate in dodgeball tournaments, fundraisers and service opportunities to earn house points. All of the points are combined into one total score, and the house that has the most points at the end of the school year is rewarded with the Crusader Cup. This reward is often sought after for bragging rights. However, the Crusader Cup is truly meant to highlight the House that had done an exceptional job that year in service, in the classroom, and in the community.

We are excited to see what else the House System has to offer!

# In Memory of Samantha Kalkbrenner

Lexie Guzel | Staff Reporter



Photo courtesy of Lexie Guzel

Samantha Kalkbrenner, a 15 year old girl from Serra Catholic High School, sadly passed away earlier this year. Everyone who knew Sam would tell you that her smile would light up the room. Her parents truly believed she was a walking angel on Earth. Sam had the kindest and purest soul and could make anyone laugh or smile by just her contagious laugh and smile. Sam could put you in a good mood in an instant and was never seen not smiling.

Today, Sam is still a part of our lives, especially in the Diocese of Pittsburgh. The Bishop Canevin community has been connecting with the Serra Catholic community through this terrible loss.

Sam was a cheerleader at Serra Catholic. In honor of her, the B.C. cheerleaders took part in showing their support to the Serra cheerleaders by wearing maroon and gold bows that had Sam's name on them to a home football game shortly after her passing.

Principal Michael Joyce had a maroon and gold dress down day for the B.C. students and faculty as a way to bring the two schools together. B.C. students made a sign that the entire B.C. community signed in support of Serra Catholic. Donations were also held to raise money for the Samantha Kalkbrenner Memorial Fund.

The cheerleaders who made the bows felt that it was a way to connect with Serra Catholic.

"I think the bows in memorial of Sammy definitely brought the B.C. community together. It was a way for everyone to show their support during a difficult time. It reminded

us all of the importance of coming together as a community," Senior Cameran Lokaitis said. "Being a cheerleader might have made her impact even more significant. Her involvement in cheerleading shows that she was not only talented, but also dedicated to supporting others. So, I believe her role as a cheerleader actually enhanced her ability to make a difference in our community."

Bishop Canevin knows Serra Catholics' pain as we too suffered a tremendous loss when beloved student Grace Gaita passed away in 2022.

"I think at Bishop Canevin we are not very far removed from our own tragedy of dealing with the loss of a student," Joyce said. "While this is something that no school should ever have to deal with, that experience has made us more understanding and empathetic to the Serra community. In talking with Serra's counselor and administration, similar to Grace, it is evident that Sam represented the very best of that school. I hope that the Serra students can come together and honor Sam in a similar fashion to what transpired at B.C. with Grace. I was very proud of our school's response. B.C. has always been a community that responds to causes greater than ourselves."

Although Sam may not be with us in person, we feel her in spirit and in our hearts. Her impact and the love she brought into the lives of everyone she met will never fade away. Her memory will forever be a source of strength, inspiration and a reminder to live life to the fullest.

# All Shook Up

Violet Chabala | Staff Reporter



The first Bishop Canevin musical performance debuted with *Where is Charley?*

Over the last 60 plus years the musical selections have been chosen to embrace the popular musicals of the time period, such as the 2023 musical *Freaky Friday*.

For the first time in Bishop Canevin history, the school is putting on a rock and roll musical with the selection *All Shook Up*.

“Every year we look for a show that will challenge our students and familiarize them with a different musical theater style from the past few years,” Musical Director Andy Folmer said.

Last year’s musical *Freaky Friday* was not only a hit in the Bishop Canevin community, but also gained the attention of the Gene Kelly’s. The musical crew was nominated for best set design and execution in the second budget level, but, unfor-

tunately lost to Avenworth.

However, the crew’s goal is to become number one this year and to give the musical all they have.

“We always try to do our best in building, painting and moving the scenery every year,” Director of Set Design and Movement Karen Kennedy said. “If we receive a Gene Kelly nomination that is something extra - the icing on the cake.”

Many people are waiting in anticipation for this spring’s show.

“A lot of fun, a lot of energy, and a lot of great memories to come,” Folmer said.

The musical crew is always looking for new talents and there is still time to get involved. It is a fun way to make new friends and to be involved in something spectacular. The musical will be performing *All Shook Up* April 26th, 27th and 28th. Do not miss your chance to be a part of something spectacular.



# Teaching Math as a New Father

Sean Kelsch | Staff Reporter



Photo courtesy of Joe Fearer

Joe Fearer is one of Bishop Canevin’s beloved math teachers. Fearer and his wife recently welcomed a baby girl, Madison Jane, into the world right before Thanksgiving.

Learning math is difficult as it is, but teaching it is a feat that is only possible for a few. Fearer is a man who does it all while entering a new chapter of his life: fatherhood.

Let’s back up a bit and talk about what lead Fearer to the teaching profession. Fearer graduated from Mt. Pleasant High School and attended St. Vincent College to earn his degree in mathematics. Math is something he has always been passionate about, and he was impacted by his own teachers growing up to pursue a career in teaching.

“I always enjoyed math as a student. I was between teaching and engineering when I went to college,” Fearer said. “I had some great experiences in my life with some phenomenal teachers. I think reflecting on these experiences and wanting to have the same influence on students is a major reason I chose teaching over other career paths.”

The subjects that he teaches include Algebra 1, Honors Algebra 1, Trigonometry/Pre-Calculus and AP Calculus.

If Fearer could only teach one subject for the rest of his career, he would teach AP Calculus because he enjoys how the class flows throughout the year and the order that the

material is taught in.

On the contrary, if he did not teach math, Fearer would teach physics or physical education. This is because of his passion for math-oriented subjects, such as the sciences, along with his love for sports, especially baseball. Fearer played varsity baseball at St. Vincent while earning his teaching degree.

Fearer is in his sixth year teaching at B.C., and in those six years he has accomplished several milestones, the biggest of which he believes is becoming a father.

The time leading up to the birth of Fearer’s daughter sparked a lot of excitement for him and his wife. When Fearer’s daughter was born, he and his wife decided on the name Madison Jane Fearer.

Thanksgiving break proved to be peaceful and enjoyable for Fearer as Madison was born just a few weeks prior.

“Since Madison was only a couple of weeks old, my wife and I decided not to do any traveling for Thanksgiving,” Fearer said. “It was really nice to just spend time with my wife, the baby and our dog.”

He is looking forward to Christmas and for his extended family to meet Madison.

Fearer is embracing his new role as a father, and he is excited to see how fatherhood will change and enhance his work as a teacher.

# Our True Heroes

Hayleigh Loeffert | Staff Reporter



**Brian Matts, firefighter for the City of Pittsburgh, has been on the force for 17 years.**



**Steven Loeffert, firefighter for the City of Pittsburgh, has been on the force for 22 years.**

Photos courtesy of Steven Loeffert

Being a first responder is not for the faint of heart. Every day, you are put to the test, in mind, body and spirit. You must be willing to sacrifice everything in service of others. Imagine waking up not knowing what each day is going to bring, where the unexpected is expected. With just the sound of a siren you know you are about to put your life on the line for someone else.

I had the privilege to speak with two people who mean the world to me, one being my father, Steven Loeffert, and one being a forever family friend, Brian Matts. They have both been firefighters for the city of Pittsburgh for about 20 years. Pride is invaluable in the fire service. Firefighters should have pride in their department, their apparatus, their actions and their appearance.

