

Peter Pan wows audiences

Flying, dancing, singing from cast of all ages

By Ally Coldwell
 Pulse Staff Writer

The drama department performed the musical “Peter Pan” to a packed house at the Performing Arts Center April 14-17. The entire cast worked hard to make the spring musical “Peter Pan” come to life.

The show was well-received by many, bringing in rave reviews all over Twitter from many Broken Arrow High School students and parents.

“Peter Pan’ was a two-hour action packed adventure with a lot of heart,” senior Maddie Riggin, who played Peter Pan, said.

The cast used a harness and wires to create the illusion of Peter Pan flying. The cast also used other props such as swords, a bubble pipe and giant dog and crocodile costumes.

“Flying was the coolest thing I’ve ever done,” Riggin said. “It was really nerve wracking because I had to focus on a lot of things at once, but I loved it. I’m still not a huge fan of heights, but I trusted my flight team 100% to always put safety first. Also it really helped if I just didn’t look down. Peter Pan was one of the most challenging roles I’ve ever played because we’re total opposites. The character taught me that there is fun in



NEVER GROW UP Senior Maddie Riggin looks to the stars as Peter Pan in the drama department’s spring musical at the Performing Arts Center. (Photo by Greg Spencer)

everything we do and to be fearless.”

The cast consisted of around 40 students, including Peter Pan, Wendy and her parents, Captain Hook, Tiger Lily, the Lost Boys and many other roles.

“Playing Captain Hook was an absolutely incredible experience. Regardless of the

fact that I portrayed the story’s villain, the theme of never growing up definitely resonated with me,” senior Austin Wyatt said. “With graduation right around the corner, I believe this show helped many of us realize how important it is to hold on to our youth.”

The cast also included around 20 kids as the lost boys.

The kids had to audition for roles and attend rehearsals with the high school students.

“The kids can be a handful but they are fun to work with,” senior Miranda Shaw, who played the older version of Wendy and an Indian, said.

Corbitt is devoted, award-winning

By Jordan Brandt
 Pulse Staff Writer

Senior Victoria Corbitt is head photographer for the yearbook and the lead photographer for the school newspaper. She has attended more than 50 school events this year to get the inside scoop and portray what the event is all about.

“Being head photographer of yearbook has given me a chance to see all the events that this high school has,” Corbitt said. “I enjoy being able to attend all these events and going behind the scenes.”

Corbitt has devoted her time to attending events and making sure she can get the best pictures possible.

“Victoria is amazingly dedicated in yearbook,” senior Sarah Williams said. “I’ve attended many events with her and she works really hard.”

She also has helped to create several pages in the yearbook and is always willing to lend a helping hand.

“Victoria is one of the most reliable staffers I’ve ever had,” yearbook adviser Ashley Spencer said. “She is always available and willing to help in any way possible. Whether she is taking photos at the sidelines of a football game, or running to a last minute event on campus, we always count on her.”

As a member of newspaper, Corbitt recently went to Norman to attend the Oklahoma Scholastic Media awards for all their hard work from this year. Corbitt won first place in the state for her series of pictures covering the football game in Coppell, Texas earlier this year.

“It was surreal, but I’m proud of myself for that accomplishment and so is my family,” Corbitt said.

Corbitt has grown attached to the class and will be reluctant to leave it behind.

“I love yearbook and I’m going to miss going to all the events and taking photos,” Corbitt said. “I think that it’ll be weird to go to events in the future and not be taking photos.”

AP banquet honors students' academic accomplishments

By Spencer Tuia
Pulse Staff Writer

Broken Arrow High School's first ever AP banquet was held on April 7. It was held at Central on Main on Main Street and had approximately 200 students in attendance, along with the majority of teachers who teach AP classes.

The AP banquet was a celebratory event to recognize the achievements of exemplary AP students on campus and to honor students who have been named AP Scholars by the College Board. Dinner was served and students got to mingle and socialize with classmates and friends. Students wrote their names on the back of their tickets for a drawing of 20 students to receive gift cards from places like Starbucks, Sonic, Mazzios and others.

"The banquet was an amazing experience," junior Andra Fauvell said. "It made me feel appreciated, and my hours of studying and hard work really paid off."

The guest speakers were Broken Arrow alumni Tram Le and Paul Davies, who were also National AP Scholars. They gave

speeches to the students that emphasized the importance and benefits of taking AP classes and motivated them to keep working hard.

"I very much enjoyed our former valedictorian's speech," senior Brent Shafer said. "Tram's speech was very applicable to our high school lives, and it was very inspirational as well."

Senior Simona Yaneva, an AP Scholar with Honors, shared her advice on becoming an AP Scholar.

"Getting 5's on AP tests isn't that hard. All you gotta do is get two hours of sleep, study all the time, and memorize like 600 vocab words for each test," Yaneva said.

