

Chromebooks on the way

Bringing technology to the classroom

By Ally Martinez
 Pulse Staff Writer

Schools worldwide have ditched their paper assignments for a new, advanced way to learn. BAHS has decided to follow this method of teaching and have issued Chromebooks to twelve different classes, calling it the Stay program.

The students at the Freshmen Academy piloted the program this year. The freshmen were picked to test the waters out on how students will interact with a change of curriculum.

“The Freshmen Academy is a logical place to start, I am just glad BAPS is implementing the Chromebooks alongside the curriculum,” senior English teacher Jennifer Johnson said.

Of the many teachers at BAHS, only 12 were selected as Stay teachers.

“I was really honored that out of all the great teachers that applied, I was one of the twelve chosen. I was excited to be apart of something that revolutionized the way we think about school. I also think it’s a great opportunity for my students to get to learn and use these resources before their peers,” junior English teacher Amanda McCown said.

Next year students at the high school will be given their own Chromebooks and



LEAVING PAPER AND PENCIL Senior Rachel Fulton does her class work on a Chromebook in her Algebra 3 class. (Photo by Larry Washington)

keep them for the duration of high school, and then will be allowed to graduate with them.

“It’s wonderful that the students can keep their Chromebooks after graduation. They can save money that they might have had to be spent on a laptop for college, and some kids might not be able to afford one,” history teacher Chase Jackson said.

Chromebooks will bring forth the use of GAFE, which stands for Google Apps For Education. GAFE is a free educational site that Google

offers, allowing users access to tools that will make learning more collaborative and efficient for students and staff.

“I am very new to GAFE, but I cannot believe it has been there this entire time and I didn’t know about it,” French teacher Tori Turner said.

Teachers have been vigorously training for the arrival of the Chromebooks. Some were sent to the Freshmen Academy to receive training and were told by students themselves some tips to keep up with them. All Stay teachers

attended workshops this year in preparation. Teachers are also given the opportunity to have daily and weekly training by another staff member.

“Next year will be a learning year for us, but I have no doubt that our staff will be prepared and will do an outstanding job,” junior Principal Tony Sappington said.

This semester is the administration’s way of slowly bringing technology to BAHS. Next year, every teacher’s curriculum will be based off these Chromebooks.

STAFF NEWS

Teachers help students with disabilities

By Percy Totten
 Pulse Staff Writer

Mrs. Riqui Boyles is a special education teacher at Broken Arrow High School who has a passion for inclusion of students with disabilities within school. Boyles recently taught at a middle school in Texas where the choir and art teachers wanted to visit her class to give her students a chance to participate in those classes.

Boyles was uncomfortable with this and decided to have her students get out of their classroom and visit the choir and art rooms themselves.

“Students with more severe disabilities often spend the majority of their day in the same classroom. That’s really tough on any kid whether you have normal capabilities or not,” Boyles said. “It worked out great. It gave the kids a lot of things they normally wouldn’t get. It was very beneficial to my students. Their communication skills increased, their behaviors became more appropriate and they made friends.”

Once Boyles moved to Broken Arrow, she was told that her students would not be attending any classes with general education students. She went to the district’s education office and asked if there was a way she could have the students do



COLLABORATION Art teacher Jennifer Deal helps sophomore Nate Brazelton with his pendulum painting project. (Photo by Ashley Spencer)

See “Teacher,” Next Page

Speech and Debate starts new season

By Stone Freeman
Pulse Staff Writer

The first semester had quite a bit in store for the Broken Arrow Speech and Debate team. From training one of largest groups of freshman, to writing cases and preparing pieces, the group was pressed for time. As the second semester began, the debate season started to become mostly competition.

"Since the break, I've read a lot of articles and researched the topics for the coming months. The second semester is really a time to hone in on your skills to get qualified for the district and regional tournaments," junior Devin Williams said. "So far I've just gone to the Union tournament in Public Forum debate, but I can't wait for State or Student Congress."

For every tournament attended, there is an exhausting couple of days for the team members. The group leaves school on Fridays at 11 a.m. followed by lunch and travel to the host school. From there, debate rounds last until 9 or 10 p.m. After a little rest, students return the next morning for more rounds and events. It's common for the team to participate in up to four tournaments back to back.

"I've spent countless hours writing speeches and doing topic research, but I spent a lot more time doing in-depth research and practicing debate," junior Livvy

Hendricks said.

Post season is simply the opportunity to get qualified for higher stake tournaments such as nationals, which takes place in Atlanta, Salt Lake City or Dallas at the beginning of June, or state, which usually happens in April at many different locations. Both tournaments are heavily anticipated.

"This semester has been composed of being up to date on the current presidential election and rewriting my original oratory," junior Amanda Amos said. "The second semester tournaments are the ones that matter, but I've won quite a few tournaments and I'm really optimistic for a spot in state."