"I take pride by being punctual, dressing acceptably, maintaining a positive can-do outlook when encountering problems and by going above and beyond what is expected of me," firefighter Steven Loeffert said. "Giving the bare minimum is not acceptable to me. If you are not proud of what you do or who you are, you can not have pride in the company you work for or the men and women you work with."

As a first responder you must take an active part in your organization. Loyalty cannot be bought, it cannot be sold, it can not be demanded. It must be earned each and every time you step into work.

"Firefighters are one another's keeper. It doesn't matter

if you like the guy or not, in a fire, on the job and in life, you do everything in your power to protect them," Loeffert said. "We work as a team and need to have each other's back in dangerous situations. Being loyal to your fellow firefighters and willing to risk your life to save theirs is a key quality you need to have as a firefighter. I ask them to put my life in their hands and their life in my hands. That is the ultimate definition of loyalty and why it's needed in the Fire Service."

Today, society thrives on emphasizing high pressure careers that push workers to continue to strive for better performances and more productivity. Employees work longer hours, multiple tasks and take their work home. The end result is that everyone at some point feels like they are under the gun, pressured, and anxious.

First Responders are among that group, who are expected to be high performers at all times. When these brave men and women are called into action they are not supposed to stop until the job is completed.

Accomplishment is the ultimate reward; knowing that they were there to support someone on what might be the worst moment in their life can have a powerful effect on a first responder's sense of self-worth.

"I am most proud of being able to help people in general. When they call 911, they're in need of something, whether it's a serious emergency, or just a little help. Either way, being able to provide a public service to those people is very satisfy-

ing and rewarding," firefighter Brian Matts said.

On the other hand the reality of this job can take such a toll on any first responder's mental health. First responders see things most people do not want to see.

"Another thing I am most proud of is running our Peer Support Team for the Fire Bureau," Matts said. "What a lot of people don't understand is that firefighters see irregular and abnormal things every day. Things the average person doesn't get to witness. So mentally, it affects our firefighters in so many different ways, and can affect them for the rest of their lives. And often times, our own family members can't help because they don't understand what we deal with. So being able to provide that help to our men and women is making the fire service better."

My father and Matts are two of the most selfless people I know. They take so much pride in what they do. No matter what happens in the Fire Department, they selflessly give their all to the job day after day.

To all first responders, your tireless dedication to the safety and well-being of our community does not go unnoticed. It is your quick thinking and brave actions that often make the difference between life and death in critical situations. The sacrifices you make, the risks you take and the lives you save are truly remarkable. I am in awe of your courage and dedication. You are the true heroes of our community.

## Bishop Canevin Gained Wonderful Staff Members Even After Losing Pillars of the Community

Logan Panza | Staff Reporter

Former Vice Principal and Academic Dean, Lori Rossi, and former Spanish teacher, Claire Barber reported nothing but positive updates on their new career paths. However, both Rossi and Barber miss the Bishop Canevin community tremendously.

Rossi is now an academic adviser for the University Of Pittsburgh. She specializes in the TRIO Student Support Services Program. She assists students who are first-generation college students, limited income and/or disabled. Rossi said she is still adjusting to her new schedule, but she and her family are doing well. Her new position allows her to spend more time with her daughters.

"YES, I absolutely miss B.C.," Rossi said.

She especially misses her former students, the B.C. community and her former faculty members. Rossi hopes to see everyone at upcoming events.

Barber is also embracing her new position. She is now a Spanish teacher at North Allegheny Middle School as well a part of the high school gifted program. Barber has also recently started a masters program in Teacher Leadership at the American College of Education.

"It has been a challenge getting back into "student" mode after so many years out of it. But so far it is going well!" Barber said. "I miss so many things about Bishop Canevin...I loved B.C. so much!"

She misses the community of students, teachers and families.

The absence of Rossi and Barber in the halls has been difficult; however, B.C. has gained wonderful and dedicated staff members. Mark Petrovich is our new Spanish teacher. Sean Murray is our new Academic Success Coordinator. Dr. Chris Milojevich is our new Dean of Students and chemistry teacher.

We wish Barber and Rossi luck on their new adventures, and we welcome our new staff and administration with open arms.



# The Marching Crusaders: Canevin's Best Kept Secret

*Bishop Canevin High School's marching band may be slightly smaller than most, but the friendships made and the impact it leaves on its members is quite large*

Dom Varley | Staff Reporter



Photos courtesy of Susan Stindzier



The Marching Crusaders may be one of Bishop Canevin High School's most hidden gems.

The 2023-2024 Marching Crusaders consist of just six students, four alumni and two middle school students. Although just over ten total people make up the entire band, there is no shortage of talented musicians.

There are definitely plenty of benefits to having a smaller sized group. Due to having few members, the musicians all have very close relationships with one another. This closeness has a large impact on how they perform.

"Due to the band's small size, it [is] very easy for us to get to know each other," drum major and BC senior Madeline Dillon said. "Our performances benefit from our closeness because we all have trust in each other and know that everyone is performing to the best of their abilities."

The Marching Crusaders can most commonly be seen in the stands and on the field during halftime at football games as well as Canevin pep rallies. However, the band does much more than just that.

After football season is over, the band switches gears from being the marching band to the jazz band. The jazz band involves the students playing music that would not typically be heard at football games. During the winter months, they perform at the Christmas in the Courtyard event here at B.C. and several local Catholic grade schools.

They also hold an annual Christmas concert at the school. In the spring, they perform at a few different parades throughout the area, including the Coraopolis Memorial Day Parade, which they have attended the last two years.

While each member of the band is passionate about music and performing, another part of being in the band is the lasting friendships and bonds that the students form with each other.

"I've made a [lot] of super close friends through the band, and being able to hang out on Fridays for extended periods of time with them is really nice," senior percussion leader Bella Malloy said.

One notable former Marching Crusader, Jon Schultz has been hugely impacted by the friendships and memories made from his own time in the band. Schultz is a B.C. alum from the class of 2004 and is now currently a math teacher at Canevin. He puts a lot of time and effort into helping with the Marching Crusaders.

Schultz serves the band in many different ways, including playing the tenor saxophone and reading the halftime show script at football games as well as working individually and collectively with the student musicians.

"It's a great feeling," Schultz said about working with the band and being able to give back to his alma mater. "The band had a large impact on my high school experience. [T]he friends I have kept in touch with are almost all from my time in

the band. I hope that the current students are also forming bonds that will last as they work for a common goal and perform as one."

For Schultz, it is all about helping out the students.

"The musicians all put in such hard work to be able to perform at games, pep rallies, BC community events and so on. I really enjoy being able to see where we are as an ensemble in June when we begin rehearsing and where [our] progress has taken [us] by the end of the season," Schultz said. "Our students have so many talents beyond what can be seen in the classroom, and it is a joy to watch them explore their talents within this organization."

Although the Marching Crusaders have changed quite a bit since 2004, the rich traditions and lasting friendships formed have stayed the same.

This year, another big change was made to the band. The Marching Crusaders, Crusettes and Cheerleading Squad merged to form the Spirit of the Crusaders. 2023 was their inaugural season. From now on, these three groups will coordinate together for their performances at football games.