Along with the AP Scholar awards, AP teachers chose one or two students from all of their classes to award them the AP Curricular award for their hard work in their class. Junior Allison Black won the award for AP Studio Art and Design given by Mrs. Michelle Lewandowski.

"I felt successful and accomplished when I was given the award," Black said.

The AP Banquet will be held annually and continue to award AP students for their efforts.



HONORING ACADEMICS (Clockwise from top left) Teachers Shelley Mashburn and Donna Gradel address the crowd. Senior Jake Cowing accepts his award for being an AP Scholar. Senior Cameron Barton poses with his award. (Photos by Victoria Corbitt)

Coloring is therapeutic Students find relief from stress

By Shaelyn Disotell
Pulse Staff Writer

Coloring books are no longer just for kids. Now there are books that include intricate designs for teens and adults to color, including books that have animals, various patterns or even mandalas or a circular pattern that usually resembles a flower.

However, these books aren't just for fun—they have a scientific purpose as well. It is proven that when one is concentrating on picking out the colors and coloring in between the lines of the small shapes, they are improving their focus.

"Coloring the intricate details cause me to focus on exactly what I'm coloring. It causes me to tune out what's around me somehow and see how the small piece I'm coloring will fit into the big picture," senior Ashley Turner said. "My busy thoughts that fill up my head momentarily subside and my mind only focuses on coloring inside the lines."

In addition to helping one's focus, coloring can also help relieve stress and be of use for

relaxation. Having such deep concentration takes one's mind off the busy ways of everyday life.

"I guess personally it just takes my mind off of things for a while because I'm concentrating on staying in the lines," junior Camden Crittenden said.

When somebody is stressing about work or school, putting on some music and sitting down with a coloring book is a great way to relax and forget about everything for a little while.

"As detailed as some of the coloring books are, they're a great stress reliever because they make a fun distraction," sophomore Hannah Strong said.

If not just for beneficial purposes, coloring is a fun and distracting hobby for people who have a lot of time on their hands.

If interested, these books can be found in stores such as Barnes and Noble, Target and Michael's. They can also be ordered online from various websites such as Amazon.

Sophomores attend CRASH Court

By Victoria Corbitt
Pulse Staff Writer

CRASH Court is an annual event for sophomores that teaches the consequences of reckless driving and driving under the influence. CRASH Court was held on Fri., April 8 in the main gym on campus with the entire sophomore class in attendance.

This educational seminar started off with a real court situation. A judge is sworn in and from there the judge sentences people who haven't completed their probation as they should have, and they are sentenced to jail and possibly an extension of their probation. After the judge has finished all the sentencing for that day, he steps out of his judge attire and speaks to sophomores. He talks about what can happen and what has happened with drivers not paying attention behind the wheel.

"I felt sad attending CRASH Court because my aunt was killed in a car crash, and it really moved me hearing all of the stories," sophomore Alissa Alumbaugh said.

Chris Birch, a man whose life has been affected by a drunk driver, attended the seminar last Friday. He has never missed a CRASH

Court since his accident. Chris was hit in his car by a drunk driver, and it changed his life. He used to run marathons, and he was pretty active almost every day. The wreck gave him a traumatic injury to his brain and lower brain stem. The car that he was in travels with him as his story is heard throughout Oklahoma. During this event, sophomores get to see the destroyed car and they have a chance to meet Chris.

"I know the guy didn't mean to hit me, he just wanted a good time. I tell young people that you have your whole career ahead of you and with a felony like that, it leaves nothing for you," Birch said.

Penny Gooch also travels with Crash Court to tell her sister's story. Her twin sister, Paula Gooch, was hit by a drunk driver and killed. Penny feels as if her twin was ripped from her, and that she was no longer a twin.

"I thought about going back and being with Paula, like what ifs. I would've hugged her and probably wouldn't have let go if I knew what was going to happen. I sometimes think it's a blessing that we don't know what's going to happen," Penny Gooch said.

Diaz plans to go worldwide with artistic ambitions

By Jordan Brandt
Pulse Staff Writer

Jesse Diaz is a senior at Broken Arrow High School who spends his days outside of school differently than the average student would. From creating art to taking on a new brand, he excels at what he puts his mind to.

Diaz began creating art when he was a young child. His art was such an influence on him that it would often take over while class was in session.

"I had problems as a kid in elementary school with my teachers because I would rather draw pictures on my tests than actually do the work," Diaz said.

Diaz was impacted by a cousin who had his own clothing line. He took interest in what his cousin was doing and began transferring his own drawings onto t-shirts.

"I was 12 years old so the designs were very childlike, but that's what you do when you're a 12-year-old kid hooked on WWE and YouTube," Diaz said.