To ensure that one has a place in post season, it takes a lot of preparation. For debaters, the task includes writing sophisticated cases along and getting plenty of evidence to have the best understanding of the predetermined topic. For people in speech, more high-intensity practice is required for memorization, fluency and other factors of their pieces.

None of this is new for the speech and debate team, as this has been in practice for the past several months.

"We had a really talented squad of debaters and competitive speakers this year. By the beginning of the second semester we already qualified almost as many events for the regional tournament as we did all last year," team coach Robert Walters said. "Our team has been led by



READY FOR ACTION Freshman Caitlyn Patton prepares for a match. (Photo by Stone Freeman)

a strong class of juniors who are emerging as some of the best in our region. I have high hopes for our district tournament which will qualify some students for the national tournament."

Random Act of Kindness Week is here

By Spencer Tuia
Pulse Staff Writer

From now through Friday, this week has been dubbed as international Random Act of Kindness Week. Senior Jazmyn Johnson thinks that this could be a beneficial experience.

"A week dedicated to being kind can shift our views of the student body away from ourselves to others," said Johnson. "It will make us more conscious of others and compassionate."

According to the Random Acts of Kindness Foundation website, everyone who does an act of kindness are dubbed "RAKtivist" or "Random Acts of Kindness activist."

"Anyone who believes kindness can change the world, who reminds everyone around them how much love there is in the world, who inspires hope and generosity with their actions as much as their words... they're a RAKtivist."

Junior Aylin Facundo considers a random act of kindness to be straightforward and direct.

"A random act of kindness can be done if you put your phone down, compliment someone, and make their day," Facundo said.

Other random acts of kindness can also be personal and intimate.

"I am usually kind to others by listening to them, helping them in any way I can and being considerate and sensitive to others' feelings," Johnson said.

Although this occasion may be overlooked by students, senior Han Dinh feels that it could still be effective if many students contributed.

"Random Act of Kindness week will help people realize that it isn't difficult to be kind to one another," Dinh said. "It helps build back the peace and trust in the society that's being slowly destroyed by harmful acts that misguided people commit. It influences other people to reflect on themselves and hopefully change them when others are kind to them."

Teachers *Continued from Page 1*

more and go out to art or music classes. An email was sent out to different teachers in the school to see if anyone would like to help.

Art teacher Jennifer Deal was the first to respond and gave up her planning period to help Boyles' students.

"I had never worked with students with disabilities before," Deal said. "Humanly, I had preconceived notions of them that immediately went away. The students were standoffish at first but eventually warmed up to me. I was surprised at the students' knowledge."

Boyles' students now do art projects once a week with Deal and some general education students from another art class. This collaboration started at the beginning of this year and Boyles believes it's a good start. Boyles claims the experience benefits her students as well as general education students.

"Inclusion teaches general education students compassion for kids with disabilities," Boyles said. "It opens their eyes to different disabilities

and later on in life, due to having interaction with students with disabilities in their classes, they will be more prepared to interact with people with disabilities in their adult lives. No matter what employment they have in the future they will be more likely to approach people with disabilities with a more positive attitude because they learned in school that people with disabilities are the same as them. Each student with a disability has such a big personality that nobody sees and nobody interacts with. Inclusion makes a big impact on everybody and not just students with disabilities but general education students as well."

Orchestra teacher Kimberly Ricard offered the opportunity for Boyles' students to come to her class as well. In the past, when Boyles and her students would pass through the music hall her students would stop to look in and listen. Boyles' students now visit the orchestra room twice a month and her students love the music. They mostly do observations, but one of Boyles'

students is very interested in music.

"One day one of the boys went to the front with Mrs. Ricard and she welcomed him on over," Boyles said. "She started conducting but was playing the piano at the same time and he started playing on the piano with her. She helped him and showed him how to play and then it turned into him going up onto the conductor's seat. He picked up the pencil and tapped the stand and he started conducting and actually telling them to play. It was amazing because he went from a kid who typically has inappropriate behaviors to a kid interacting with 40 or 50 other kids and being a leader to them."

Boyles hopes to advance the collaborations next year and have her students join a larger number of general education students. Boyles has enjoyed seeing her students learn, grow and interact with other students through these collaborations.

Athletes are one step closer to their college dreams

National Signing Day provides a chance for them to shine

By Percy Totten
Pulse Staff Writer

National Signing Day took place recently and over 40 of Broken Arrow High School's senior student athletes signed letters of intent to colleges of their choice. Broken Arrow Public School's Director of Athletics Ken Ellett welcomed the athletes and the several families and friends in attendance. The BAHS pep band performed "Tiger Pep" before Larry Clark, the voice of Tiger Athletics, introduced the athletes by sport.