This was the first year of the Spirit of the Crusaders, and each group did a great job working together for the first time. In the coming years, the goal will be to make each group stronger with the help of the others.

# BC Explores New Club Opportunities

Susan Skindzier | Staff Reporter



(above) The SPARK club brought in therapy dogs to celebrate World Kindness Week. (left) The SPARK club shared kindness cards to celebrate World Kindness Week.

Photos by Lauren Gamble

Bishop Canevin High School welcomed two new clubs to the repertoire of extracurriculars, which are SPARK Club run by B.C. counselor Stephanie Miller and Board Game Club run by English teacher Dr. Robert Hein.

Creating a new club takes tremendous effort and hard work.

"I was nervous about sponsoring this club," Miller said. "Mostly because I wasn't sure if students would want to join and also it's always worrisome when you start something new."

With the help of senior Alaina Barlock, Miller was able to start the SPARK Club. SPARK stands for Spreading Positivity and Reinforcing Kindness. So far the club has 21 members and hope to gain more. The SPARK Club not only spreads kindness, but forms new friendships.

"Making new friends has been one of my favorite parts of joining the SPARK Club," junior Miriam Hardy said.

Moving forward, the club hopes to make a difference at Bishop Canevin.

"I am most looking forward to seeing how much the club grows," Miller said. "Hopefully it will make a difference within our school."

Creating a new club is not as easy as it might seem. For some, they might have to learn something new.

"I was also a bit nervous about learning 5th Edition of D&D," Dr. Hein said. "I've played for so long, but I've only ever played 3rd edition."

After student suggestions, Dr. Hein created the Board Game Club for anyone interested in playing board games after school. His goal is to spread his enjoyment of board games to the younger generation. The club provides opportunities to try something new and to meet other students.

"The activities are my favorite part as well as meeting new people," junior Nicholas Preteroti said.

Both the SPARK Club and the Board Game Club are open to any student who is interested. The clubs hope to grow in membership as the year progresses.

# Cultural Dragon Boat Racing in Pittsburgh

Julian Myron | Staff Reporter



Photo courtesy of Jeannie Myron

Y3P returns to shore after its first and second race during the 2023 Pittsburgh Hearts of Steel Dragon Boat Racing Festival.

Three students in Bishop Canevin participated in the Pittsburgh Annual Dragon Boat Race Festival. The three students were seniors Julian Myron, Quentin White and Julianna Umalin.

The team's name was Y3P, which stands for Young Pinoy Paddlers of Pittsburgh. The word Pinoy is an adjective relating to the Philippines and or Filipinos. As you could probably guess, a large sum of the team was made up of Filipino Americans.

"Dragon boating is a fun-filled, adrenaline pumping, water sports activity," Umalin said. "Teams compete in Dragon Boats, which are large canoe-like vessels fitted with ornately carved dragon's heads and tails. Crews of up to 16 people sit in pairs and paddle to compete in races over distances of around 250m."

The team practiced two times before the Pittsburgh dragon boating festival and entered it with no prior experience. Y3P finished third place among the youth division. It was the first culturally centered team to enter in the races ever.

The dragon boat race was a breast cancer awareness centered event. Each team had to pay a \$900 dollar entry fee, which went towards the research of breast cancer.

The organization behind the event was the Pittsburgh Hearts of Steel. The Pittsburgh Hearts of Steel is a support group open to all breast cancer survivors. The support and fundraising the organization provides is extremely fulfilling for all those involved.

The Y3P team is always open to new members. According to Umalin, any Filipino Americans or

friends of Fil-Am youths ages 12-21 are welcome to join. If you share a passion for preserving and experiencing Filipino culture, a willingness to help others, a desire to make friends while supporting one another, a commitment to giving back to the community or simply to have fun, you are more than welcome to become a part of our community.

"The group is a team-building program within the Young Filipino Americans of Pittsburgh (YFAP), a dynamic youth organization established in 1982," Umalin said. "YFAP is dedicated to providing leadership development, cultural education and community service opportunities for young Filipino American members associated with the FAAP (Filipino American Association of Pittsburgh)."

Like YFAP, Y3P is centered around the team and building those internal relationships.

"The team-building program stands as a pivotal initiative within YFAP, actively engaging in fundraising endeavors to help those in need locally and in the Philippines," Umalin said. "This effort plays a significant role in making a lasting impact on the well being of the community, demonstrating our commitment to meaningful and positive contributions."

In terms of the last event, Umalin and the team felt confident in the water.

"I thought that I performed really well on the right side of the boat," Umalin said.

The team looks forward to future events.

# Bishop Canevin's Student Achievements

Ashley Boehm | Staff Reporter

As Bishop Canevin High School commemorates another year of academic, athletic excellence and student accomplishments, it is with great pride and enthusiasm that we explore the remarkable achievements of its students.

Over this past year, Bishop Canevin has cultivated an environment that nurtures not only academic success but also personal and extracurricular triumphs. From stellar academic performances to outstanding contributions in various fields, the students at Bishop Canevin have consistently exemplified dedication, resilience and a commitment to excellence.

The National Honor Society is a distinguished organization dedicated to acknowledging exceptional high school students nationwide. From an academically selected 18 Bishop Canevin students, senior Julian Jalkh emerged as the President of the school's chapter of the National Honor Society.

"I wanted to take a higher position in NHS and feel like a true leader among my peers," Jalkh said. "I don't typically get the opportunity to do things like that, so being able to run for president was a great chance to prove myself."

The school community extends its sincere congratulations to Jalkh for attaining this well-deserved designation.

Senior Maria Cicchino, a distinguished member of the Class of 2024, has recently chosen to continue her academic journey at Westminster College, where she will continue her athletic talents in soccer. Over the past four years, Cicchino has proven herself as a critical asset to the varsity girls' soccer team, contributing significantly to its success.

"My favorite thing about soccer is that the sport has given me the opportunity to meet a lot of teammates who have become some of my closest friends," Cicchino said.

Beyond her athletic achievements, Cicchino distinguishes herself as a well-rounded student, demonstrating excellence in academics. Accepted into Westminster's esteemed Biology Pre-Med Program and invited to apply for the Honors College, she exemplifies academic expertise.

Engaging in an abundance of extracurricular activities, including membership in the National Honor Society, Student Government, International Club, Crusaders for Justice, Junior Achievement, Adventure Club and Circle of Friends, Cicchino showcases a commitment to both scholastic and community involvement.

Her dedication and achievements underscore her well-deserved place within the Westminster College community.

Junior Kole Olszewski, an accomplished junior football player, recently set a new standard by breaking the school's record with an impressive 1,680 Rushing Season Passing Yards. Serving as the school's starting quarterback, Olszewski not only exhibits effectiveness on the field but also brings a distinctive presence to the game.

"It feels great that I was able to accomplish an achievement no one else has," Olszewski said. "Also it makes me feel good that all my hard work has paid off."

A consistent member of the football team since his freshman year, Olszewski serves as a shining example of how a student can successfully navigate the balance between academic excellence and athletic commitment at Bishop Canevin.

Notably, his academic expertise is underscored by the fact that he has achieved High Honors every quarter since joining the Bishop Canevin community.

Congratulations to these distinguished Crusaders!

