

Scarlet Scoop Scarlet Scoop

Farewell Ms. Courtright!



Blue and pink walls, striped curtains, and moose galore have set the tone to a learning environment for the past thirty-four years. Ms. Courtright came to Belvidere High School with a dream of inspiring students to enjoy English, her stuffed moose collection, and her calm personality. Ms. Courtright came to Belvidere when she heard that the school was looking for an English teacher who could also coach field hockey and basketball.

“Very few people I graduated with had jobs. I was very grateful.” Ms. Courtright said about her first few years.

In her past thirty-four years at Belvidere, she has taught all four grade levels, but when asked which one is her favorite she will sheepishly reply “sophomores”. Aside from being an English teacher, Ms. Courtright had led her field hockey team to a DRC victory and started an AIDS Awareness Committee here at BHS. Overall her favorite memory from Belvidere is “seeing a student get it.”

We asked Ms. Courtright what the one word was that she would want people to remember her by. After thinking for a moment, she replied, “Caring.” We also asked her what she would miss most about Belvidere High School, and her simple answer was “the people.”

Ms. Courtright then provided us with words of wisdom for present and future students who walk through these halls. She said, “Everyone has their own gift, and they need to come to know that.”

On behalf of Belvidere High School, we would like to thank Ms. Courtright for her years of service and dedication to our great high school. She was a wonderful teacher, mentor, and friend, and she will be missed. Thank you Ms. Courtright!

-Heather Shupe, 12 and Damaris Millheim, 12

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Thoughts From The Editor

in-teg-rity

noun

1. the quality or state of being complete; unbroken condition; wholeness; entirety
2. the quality or state of being unimpaired; perfect condition; soundness
3. *the quality or state of being of sound moral principle; uprightness, honesty, and sincerity*

We as high school students, who in as early as 8 months from now will begin lives as *adults*, need to understand how important integrity is. We are currently being trained academically for future education and employment. Whether you realize it or not the faculty is also trying to stress the importance of having a decent solid character. No matter what back round, race, religion or financial circumstances you come from, some of your greatest challenges will be to stand firm on your principals, and to have the courage to do what is right, even if not *popular*.

Having integrity. What does that mean in a practical way? Most simply it is not what you do, how you treat others, or the common decency you show only when *everyone is watching*, it is the decisions you make and the actions you take when NOBODY is watching. Integrity is doing what is right even if it is *not popular*, or won't bring the attention or affirmation you may crave from your peers.

We are all still young, and are learning to stand on our own reputation we make for *ourselves as individuals* as opposed to being our parent's kids.

None of us are perfect, however, it is not difficult to adhere to the basic concept of *treating others as you would want to be treated*. Weren't we all taught that in Kindergarten? There are so many examples around us right here in BHS of the absence of integrity. Think about the last time there was a substitute teacher in your class. How often do your peers (or maybe you) take advantage of the regular teacher being away, and act in ways that they would never act had the regular teacher been there? How often do you hear disrespect towards a sub that never would have been shown towards the usual teacher? How often do those thought of as *popular* (even if only in their small circles or in their own minds) act in ways that may humiliate others during times when no authority figures are watching? How many of you have been embarrassed in the lunch room or locker room when there are no coaches or teachers listening? How many kids attempt to bring attention to themselves by trying to be the funny one and belittling others? So many of us know how frustrating it is to be treated terribly by those that many teachers seem to believe are so nice, or wonderful, or cute.

There are students around us that are supposed to be leaders, but when there is no one around to impress, how pathetically few true leadership qualities they show. How little regard for others or their class or school they show. It becomes increasingly evident as the high school years go by how little integrity some of the shiniest people have.

Tolkien once wrote, *All that glitters is not gold*. Many of us already know that, and are learning the true worth of having a decent character by observing others out there who have none. These types of people, (and we all know who they are, *ironically a whole different popularity they don't even realize they have*), may be fooling some of the people some of the time, but there are many of us here at BHS with *minds of our own*, that see things for how they actually are.

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Thoughts From The Editor (continued)

Many of us pity those that feel the need to humiliate, take advantage of, or belittle others in order to bring more attention to themselves. How sad to hold *that little worth* in yourself to have to hurt others to feel bigger, prettier, stronger, or funnier. You are fooling no one but yourselves. Do yourselves a favor and stop underestimating the intelligence of your classmates. The rewards of treating others well, and striving to be *worthy of respect* are far greater than that laugh you had at the expense of another's feelings.