Senior Caleb Elder signed on for Boys Cross Country/Track with Pittsburg State University.

"Signing Day was a very memorable day for me as well as all the other athletes," Elder said. "I am looking forward to many new friendships, goals and aspirations and hope to gain more knowledge about myself and within the sport. I plan on strongly studying as much law as possible in college."

Superintendent Dr. Jarod Mendenhall spoke to the student athletes about the importance of keeping up with academics in college as well as their athletic careers. BAHS alumni Jackson Williams confirmed Mendenhall's words with personal experience.



"Take advantage of all the things you've got in front of you," Williams said addressing the young athletes. "When you guys go to school, get your education and put that first. Be able to separate athletics from your academics. Take a step back and say, 'What do I really want to do outside of sports?' because you're going to be ex-players longer than you're going to be active players."

Senior and softball player Kinzy Mathis wrote a note to her mother during the signing that read, "Momma I made it!"

"My parents have been my biggest support-

ers since the day I stepped on the field and I just wanted to thank them for everything they've done to get me to this point in my life," Mathis said. "This is the day we have been working for all my life and it's so amazing that it's finally here."

There will be an additional signing ceremony in April for athletes who sign in the spring season. Broken Arrow High School students and faculty wish the best to all of the students heading off to college.

For a complete list of participants, visit www.bahspulse.com.



TAKING A STEP FORWARD (LEFT) Clayton Ebling, Brendan Franklin, Rowdy Frederick, Riley Hawthorn, Javian Ivy and Devon Johnson sign their letters during National Signing Day. (Photo by Victoria Corbitt) **(RIGHT)** Kinzy Mathis thanks her mother with a hand-written sign during the ceremony. (Photo by Percy Totten)

BA wrestling looks for a third state championship

By Aaron Sawyer
Pulse Staff Writer

Broken Arrow wrestling has been exceptionally dominant this year, winning all duals but one. Each and every Tiger has contributed heavily in one way or another, and they don't plan on slowing down.

"The reason for our success is because of our coaches," junior wrestler Joey Hall said. "They know what it takes to make champions and they have consistently done so. We have also competed with the best wrestlers in the nation and that helps us learn more and grow confidence in ourselves."

The Tigers rank first in the OSSA tournament standings with an outstanding 417 combined points. In their first six duels from Dec. 4 to Jan. 18, the Tigers outscored their regular season opponents 391-35. After a hard-fought 33-19 loss to Sand Springs

on the 14, the Tigers bounced back to beat Stillwater 58-9.

Many Tigers have stepped up to help the team on their road to success this year, however there are many who have had experience on varsity for more than just one year. One of many standouts is senior and 2015 All-American Isaiah Paige. He has been on varsity for years and has been a dominant force since the beginning. He has won two state championships with his eyes set for another this year.

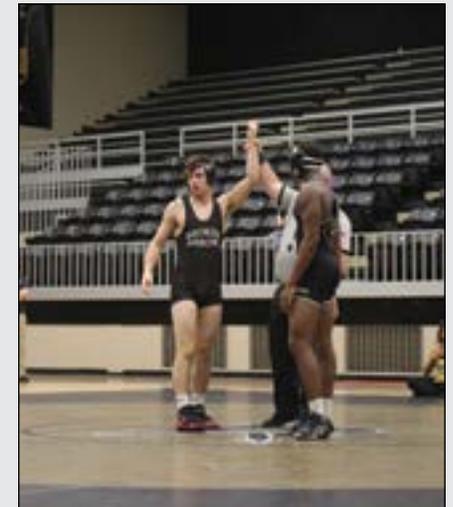
"Our senior class is full of hard workers fulfilling their jobs and being strong leaders," head coach Shawn Jones said. "They've set more of an example by actions than by words and they work hard day in, day out. As for Isaiah, our expectations are always high for him. We expect him to remain consistent week after week and always make improvements."

The Tigers look to finish strong as they

close out their final home match against Union, which will determine their seed in the state tournament. Then it's on to dual state Feb. 13. This tournament has major implications of a much anticipated rematch of Broken Arrow against Sand Springs-- their only loss this season.

"It would mean the world to me if we won dual state my last year of wrestling. It would be even better if we won regionals and team state as well," senior Max Baker said. "I expect to see Sand Springs in the finals at dual state. It's going to be a tough rematch but I feel like now that we know more about what we're up against, we have a legitimate chance to win if we prepare like I know we can."

The Tigers can be seen in action Friday, Feb. 12 at Dual State in Oklahoma City.



DOMINATE THE MAT Senior Andrew Evans wins his match against his Stillwater opponent. (Photo by Maria Cook)

Maddie Riggin: she sings, she acts, and now she flies

By Ally Coldwell
Pulse Staff Writer

Maddie Riggin is a Broken Arrow High School senior and she's involved in many activities including Tiger Rhythm Show Choir, Chamber Choir, newspaper, dance and drama. She has also recently been cast as the lead in "Peter Pan," the school's upcoming musical production.