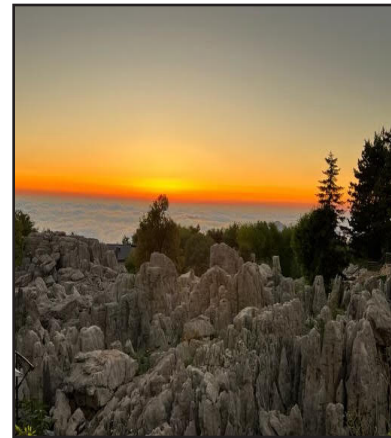
# B.C. Students Travel Abroad

*Students traveled abroad to many exciting and different locations over the summer*

Jonathan Bernotas | Staff Reporter



Our Lady of Lebanon Statue



Sunset in Faqra, Lebanon

Photos courtesy of Julian Jalkh and Alex Badran

Senior Julian Jalkh is one student who got to take a trip abroad with his family over the summer. Jalkh and his family frequently visit Lebanon where they have dual citizenship. This is the 16th time Jalkh has been there as he visits his family every year.

Jalkh's favorite activities were exploring Lebanon and spending time with his family and friends.

"The highlight of my trip was touring around the country and doing things that I didn't get to do when I would visit when I was younger," Jalkh said.

Jalkh also enjoyed some of his favorite Lebanese cuisine during his trip.

"One of my favorite dishes to eat in Lebanon is shish barak. It is a dish including little meat dumplings cooked in a yogurt sauce along with rice," Jalkh said. "My mother makes it here in the states, but I loved trying it in Lebanon at my uncle's restaurant as well."

Now that he is older, Jalkh experienced some things that he did not get to in years past.

"I was able to drive in Lebanon for the first time this year as I am now old enough to drive," Jalkh said. "I also got to go out with my friends more often and do things by myself now that I am older."

The country of Lebanon is beautiful during the summer. While many outside of the country tend to see it only for war and destruction, such as during the 2020 explosion in the

capital of Beirut, it contains a hidden inner beauty. This is something Jalkh has been able to see through his own eyes year after year. He hopes that people's perception of Lebanon will change and that more people visit the country.

"This trip to Lebanon was my favorite one yet and in the future, I hope to continue to make good memories with my friends and family when I go to visit," Jalkh said.

Senior Alejandro Badran also went on an exciting trip to Nicaragua during his summer break.

Similar to Jalkh, he went there to meet family. Badran left for his trip with his family and was abroad for two weeks. He also had many exciting experiences during the trip.

"Along with meeting family in Nicaragua, being able to have dinner on an island was the highlight of my trip," Badran said.

Nicaragua is a South American country with tons of great experiences and cuisines to try.

"During my trip getting to try new foods was very exciting for me," Badran said.

Alex has also taken trips to different places just like Jalkh.

These are just two B.C. students who went on exciting and eventful trips abroad this summer. Jalkh was able to go to his other home and Badran took an adventurous trip traveling with his family. Lebanon and Nicaragua are just some of the great destinations for a trip out of the country, especially during summer break.



# Restaurant Review: Wiggy's

Aidan Didion | Staff Reporter



Photo courtesy of Aidan Didion

Let's imagine that you enter a hometown wing restaurant called Wiggy's. It has photos of Pittsburgh sports hung up on the walls, great hometown people welcoming you and some of the best wings in town. Everyone is laughing and talking about last night's Steelers' game.

That is the great atmosphere you are offered at Wiggy's and the flavors are what keep you coming back.

The atmosphere is the main focus especially when there is a Steelers' game on. Pittsburgh people love their wings when watching Kenny Pickett throw for a touchdown. At Wiggy's Pittsburgh fans cheer when big things happen. If you are at Wiggy's you are talking all things Pittsburgh sports from Matt Canada being fired to going to the Super Bowl. Wiggy's is a place where a yinzer can celebrate with another yinzer.

Wiggy's has a huge wall full of Pittsburgh historical sports pictures. The restaurant displays sports on the TV for those who wish to eat in as well as arcade machines for the kids who are waiting for their food.

The location is in a shopping center on Noblestown Road, very close to many neighborhoods. The restaurant is especially close to Bishop Canevin and has become a school hang out spot. It is also a great spot for a pick up order when leaving

school.

Wiggy's is best known for the hot fire wings. The restaurant also offers more underrated options like the maple bacon wings and the dry rubs.

"I always get the Cajun dry rub," senior Sean Kelsch said.

Pricing is very reasonable. It did, however, go up in price after converting to take out, but mostly only during the pandemic. Since then they have had exceptional prices.

The management is incredible. As it is a small place, the restaurant has three workers working at a time. There is a cook, a runner and the owner that runs the register.

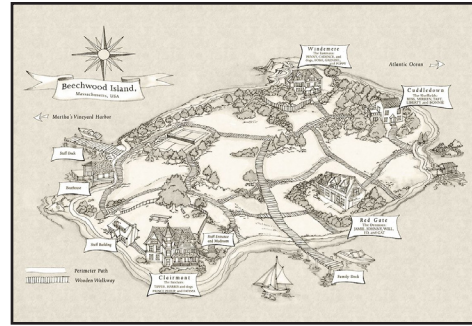
Most customers have never had a problem with waiting too long to receive their food. It usually takes around 10 minutes to receive an order.

The owner is the sweetest soul. She remembers people's names and even has those people's orders memorized. The owner always makes sure your experience is good. Many customers have sat at Wiggy's for hours just talking to her. It is a testament to her and the work she puts in and the impact she has on the people she serves.

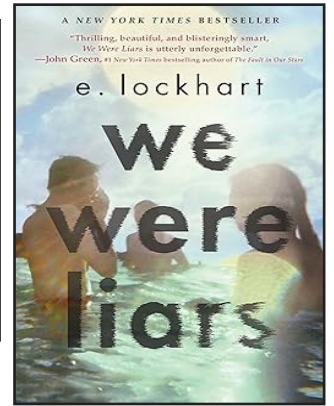
Do not hesitate to stop by Wiggy's after school to eat in or take out. You will not regret it!

# Book Review: *We Were Liars*

Emily Peters | Staff Reporter



Photos courtesy of Emily Peters



In recent years, it has been a common trend for young adult books to take place by the beach, in the summer and also have a twisty romance.

*We Were Liars* was just that. This book entertains the readers with cliffhangers, romance and a glimpse into a wealthy family's summer.

The book takes you into the dark secrets of an affluent family.

*We Were Liars* gives us insight on the lives of four adventurous teenagers Gat, Mirren, Candace and Harris.

The Sinclair Family invites Gat every year to the island to spend time with the three other teenagers. While Candace falls in love with Gat on the island, there is not a lot of room to hide behind the horrible, twisted truth. Candace cannot remember anything that happened

this summer, but she has to solve the mystery with her three best friends.

The story is beautifully written and well played out. At the end you have to remember the truth.

*Family of Liars* is a Prequel to *We Were Liars*. It follows Carrie, Penny, and Bess. These characters are the mothers to the teenagers in *We Were Liars*.

The book starts off with spoiling the ending of the first novel. I would recommend reading *We Were Liars* first. Both books show how having a great deal of money often leads to secrets. We learn about the secrets of the generation before and how they have hidden so much.