By observing the lack of integrity shown repeatedly, we have learned about the true worth of our own characters and yes, reputations. When we leave this school and go out into the world, will we look back and be *proud* of how we conducted ourselves? Do some of you even care? Did you learn how to be a decent friend, or the value of trustworthiness? Were we there when others needed us? Are we reliable and dependable?

There are some here that are concerned with how their *popularity* will be remembered. There are also many here who will be able to say, I stood on my principals, I took the less popular road, I hurt no one, I left this school a better place, I was a friend, and I learned by listening to others and what they were experiencing in life.

There is nothing wrong with excelling at whatever you are into; everyone has a right to take pride in their accomplishments. However there is so much more to being a decent human than having a talent. You can be the best at something, or the best looking, but if you're ugly on the inside, what does the rest matter?

These four years pass so quickly. Don't waste them by stepping on everyone around you in order to feel better about yourself. Learn from those here with you, we all have something interesting to bring into this school. Focus on *being a person you would like to be around* because you will have to live with yourself for a long time. Classmates will come and go, high school will end, and things you do and say may be forgotten *by others*; but you alone will have to carry the memories of who YOU have been for the rest of your life. It cost nothing to be a decent human being towards others. For those of you still hung up on how popular you are, imagine knowing you are liked for being decent towards others. Many here have done it and would not trade the personal satisfaction for anything in the world.

- Rebecca Litz, 12



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Twilight

Twilight. What is it about this series that has not only the teenage population, but seemingly everyone, so crazed? Perhaps it is the life long theme of star-crossed lovers. Or maybe it's the science fiction aspect. Whatever the case may be, one thing is for sure and that is that whether you are a fan or not, you have heard of Edward Cullen and Bella Swan. The books, written by Stephanie Meyer, seem to have some addictive power to them causing students to keep one of the four must-reads of the series at their side at all times. They have caused some to skip school, homework, and even work. Even anti-Twilighters must confess that these novels have caused an epidemic that will not soon be forgotten. Now if the books have caused this much hype, it would seem certain that the much anticipated movie of Twilight, released in late November would have the same effect on fans, right? This, however, was not the case for some, including me.



The first book of the series was a clear cut love story. It was filled with words of first romance such as “my heart beat wildly” and “that was the first night I dreamt of Edward Cullen”. This book served its purpose as the set up for the later novels. The connection between Bella and Edward took pages to develop, and readers such as I loved every second of it. If this book had not taken the time to build up the connection between the lovers, the story would not have had nearly the same impact as it had. The fact that Meyers writes page after page about the intensity of their love proves to the reader that what they have is much more than ordinary puppy love. Action is not a major part of this book, and it was not intended to be. The director, Catherine Hardwicke, did not seem to grasp that concept.

The general atmosphere of the theater after the first midnight showing of Twilight was one of disappointment. The chemistry between the main characters was thrown together in a rush of confusing events that unless you have read the book, you would not completely understand. On day one Bella and Edward meet and by the second day, amazingly they are in love; this is a climax of the story that took over two hundred pages to reach. Even when the relationship was beginning to unfold, the acting of Robert Pattinson and Kristen Stewart was much too overdramatic to fit the part. In a sense, viewers could get the feeling that they were just simply actors playing a part, for they did not get into character very well. For instance, the scene that involves one of their first encounters in Biology class is supposed to portray Edward's discomfort at having something he wants so badly in such close proximity to him. He is supposed to be both confused and anxious. The movie hardly does this scene justice. Instead it is quite comical how 'Edward' holds his nose and contorts his face when 'Bella' enters the classroom. Random scenes of action were also added to the film, such as the vampires being able to fly and grip to trees.

Overall, the movie was a let down to a large percentage of Twilight fans. Catherine Hardwicke tried to make the movie fit into too many genres: romance, fantasy, comedy and action. The fact of the matter is she should have stuck to the true genre of the book and that was clearly a romance. The others fit into later books and could have also been incorporated with later movies. Fitting them into Twilight, however, just did not work. While her purpose may have been to capture more viewers' interests with the different themes, the plan seemingly backfired. She may have gained a few fans of the movie, but lost a great deal of the novel's fans desire to come back for more.