Diaz mostly created art as a fun activity but he began to feel very passionate and serious about it his junior year of high school. He created a line of clothing that he called "Killwave," which began to really attract interest and attention from his peers. Unfortunately his new interest came to a halt when he received an email that would change the course of "Killwave."

"I was in my first hour checking my emails when I opened up the "death of a brand" email. It was the almighty cease and desist letter, which pretty much told me, 'Take off the name Killwave, or we're taking it to court,'" Diaz said.



FOCUSED ON THE ART Senior Jesse Diaz works on a marker sketch during his video class. (Photo by Victoria Corbitt)

Although brought down by hearing this type of news, Diaz decided to move forward and persevere. Since Killwave wasn't going to be a name he could use, he decided to come up with something new. The name "DEATHat5" emerged and has been upcoming since.

"DEATHat5 is clothing, it's also music, art, film and photography. It's a lifestyle. It's a raw innovation campaign and the clothes and art is the propaganda. It's creativity with no limits and no set bars," Diaz said.

Although Diaz has worked with graphic design, something about illustration and putting a marker to paper was more appealing to him. Diaz prefers expressing things on paper rather than speaking aloud.

"Jesse has an art style unlike most, but it's abstract and perfect for the way he presents himself," senior Brayden Carr, friend of Diaz, said. "I hope that his artwork keeps advancing and grows better and better."

Diaz has many interests when it comes to art including sculptures, paintings, film, music and photography. Diaz wants his art to incorporate all of those aspects. With time and ambition he continues to reach his goals.

"I hope to see his brand and art prosper," senior Liam Condon, Diaz's close friend, said. "I'd like to see his brand branch out and connect with big names in the industry and inspire others. The possibilities are endless because of the raw talent Jesse has for entrepreneurship."

Diaz has big plans and ambitions for his future with his craft and the DEATHat5 brand.

"I want to be able to have art shows in Japan or Europe," Diaz said. "I want the name to impact culture just like Supreme's Red Box Logo. Just the moment you see the logo you know exactly what it is. DEATHat5. I strive for it to be a household name."

Broken Arrow Varsity Soccer player makes a comeback

By Miranda Shaw
Pulse Staff Writer

Broken Arrow High School senior and varsity soccer player Reagan Whitlow recently returned from a three month long injury leave due to a torn meniscus that left her unable to play soccer.

Whitlow has been playing soccer since she was three years old and has been playing on the varsity team since her freshman year. With soccer being a huge part of her life, it was difficult for her to be forced to leave the field.

In the first stages of having her injury, Whitlow regularly visited the trainer at school. When this showed little to no

improvement, she had an MRI done and was told she would have to undergo surgery. Shortly after surgery, she started going to physical therapy sessions three days a week for five consecutive weeks.

"I was so scared for her," teammate and senior Shelby Brewster said. "She's such a great player and didn't deserve to get hurt like that."

By March, Whitlow was back on her feet and playing soccer with her team again.

"It felt great to be back, but I was also a little nervous," Whitlow said. "There's always a chance of getting hurt again, but I try not to think about that and just focus on playing."

Soccer coaches were happy with Whitlow's return to the field.

"It is exciting seeing her back on the field



SOCCER FUTURE Senior Reagan Whitlow recently returned to the sport she loves. (Photo submitted)

stronger than ever," boys soccer coach John Bailey said.

Whitlow is ecstatic to be back on the field doing the sport that she loves. She is currently committed to the University of Tulsa to continue her career in soccer.

Student Council members elected for next year

By Jordan DuBuc
Pulse Staff Writer

Voting for the 2016-17 school year's student council positions took place online on April 12. The race was close, with a lot of back and forth between the candidates as votes were counted up.

Each candidate campaigned with posters up over the school, chalk writing on the concrete and social media messages. They even filmed short promos for their campaigns. In the end, when all their junior and sophomore friends had cast their votes, only a select few could win.

The newly elected president is junior Noah Osborne. He has been a part of Student Council since middle school, but took a year off from it in freshmen year. Along with serving as president, he has applied to be a part of COLABASH and Jungle Squad. Noah ran against Catie Wilson and Johna Pulliam.

"It seems unreal, to know that you have so much love and support from other friends and students here that made that happen," Osborne said.

The new vice president is junior Miller Godwin. Godwin has been in Student Council since half-way through his freshmen year and is happy to continue to support the school as much as he can.

"The election was really tough, and I really didn't expect to win," Godwin said. "Lexi Bagrosky and Zack Rodgers are both great people, and I was really happy to run against them. The campaign was civil and respectful."

The student council service winner was junior Hailey Cochrane. Cochrane ran against Cass King, Lorange Washington and Liana Jackson.

"Campaigning was very fun and stressful," Cochrane said. "The day that we were supposed to find out I was anxious all day, but when I found out I won I started tearing up I was so happy."