I enjoyed *Family of Liars* more than *We Were Liars*, but recommend both for your winter break reading list!




**Fall 2023 Awardee**

The AMDG award is given to a student who epitomizes the mission and vision of Bishop Canevin High School while doing all things for the "Greater Glory of God."

*Abigail Gerchow*



Photo courtesy of the Mosaic Yearbook Staff

# Movie Review:

## *Five Nights at Freddy's*

Alejandro Badran | Staff Reporter



Photo courtesy of Alejandro Badran

On Oct. 27 the *Five Nights at Freddy's* PG-13 horror movie was released in theaters in America. It was released later worldwide after a long and tedious development process.

Since April 7, 2015, the movie had gone through multiple directors, production companies and screen rewrites until the production company Blumhouse and director Emma Tammi took over. Blumhouse and Tammi sought out Scott Cawthon to finish the screenplay and get it to the big screen.

*Five Nights at Freddy's* follows a troubled mall security guard played by Josh Hutcherson of the *Hunger Games*.

After an incident with a person at the mall, the security guard had to find a new job to support his little sister played by Piper Rubio, so that she can remain in his custody. He got a job as a security guard at a once beloved Freddy Fazbear's Pizzeria and now has to solve the mystery behind the establishment and survive the nightshifts.

Moviegoers flooded to theaters to see the movie as well as reviewers from massive reviewing companies, such as IMDb, Rotten Tomatoes and Metacritic. It had a mixed reception

with critics and audiences alike.

The critics did not believe the movie was great or even good with 30% rating on the tomatometer on Rotten Tomatoes. Some critics called it, "A deeply unpleasant and quite ridiculous game of hopscotch."

Matt Pais and others deemed the film "not scary," although some critics acknowledged it had some redeeming qualities that audiences would love. Others did not think it was worth a night at the theater.

However, audiences had the opposite thoughts. The movie scored an 87% on rotten tomato based on audience reviews. Some audience reviewers said it was, "One of the craziest nights ever."

Additionally, *Five Nights at Freddy's* scored a combined 5.5 IMDb score with both audiences and critics.

In the end, the movie was rather successful in the box office with a worldwide total of \$299.4 million dollars from a \$20 million dollar budget.

Although *Five Nights at Freddy's* ended with a mixed reception, I believe the movie was enjoyable and worth a trip to the theater.

Happy New Year!

Love,

The Leonid Staff



# The Grace Gaita Scholarship Fund

Emily Peters | Staff Reporter



Photo courtesy of Bethany Gaita

Sporting her favorite B.C. plaid, Grace smiled on the first day of her junior year.

The Grace Gaita Scholarship continues Grace Gaita's legacy of kindness by providing students with financial aid and sponsored retreats. The scholarship is a memorial fund for Grace who sadly passed away in her junior year of high school. The main goal of the scholarship is to help multiple students access a Catholic education.

After Grace's passing in early 2022 her parents Bethany and Chuck Gaita started a scholarship in her name to help the current and future students of Bishop Canevin. The scholarship helped her family and friends to continue her legacy even after she passed away.

As we continue to grieve her loss Bishop Canevin still feels Grace's spirit.

"I think when I'm at the school, when we are at the school, we feel her presence through the students," Chuck Gaita said.

Grace was an excellent student who was very strong in her faith. She enjoyed math and going to religion class. Therefore the scholarship is for students who excel in those subjects.

Grace hoped to attend Duquesne University and major in religion or math.

Along with the financial aid portion of the scholarship, the Gaitas

are hoping to sponsor class retreats for juniors and seniors.

The retreats would allow Grace's memory to live on. The Gaitas want to continue being connected with the school and the students for many years to come as they feel Grace's spirit at B.C. and through the students.

"It gives us strength and comfort to be here at the school and to see that her name is being carried on and people recognize her, and who she is," Bethany Gaita said.

Grace had a strong spirit and enjoyed making new friends and reaching out to people. She never passed up an opportunity to engage in a conversation with anyone she passed by. She left a profound mark on her friends and the school community.

"Just the level of caring that comes from the students, the teachers and the administration," Chuck Gaita said, "I would never have expected to hit that level."

Last year's spaghetti dinner that promoted the Grace Gaita Scholarship Fund was a huge success. The now yearly spaghetti dinner will take place on Feb. 3, 2024. The event will be located at St. Thomas More Church. The Gaitas are looking forward to seeing you there.

# The St. Anthony's Program

*The St. Anthony's School for Exceptional Children was established by the Diocese in 1952*

Alaina Barlock | Staff Reporter



Photo courtesy of Chris Westrick

Circle of Friends Club plays group games, along with discussing future plans for the club's upcoming events.



Photo by Lauren Gamble

Here are our St. Anthony's girls celebrating their Christmas cheer with homemade wreaths.

The Saint Anthony's Program is a Catholic based school program for students with special needs. There are classrooms in various schools throughout the entire Diocese.

St. Anthony's operates in a special resource room designed to help students succeed with their academic curriculum, as well as provide other services like speech, occupational and many more. This program has created a positive atmosphere for students of all ages, allowing students to work together in an inclusive environment which has been an incredible addition to the Bishop Canevin community.

The program is all about inclusion and providing tools in every degree of learning for the students.

"My son went through the program and graduated in 2016 with a special love for it," the program's director Chris Westrick said. "I've seen what it's done for him. The skills involved were more than helpful."

"After realizing what this program had done for my son, I imme-

diately wanted to be a part of it," St. Anthony's teacher Phyllis Timbario said.

There are currently eight students enrolled in the Bishop Canevin program. These students created Circle of Friends, which is a club that provides a space to meet new friends and to participate in various group activities, allowing students to actively work together.

"Our program allows for all students to work together in an inclusive environment," Westrick said.

The St. Anthony's Program offers a variety of courses, such as vocational training and setting up each student for future success.

After graduation, there is a secondary program at Duquesne University for students once they complete high school. 70% of students are awarded with some form of scholarship support.

The St. Anthony's Program has been with Bishop Canevin for numerous years, providing students an opportunity to learn and achieve at their own pace.

# Fall Sports Review: Deep Playoff Runs and Section Titles

Joey Hurley | Staff Reporter



Photos by Matt Polk



The Crusader fall sports season was filled with deep playoff runs and section titles. The fall season had players from each team make all section teams.

“Overall I believe that it was a fairly successful fall season for our teams,” Athletic Director Dale Checketts said. “We had multiple teams make the playoffs and numerous athletes earned individual recognition.”

The Bishop Canevin golf team was the first team to start its season. The team had six seniors, led by captains Zach Bittner, Cooper Yuhas and Ryan Saginaw. Saginaw, unfortunately, was not at many matches this year due to him being out of state for hockey.

The golf team got off to a strong start. The team finished with an impressive 6-5 record and just barely missed the playoffs. Bittner shot a personal best round of 37 and made WPIAL Qualifiers along with junior Tyler Maddix and freshman Jamin Brock.

“The season went as expected,” Bittner said. “...Beating the bad teams in the section and competing against the good teams.”

The golf team will be losing six seniors going into next season. It will be looking for a few new players as well as continuing and improving on the team’s success.