- Elisabeth Verile, 12

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Winter Sports

Among all the seasons of sports at Belvidere High School winter is definitely one of the most participated in and busiest seasons for our athletes. This year being of no exception, our four five winter sports this year as always are Boys Basketball, Girls Basketball, Wrestling, Cheerleading, and last, but not least, our Swim Team. Starting the season right after Thanksgiving, most of our athletes know to enjoy the holiday now, because a hard season is ahead of them. Boys and Girls Basketball have their first game of the season on December 19th, Boys home at the High School and Girls away at Manville. Each game starts at 7:00, and we encourage all members of the student body and family to come support our boys and girls for their first game against Manville. As for the rest of the teams, everyone is practicing very hard for upcoming games and matches. We at the Scarlet Scoop fully support the athletes at our school, and we look forward to giving them recognition in the following season. Good Luck Athletes!

-Nina Ghilino and Deidre Romano, 12



My Fair Lady

It's that time again! Belvidere High School's annual school musical has officially taken flight. For those in the know, the title of this year's musical conjures up lovely images of cockney flower girl Eliza Doolittle being chastised by phonetics expert Professor Henry Higgins. But for those who have never seen this timeless Broadway classic, many questions arise. Who is this lady, and why is she fair? Let me attempt to set the record straight, and also give you a little behind the scenes information on how a production gets underway.

My Fair Lady begins with Eliza Doolittle, a poor, lowly English peasant who sells flowers in Covent Garden to pedestrians in order to make a living. One night, she runs into Professor Henry Higgins, a haughty English gentleman and expert in the field of phonetics. Higgins calls Eliza's way of speaking an embarrassment and disgrace to the English language and its people, and in her presence, boasts to his friend Colonel Pickering that in six months, he could teach Eliza how to speak properly and pass her off as a duchess at an embassy ball.

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My Fair Lady (continued)

Intrigued by this idea, Eliza makes her way to Professor Higgins's home, where instead of just learning simple phonetics, the characters learn a great deal about themselves. The show contains plenty of humor, but also harbors dramatic writing that will keep you on the edge of your seat. *My Fair Lady* explores the idea that humans, no matter how perfect or rich one may be, have their flaws. But what exactly does it take to put a production, especially one as large as this, on the stage?

If you walk into a theater to see a show, whether it be a movie or musical, you'll usually sit down for two hours, enjoy the performance, and leave. You may not think about the fact that it took the actors several months of intense rehearsal, or the stage crew weeks of coughing up sawdust as they built the set (OK, it isn't *that* crazy). Actors spend entire days rehearsing a single scene, members of stage crew work day and night to get the sound system crystal clear, and musicians practice until their fingers fall off. It's quite an arduous process, but enjoyable nonetheless.



I'd also like to take this opportunity to recognize some new faces on the team. Mr. Romano, a newcomer among the English department, comes to us from Governor Livingston High School with years of theater experience and the distinct honor of having directed shows in The Big Apple. Also making her debut as assistant stage manager is Kaitlin Marsh, a junior from White Township.

The most exciting aspect of theater is its unpredictability. Indeed, every show brings newfound excitement and challenges to our stage here at Belvidere, but in the end, everyone comes together and puts on a performance to remember. I am confident that this year's show will be a smashing hit. Stay tuned!

-Justin Kiefer

Cast

Eliza Doolittle- Damaris Millheim
Henry Higgins- Justin Kiefer
Mrs. Pearce- Jenny Tammera
Mrs. Higgins- Jenna Tshudy
Freddy Eynsford-Hill- Noah Lucas
Alfred Doolittle- Robert Bunn
Colonel Pickering- John Cheatham
Maid- Alicia Cerrada- Guenther
Maid- Jessica Severns

Ensemble: Laura Cheatham, Alex DiCairano, Annika Dow, Arran Gross, Patrick Kelly, Natasha Kowaleuski, Tom Malanga, Faith McEvoy, Aleshanee Mooney, Sacha Morris, Kendra Peeples, Jack Pierone, Jessica Rosano, Nick Shah, Dan Sisto, Sara Thomas, Steven Thompson, Brittany Wieder

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