The new treasurer will be junior Marshall Hatfield. Hatfield's only competitor was fellow junior Katherine Castillo.

"It felt very rewarding to win, and it was a big relief to have that stress off my back," Hatfield said.

Next year, these students will be enrolled in the student council leadership class. As members, they will be in charge of overseeing and planning events for Broken Arrow High School.

BAHS art program hopes to win Vans prize in national contest

By Percy Totten
Pulse Staff Writer

This year, Broken Arrow High School art classes are stepping into a new realm of creativity: customizing shoes.

The 2016 Vans Custom Culture competition requires high school students to decorate and paint blank Vans shoes to create their own footwear masterpiece. High schools around the nation compete in this competition and Broken Arrow is prepared to win.

"I've done this contest two other years prior to coming to Broken Arrow and knew it was a fun one," art teacher Jennifer Brown said. "We chose some students who we thought would be motivated to do a great job and they did!"

Junior Josh Haltom and seniors Sonja Truong, Kacie Brown and Emily Catlin each created and customized their own design on a pair of blank Vans shoes to fit into one of the four categories: art, music, action sports and local flavor. The designs were then submitted and will be voted upon first by judges and then by the public for the top five schools.

The top five schools with the best designs

will be sent to California and one grand prize winner receives a \$50,000 check towards their school's art program. The other four schools win \$5,000 for their art programs. The four BAHS art students selected to compete are excited for the opportunity.

"I had never drawn on shoes before so it was fun to do," art student senior Sonja Truong said. "I hope we can win and go to California."

Even though the competition may be tough, the Vans Custom Culture contest is about more than winning as described on their website.

"Vans Custom Culture was created to inspire and empower high school students to embrace their creativity through art and design and to bring attention to diminishing arts education budgets. Vans believes everyone should be empowered to express themselves creatively and should be given the tools to do so," according to the Vans website.

Art students are grateful for the supplies and facilities they do have, but with budget cuts being put in place, the arts program could put additional funding to good use.

"I feel that we have a good chance to advance in the competition," junior Josh Haltom said. "I'm glad that I will eventually get my Vans back and will get to wear them because they're my size."



For more information on the 2016 Vans Custom Culture competition, visit sites.vans.com/customculture. The designs created by Haltom, Truong, Brown and Catlin have already been sent in to Vans, but pictures of the shoes are available on www.bahspulse.com.

STEPPING UP The BAHS art department submitted to the Vans Custom Culture competition. From left to right: Sonja Truong's art entry, Kacie Brown's local flavor entry, Josh Haltom's action sports entry and Emily Catlin's music entry. (Photo submitted)

Student Artist Spotlight

Sonja Truong

By Percy Totten
Pulse Staff Writer

Senior Sonja Truong is sure to leave her mark on Broken Arrow through her creativity and friendly personality.

Truong is a Danish foreign exchange student at Broken Arrow High School this year and has been a big part of the school's art program. Truong brings a new perspective to the art room and enjoys interacting with other artists.

"I like art a lot and I'm very happy that I've been able to create art in the U.S. too," Truong said. "In Denmark I was in art and was able to do a lot of creative things in and outside of school."

Truong is well-known around the school for her outgoing and fun-loving personality. She has also been a part of the BAHS yearbook staff, and teacher Ashley Spencer will miss her presence next year.

"Sonja is so sweet and has never met a

stranger," Spencer said. "She walked right into the yearbook room and is always surrounded by friends. She is an inspiration to all of my students."

BAHS is participating in the 2016 Vans Custom Culture competition and Truong was selected as one of four art students to create a design for the contest. Art teacher Jennifer Deal has had Truong in both her Art II and III classes this year.

"Every piece of art she has created this year has been over-the-top amazing," Deal said. "She spends hours working to create meticulous and detailed visual jewels. She has been an awe-inspiring joy to have in class this year and I will so miss her when she goes back home."

Truong will continue to create art once she returns to Denmark but will always remember her experiences in America in and out of art class. She has a bright future ahead of her and plans to make the best of her creative talents in a future career.



WATERCOLOR WONDERS Senior Sonja Truong takes works on a watercolor piece in Mrs. Jennifer Deal's art class. (Photo by Ashley Spencer)

STAFF

Adviser: Ashley Spencer, aspencer@baschools.org

Amber Boatman, Jordan Brandt, Hailey Cochrane, Ally Coldwell, Victoria Corbitt, Shaelyn Disotell, Jordan DuBuc, Zach Duncan, Stone Freeman, Cole Gastineau, Ally Martinez, Sidney Parks, Cheyenne Pauls, Cloey Patton, Dominique Potter, Maddie Riffin, Zack Rodgers, Aaron Sawyer, Alexia Scott, Callie Spencer, Percy Totten, Spencer Tuia, Austin Wyatt

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