The Crusader cross country team was slim this year, but the two runners that evidently pulled through were sophomore Carter Cross and junior Bridget McNamara. Each of these runners set personal records this year, with fantastic times. McNamara was a PIAA Qualifier for the second year in a row.

Runners put in tremendous effort to get their best times and constantly strive to get better.

“I had a few ups and downs,” McNamara said, “but overall I was happy with my performance

and will look to get better next year.”

The Bishop Canevin girls soccer team battled a tough section this year with many injuries along the way. The team had 3-4 record with different players coming on and off the field throughout the whole year. The team still managed to beat rival Carlynton twice. The girls soccer team had two players make All Sections this year, senior Captain Maria Cicchino and sophomore Cali Evans.

This is the second time that Cicchino has made the All Section Team.

“The highlight of my season was scoring against the best team in the section,” Cicchino said. “And receiving an All Section honor again.”

Cicchino along with the other seniors and captain, goaltender Madeline Dillon will be a big loss going into next season for the girls soccer team.

The Crusaders boys soccer team had the most wins in the last four years. The boys soccer team won five games this year and made the playoffs. The team welcomed a few new players this year, which really jump started the season. The boys team had a 4-6 record in section play. The four wins were dominant wins against the weaker teams. Seniors Sean Kelsch and Cole Evans made the all section team this year.

The boys drew the 15 seed in the playoff bracket and faced the 2 seed Sewickley Academy. The boys fell short 2-1, but this was definitely the best game of the season and the best game the team has played in the four years.

“A memory I will never forget is that playoff game,” Kelsch said. “Even though we did not win it was one of the best games I have played in.”

The team hopes to find a new dynamic as it loses nine seniors and their coach of three years.

The girls volleyball team had an outstanding

season with a 20-3 record and winning the seventh straight section title. The volleyball team went undefeated in the section and won it with ease. The team was WPIAL runner ups and finished top eight in the entire state. The team had great success which led to many well deserved individual recognition, including four players making the All Section First Team, two making All Section Second Team and one making All Section Third Team. The team was led by senior captain Ella Whalen and junior Claire Ruffing who made All Section First Team and made the first team for WPIAL All Stars.

The team is a great way to bond with other students and make life-long friendships.

“The bus rides, beating Eden Christian twice,” Whalen said, “and sharing great memories, all made this a great season.”

The Bishop Canevin football team had another great season, continuing its success from last season. The boys had an 8-1 record in the regular season. They entered the playoffs as the 3 seed and beat the 14 seed Leechburg and the 6 seed California. The team, unfortunately, lost against Fort Cherry in the semifinals with a final score of 33-21. With this great season a lot of individual recognition occurred. Seniors Marquis Carter, Zeke Swift and Jason Cross all made First Team Offense. Cross also made First Team Defense and was named the Defensive MVP.

The team is a place to make memories and form friendships.

“Football camp in the summer,” Swift said, “was my favorite part of the season, getting to know the freshmen, and building better bonds with my teammates.”

The football team had another impressive season this year, and will look to continue its great success.

# Bishop Canevin Hockey Goes For It All

*Bishop Canevin Hockey may have its best season yet*

Maz Anselm | Staff Reporter

Bishop Canevin Hockey has its eyes set on the PIHL Championship this year, as the team has many upperclassmen and stars to look out for.

Bishop Canevin has always had a special place for hockey. The school's team is eight time Conference Champions, eight time Penguins Cup Champions and four time PA State Champions. This year's team looks forward to contributing to these statistics and leaving its own mark in Canevin Hockey history.

Bishop Canevin Hockey in recent years has been on the rise. The team went under in the 2017-2018 season as it was unable to play due to a lack of players. With a revival in the 2018-2019 season, Canevin Hockey has pushed through its struggles and grown into a team that demands respect.

In the 2020-2021 season, the team shocked the league, starting the season with a four game win streak and a final record of 12-7 overall. Despite having a young, freshman dominant team, they put up a fight that no one expected. The team would finish its season with a loss in the PIHL Division 2 Semifinal game, but it was just the beginning for this rising team.

The 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 seasons would see this young team grow with overall records 17-4 and 22-4. In both of these seasons, the team would make their way to the PIHL Division 2 Championship, however; the players would see losses in both championship games. Even though the boys lost, their performance did not go unnoticed, as they made the National Hockey Championship in both seasons.

Despite the upsets, the boys have come ready to play this year.

"We're aiming for nothing short of a championship win," Senior Assistant Captain Ben Ondrejko said. "I am aiming to have my best season yet."

The team is using the frustration from the last two seasons to drive its motivation to bring home a champi-

onship this year.

"We fell short the last two years, and that will not happen again," Senior Assistant Captain Mason Glover said. "We have one goal for this year and that is to win it all."

The once young, freshman dominant team, is now a senior, veteran team that has many stars to be on the look for.

"Ryan Saginaw is definitely a player to look out for," Ondrejko said. "Last season, he was drafted into the NCDC juniors league, and has put up a great performance so far this year."

The team is full of star talent with eight seniors taking the lead.

"Other players to look out for are Eion Tiernan and Cole Evans," Glover said. "We have a lot of upperclassmen that are ready to put everything on the ice to win."

The team has put its heads down and has gone to work this year. They started off their season strong with an undefeated record 6-0, and there are no signs of the boys being stopped. They have improved significantly each season and it seems this might just be their year.

Senior Captain Ryan Saginaw is truly a sight to see on the ice. After spending about a month and a half with the NCDC Northern Cyclones Junior team, Saginaw's skills have reached a whole new level. Saginaw's goal for the season seems to align with the rest of the team's goal.

"I expect to win the championship and go back to nationals," Saginaw said. "My personal goal is to put up 100 points and bring the team a championship."

Canevin hockey has seen major growth in the past few years and continues to impress the league each season. With the captains and the rest of their team setting the goal to bring home the championship this year, all that's left is to put the plan into action. The team's home games are played at Ice Castle Arena. They are a quarter of the way through the season and show no sign of slowing down.

# Winter Sports Preview

*The Crusaders are headed into the winter season with wins on the horizon*

Lucas Golembiewski | Staff Reporter



Photos courtesy of the B.C. hockey and basketball Instagrams

With the success of all winter sports the past few years the hockey team is no exception. Led by Senior Captain Ryan Saginaw with seniors Mason Glover and Ben Ondrejko, the team is off to the best start in recent years with a 6-0 record.

The team is looking to make a big run in the playoffs to finally bring home the championship title. Starting goaltender Ayden Worstell is off to the best season of his high school career posting 2 shutouts of the team's 6 wins. Saginaw continues to do what he does on the ice and that is scoring goals and being a good teammate. Just a few games ago Saginaw scored his 100th goal in his high school career.

The boys basketball team has had a lot of success in the past couple years. With the team winning back to back WPIAL Championships in a row and winning States in 2022, it is looking for another great season.

"The team really looks good this good season," senior Zach Ziegler said. "We think we can make a good run and we're really looking forward to the season starting."

With the hiring of a new coach the boys hope to add some fire power to their games and use this as motivation to do well.

Just like the boys team, the girls basketball team is looking to have another good season. With the hiring of another new coach, the girls

are looking forward to a winning season,

With the graduation of star player Ashley Lippold, the girls are looking to learn to adapt and continue their success. Head Coach Rob Travis in his first season under the helm will look to get the girls in the playoffs and strive for a deep playoff run.