"Free time is overrated," Riggin said. "I get to have fun with everything I do, and I'm constantly surrounded by all my friends."

Riggin has always had a love and natural talent for singing and dancing and joined drama in the seventh grade. Her junior year, she joined choir due to her love of singing and joined newspaper to spend time with a friend.

"Maddie has drive and passion for acting and singing, so she's willing to be brave and take risks on stage," drama teacher Jana Ellis said. "I think Maddie is an incredibly talented and wonderful human being."

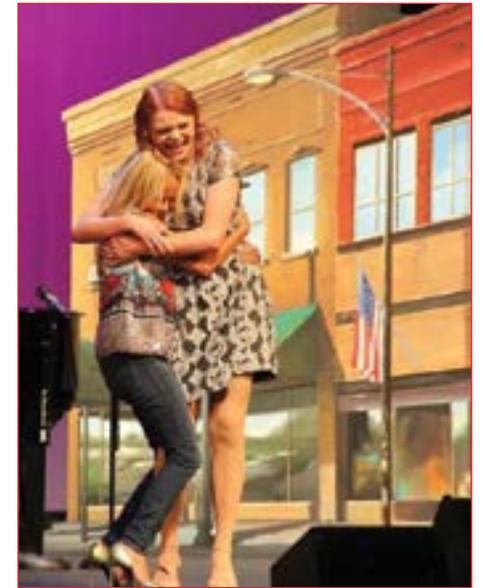
Maddie has participated in several plays and

musicals including "Taming of the Shrew," "Oliver!" "Bury the Dead," "Les Miserables," "Legally Blonde: The Musical" (twice), "The Sound of Music," "Thoroughly Modern Millie," and is looking forward to flying as Peter Pan in the school's upcoming musical.

Being cast as Peter Pan is a big role to fill, especially with a fear of heights. To create the illusion that she's flying, she has to be suspended from a wire above the stage. Due to her fear of heights, Riggin says she's anxious but excited.

"I would describe Maddie as a girl who knows what she wants and will do whatever it takes to get there; she works extremely hard for her art, and I admire that about her," senior Hailey Delano said. "Watching her perform is fun; she always puts a lot of work into whatever she is performing."

Maddie aspires to attend Oklahoma City University for musical theatre, and she's attending an audition for the program in February. After college she hopes to act on stage or screen and someday open a theatre company.



STARDOM AWAITS LEFT: Senior Maddie Riggin poses after being voted "Most Likely to Be on Broadway" for the class of 2016. (Photo by Elisabeth Beemer) RIGHT: Riggin accepts a hug from her mentor Kristin Chenoweth on stage during a summer master class at the PAC.

Student Artist Spotlight Bailey Byrd makes things real

By Hailey Cochrane
Pulse Staff Writer

Bailey Byrd is a senior at Broken Arrow and has a passion for art. She first started art classes her sophomore year, with her teacher, Mr. Gray. Mr. Gray and Bailey's mother inspired her to take up art and become an excellent art student.

"Art has always been in my family," Byrd said. "My grandpa and my mom are both artists, so it was just passed down to me."

Byrd has also been greatly inspired by her teachers.

"The inspiration for my art comes from multiple things, but I've mostly been inspired by Mr. Gray," Byrd said. "He was the one that gave me inspiration to do charcoal pieces, which is my main concentration right now. He showed me all the techniques to do it and gave me all the tools I needed to get me where I am now."

Byrd often creates realistic work, such as people, animals and problems within our planet. She also does 3-D art, along with her 2-D drawings.

Her current art teachers are Mrs. Jennifer

Deal and Mr. Rob Brown. Deal is very pleased with Byrd's pieces.

"I absolutely love her charcoal drawings," Deal said. "She begins working, and suddenly this person looks like they could walk off the page. She is just as talented at sculpture as she is at drawing."

Mr. Brown, who has Byrd in AP Studio Art, also enjoys her art work and seeing how she brings the pieces to life.

"She is very creative with any materials you place in front of her," Brown said. "She has the talent and drive to explore any assignment and bring the work to a wonderful conclusion."

Byrd plans on continuing her work after high school.

"My future plans have not been set in stone yet," Byrd said. "I'm torn between three schools: Oklahoma Baptist University, Kansas City Art Institute and University of Science and Art. I do plan on furthering my art skills by majoring in art."

Byrd is clearly on the road to success and has two portfolios for both of her classes. Byrd's work is available for viewing in both Brown and Deal's classrooms.



BRING IT TO LIFE Senior Bailey Byrd places finishing touches on her latest piece titled "Boredom." (Photo by Ally Martinez)

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