The bowling team is definitely a team to look out for this winter season. The team is led by star bowler and senior Jonathan Bernotas. There are high hopes for the team this year.

"I think we will do very well this season," Bernotas said. "We will get second place in the section and make the WPIAL playoffs."

Last year Bernotas put up the best numbers of his high school career and hopes to continue his good numbers this year.

The wrestling team is also looking to have a good season. The team is led by junior Braiden Sudor. The team hopes for a successful season from its team members.

"This will be our best season yet," Sudor said. "We have so much talent on this team. I think I will get 100 wins this entire season with how much wrestling I do over the winter."

The team is going into this season with energy and motivation. Its goal is to improve from last year and do the best they can.

# A Review of the Steelers To-Date

*The Pittsburgh Steelers have had varying degrees of success and loss so far during the 2023-24 season*

Julian Jalkh | Staff Reporter



Rookie cornerback Joey Porter Jr. (#24).

Photos courtesy of Mark Alberti, Getty Images



Linebackers T.J. Watt (#90) and Alex Highsmith (#56) in their week 13 game against the Arizona Cardinals.

Photos courtesy of Justin Bertl, Getty Images



Quarterback Kenny Pickett (#8).

Photos courtesy of Joe Sargent, Getty Images

At the time of writing, the Steelers currently have a record of 7-4, are set to play six more games within the regular season and currently rank 5th seed in the AFC, which would set them up to play the 4th seed Miami Dolphins if the season were to end today.

In regards to team statistics, 181 total first downs have been achieved, with 95 having been gained from passing plays, 72 by rushing plays and 14 by penalty. 55 out of 153 third down conversions have been made while 4 out of 9 fourth down conversions have been made. The offense has made a total 3,222 yards on a total 660 offensive plays, with 2,156 yards having been gained on passing plays while 1,254 have been gained on rushing plays. 25 sacks have been made on defense, 21 out of 22 field goals have been scored and 16 total touchdowns have been scored, with 8 from rushing plays, 7 from passing plays and 2 from the defense.

B.C. students shared their opinions on the Steelers season so far.

"I think the team is moving in the right direction right now and Kenny Pickett may be the answer," junior Tyler Maddix said. "The defense is great right now, especially from the performances we've been seeing from T.J. Watt."

Star linebacker Watt has been a major talking point among not only the city of Pittsburgh, but the NFL as a whole. His sack average is currently tied for the highest in the NFL, just recently beating out that of major competition such as Myles

Garrett of the Cleveland Browns. Other standout players on the team this season include Watt's fellow linebacker Alex Highsmith, safety Minkah Fitzpatrick, tight end Pat Freiermuth, running back Najee Harris, wide receivers Diontae Johnson and George Pickens, rookie offensive tackle Broderick Jones and rookie cornerback Joey Porter Jr.

"Porter Jr. is looking like a steal as a 'second rounder' as he has faced some of the best in the game and held his own to this point. He still has room to grow especially with his hands in coverage, which he has been flagged for more than a few times. With his solid start to his career so far, it will be very interesting to see how good he can become," said Athletic Director Mr. Dale Checketts. "Broderick Jones is rather athletic for a guy his size and it has really shown in the run game since he moved into the lineup. He has consistently been able to pull on plays as well as get to the second level to make more running lanes for the backs."

In recent team updates, offensive coordinator Matt Canada was fired the week prior to the time of writing following a two-year tenure in the position. While the official reason has never been stated by head coach Mike Tomlin as to why he fired Canada, many speculate that it was due to the team suffering a long streak of bad play calls as the offense was ranked near the bottom of the league. It is the first time since 1941 that the Steelers have made a mid-season coaching

change. Running backs coach Eddie Faulkner is currently serving as the team's interim offensive coordinator.

"Matt Canada was overall a very bad coach and one of the worst offensive coordinators we've seen in a long time in the NFL," Maddix said. "His schemes were made more for college teams than professional ones like the Steelers."

The results from Matt Canada's firing seem to already be showing. In week 12's game against the Cincinnati Bengals, quarterback Kenny Pickett finally cracked over 400 total yards in a game for his offense for the first time since the 2020 playoffs as well as outgaining an opponent in total yards this season. He also passed for a total 278 yards, ranking him 9th in the NFL for most passing yards for week 12.

"Kenny is a hard worker who has yet to prove himself, but there have been some glimpses of talent as well as some ugliness so far," Checketts said. "The rest of the season can leave for the Steelers to make the playoffs if they can beat the teams they are supposed to beat. The schedule sets up very well for them playing some of the lesser teams in the NFL this year, but as we have seen, that is not always a recipe for success. I would say buckle up and hold on for an exciting ride because as we know, the 2023 Steelers like to play old school and close scoring games, and that will most likely continue."

# Senior Class Highlights

Talia Williams | Staff Reporter



Senior Alaina Barlock was crowned Miss Teen International.



Senior Jason Cross signed and committed to West Virginia University on a football scholarship.



Senior Ella Whalen was presented at the St. Lucy Auxiliary to the Blind Medallion for outstanding community service.



Senior Julian Jalkh is the President of Bishop Canevin's National Honor Society.

As the final chapter of high school unfolds for the Class of 2024, we cannot help but marvel at the extraordinary accomplishments and unforgettable memories created by our incredible senior class. From their outstanding achievements in academics, sports and the arts, to their unwavering spirit and dedication, join us as we celebrate their remarkable journey and honor their bright futures ahead!

Meet senior Alaina Barlock, a leader and inspiration to the entire school community. Not only has she excelled as a cheer captain, but she also holds the prestigious title of Miss Teen International. Her dedication and passion for uplifting others led her to create a club that fosters "SPARK," spreading positivity and kindness throughout the Bishop Canevin community.

Through her leadership, she has brought students from different backgrounds together, creating a supportive and empowering environment for everyone. Barlock is a shining example of what it means to be a compassionate and driven individual, and her impact will be felt for years

to come.

Introducing senior Julian Jalkh, a true powerhouse and leader in our school community. As the president of the National Honor Society, Jalkh has shown exceptional dedication to academic excellence and service.

"My involvement doesn't stop there!" Jalkh said.

He has also been an integral part of the academic team, representing our school with pride and bringing home numerous victories. As an NHS Scholar, Jalkh has demonstrated a commitment to scholarship, leader-

ship, character and service. Beyond academics, he has been an active member of the International Club, fostering cultural understanding and appreciation among students. And every morning, we can count on Jalkh to deliver engaging and informative morning announcements! His impact on our school community is immeasurable, and we cannot wait to see what he achieves in the future.

Get ready to cheer for senior Jason Cross, a true star on and off the field. As the captain of our football team, Cross has led the way with his exceptional talent, dedication, leadership and hard work. Cross received numerous offers from top college football programs in and out of the state all throughout his four years at Bishop Canevin. After careful consideration, he made the decision to commit to West Virginia University. His dedication, skill and determination has made him a standout player. We are incredibly proud of his achievements and his leadership and cannot wait to see him continue to excel at the collegiate level. Congratulations to Cross on this incredible achievement!

Introducing senior Ella Whalen, a true force to be reckoned with in our school community. As the captain of the varsity volleyball team, Whalen has led their team to victory with passion and skill. Her leadership abilities extend beyond the court, as she also serves as a House Captain, fostering a sense of unity and camaraderie among her peers. Additionally, Whalen is the president of the Academic Team, showcasing her intellectual prowess and dedication to academic excellence.

Her achievements do not stop there! Whalen has been accepted into Saint Lucy's Auxiliary Medallion Ball, a prestigious honor that recognizes her outstanding character and contributions to the Bishop Canevin community.

Furthermore, Whalen has proven her prowess in Speech and Debate, qualifying for the national level. And let's not forget, Whalen is also a valued member of the National Honor Society, embodying the values of scholarship, leadership, character and service. Whalen's impact on our school is truly remarkable and inspiring, and we can't wait to see the bright future that awaits her.

As we come to the end of our senior spotlights, we are left in awe of the incredible achievements and remarkable journeys of these outstanding individuals. From academic excellence to artistic brilliance, they have shown us what it means to dream big and work hard. As they embark on their next chapter, we have no doubt that they will continue to shine brightly and make a positive impact on the world. Congratulations to all the seniors who have inspired us with their passion, resilience and determination. The future is yours, and we cannot wait to see what you will accomplish!

# New Meets Old, Old Meets New

Alejandro Badran | Staff Reporter



Photos by Lauren Gamble

At the end of the last school year some faculty and administrative members left Bishop Canevin for new and various careers.

Although missed, they were replaced with new faculty members. Returning faculty also took on new roles. The new staff and returning staff with new positions, include Spanish teacher Mark Petrovich, gym and health teacher Ken Sickles, freshman religion teacher and Director of Campus Ministry Margaret Jackson, senior religion teacher Peter Coelho-Kostolny, Academic Success Coordinator Sean Murray, science teacher and Dean of Students Dr. Chris Milojevich, history teacher Chris Bucar, Director of Students Richard Johnson and NHS Coordinator Jon Schultz, among others.

Many of these new and returning faculty and administrative staff were interviewed about what drew them to Bishop Canevin and what their favorites B.C. memories are so far. Those interview responses are listed below:

**Dr. Milo:**

“Mr. Joyce and I had a very nice interview and conversation about what BCHS needed. I felt like I would be a good fit for that position, so I accepted. Teaching is a passion of mine, so I was very happy to find a place where I could continue that passion.”

“My favorite memory so far has to be the half day away we just had. Again, coming from public education, I was amazed at how students really

threw themselves into decorating their classrooms and hallways for Christmas. It was awe inspiring to see how much of the student populace threw themselves into the spirit of the season.”

**Mr. Johnson:**

“I really like the direction the school is going in. I love the support of the staff and the students.”

“I enjoy sitting in the lunchroom and speaking to the students in a less formal atmosphere. You get to know them as young individuals. Some of them are pretty funny.”

**Dr. Hein:**

“I have a deep and personal connection to Bishop Canevin. I graduated from the school in 2006, and my mother graduated from the school back in the late 60s. This school made me who I am, and I wanted to be a part of its future.”

“My favorite memory as a student was working as part of the stage crew for the spring musicals. The nights of the show were always so exciting and unpredictable--I loved the challenges of complicated scene-changes and chatting with the cast backstage. The one show that really stuck out to me was *Once Upon a Mattress* since our crew literally built an entire castle with towers and trap-doors as the set. As a teacher, I’ve really enjoyed working with the Book Club and competing in the Pittsburgh English Festival. I love the passion that the students have for reading and watching them bond over this hobby is great to

see.”

**Mr. Bucar:**

“I was originally attracted here because I had joined the football staff and ended up student teaching here with Mr. Wanamaker. While student teaching and substituting last year, I got to meet a lot of new people, make new friends and learn a lot of new things from everybody. I luckily got certified to teach social studies the same time an opening opened in that department. I felt very comfortable here and was grateful to be able to continue working in the same school without needing to change locations and start all over again.”

**Mr. Petrovich:**

“Canevin has such a rich history and tradition. The sense of community and connectedness drew me in.”

**Mr. Murray:**

“The position Mr. Joyce created was exactly what I needed in terms of my career as an educator. I was also very interested in working in a Catholic high school. Even though I loved my K-8 role as principal, I really like being in high school.”

“Small size of the student body allows me to get to know students better. I also like that we have the House System and that the patrons really mean something to the community. In general, I love being a part of a Catholic school.”



# Senior Leonard Aiken Makes His Mark on the Music Industry

Gracie Rauterkus | Staff Reporter



In Atlanta, Ga., Aiken meets and talks with famous producer tm88 who has produced for artists Future, Gucci Mane, Young Thug and Juice Wrld.



Photos courtesy of Leonard Aiken

Aiken performing a hit song "See You Again" at the Wiz Khalifa and Logic, Vinylverse Tour.



Aiken and Snoop Dogg taking a photo together after discussing a possible collaboration in the future.



Aiken and famous artist Wiz Khalifa in the studio working on a song together.

**L**eonard Aiken is a senior at Bishop Canevin High School who produces beats and music.

Aiken grew up musically inclined as music was always a part of his life. As he got older he started to get into producing music as well as playing the guitar.

Growing up Aiken was in the band from fourth grade to freshman year, playing the saxophone. Aiken also grew up in a very big, music loving family. His uncle Sledgren is a successful producer who has worked with big artists, such as Mac Miller, Wiz Khalifa, Curren\$y, Freddie Gibbs and many more. He also has songs featured in video games, for example Nba 2k24 and Mortal Kombat. Aiken was highly inspired by his uncle to start producing, and having his uncle who is experienced in the music industry was very helpful to jump start his career.

"My uncle really inspired me to start producing music and he has been a great help in my music career so far," Aiken said.

Aiken also grew up with his great grandparents in the music industry. His great grandma plays the piano and his great grandpa plays the flute. His other grandpa was also a well known DJ in the Pennsylvania area.

Aiken's family promoted all different types of music in his home. Aiken started making beats around January of 2023 and has been working hard on his music career ever since. Aiken spends most of his time making beats and learning how to improve.

"I have heard his music throughout the years and to see the evolution has been amazing," senior Myra Gohring said. "I have heard unreleased songs with major artists and knowing that it is made by someone I know, and my age, gives me the motivation to strive for bigger goals."

Along with balancing his school work, Aiken reads books about producing to try to educate himself on how to be more successful. Even though he has not been producing for very long, Aiken has already accomplished so many things.

He was able to collaborate and make a song with a big artist, Wiz Khalifa.

Aiken also got the opportunity during the summer to go on the High School Reunion tour with Wiz Khalifa and Snoop Dogg. He traveled to play with the band in Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia and Florida. During the tour he was able to work with many different producers, as well as play the guitar for the concerts.

"I had such a great time during the tour and I am so thankful for the opportunities it brought me," Aiken said.

Aiken is currently in talks with famous artists, such as Snoop Dogg, Morgan Wallen and Larry June in hopes to make music with them soon. Not only has he been able to work with famous artists, he also works with many local artists trying to help build up their careers along with his own.

"My dream artist to collaborate with would have to be Pharrell," Aiken said.

Aiken is only at the start of his career and has many big goals and aspirations for the future.