

The Pirate Journal

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New Year, New Me

Kassidy Dyer

As the students of Highmore Harrod are coming back to school from Christmas break, it might be hard to get back into your school routine. Going to sleep and waking up early, making sure you have enough time to do homework, and other things like this are a routine you might have fallen out of while on break.

Taylor Chavez says now that she's off break she does things a little different. "I go to bed earlier and now I shower at night because of practices. I used to shower in the mornings but I can't anymore. Laundry is something I have to do more often now, too. I only eat three meals a day instead of eating throughout the day like I did over break."

Other things that students can do is do their homework right after practices or right when they get home, that way they have the rest of

the evening to relax and can go to sleep earlier. When students go to sleep earlier, they'll find it easier to wake up in the morning and they'll be more productive throughout the school day and be in a better mood.

"A good routine is important. You should get the perfect amount of sleep, get up and eat a nice breakfast, go shower, brush your teeth, and go to school and have fun. Stay in school—don't do drugs!" Geremi Roshau expresses how important a good school routine is and what he advises other students to do.

If you're tired and crabby at school, you won't excel with your work and you'll bring others down with you. Grades and how well you perform daily are very vital to your future. Some days won't be like others, but it's up to you to make it your very best. Being healthy and staying on track is a great start to a good life!



Team Tuesday

Halle Kroeplin

A new activity has been added to the junior high and high schoolers schedule each Tuesday.

During what is called "Team Tuesday," the students get what into groups and have an assigned teacher. The groups have students in grades 7-12. Each week the teachers come up with an activity for the students to participate in. Some weeks all groups meet in the gym where everyone comes together and does a large activity. Some examples include a white elephant gift exchange or being saran wrapped together in groups and racing.

"The overall goal is to build a better school community and for people to recognize and appreciate the difference we all have," said Brent Liechti, the high school math teacher. Memory Big Eagle, a senior, said her favorite part of Team Tuesday is talking to new people and learning about them. While some had positive views on team Tuesday, others see problems with the exercise. Oakley Jandreau said, "It helped me as a fairly new student, but people who I had in my last group I still don't talk to." Emily Semmler also stated, "The reason it started was a good idea, but you are not gaining a connection by seeing somebody once a week."

Team Tuesday will continue throughout the school year. New groups and teachers were assigned at the beginning of the semester. Brita Bergeson, the school counselor, said the goal of Team Tuesday is "to get the kids more unified and let them realize they are more the same than different."

Congratulations and Good Luck to Highmore-Harrod's one-act play cast on qualifying for state competition February 1-2-3!!

Praise for 'The Greatest Showman'

This week's #1 movie in America, "The Greatest Showman," portrays the story of a man named Phineas Taylor Barnum and his ambition to prove himself to the people who doubted him most. In the beginning, "The Greatest Showman" depicts the story of a humble man, looking to be successful so he can better provide for his family. However, throughout the film, viewers realize just how corrupted the system of the circus is, and how jealousy, pride, and greed can direct your life on a destructive course very quickly. Barnum's dream consists of museums, exhibits, and eventually people. He utilizes what the public sees as deformities, disorders, and alienable characteristics to appeal to the public's curious eye. This movie not only acknowledges the unreasonable aspect of racism and gender prejudice, but also manages to tie in aspects of forbidden love, chivalry, unsung heroes and risk-taking. Although maybe not completely historically accurate, the movie still tells a story about learning from your mistakes, and the importance of prioritizing things like love and family over money and fame. With even symmetry and flow, "The Greatest Showman" manages to marry olden stories with modern music and language, yet still tells a tale that took place almost 200 years ago. While impressed with the execution of the music, I was disappointed to not hear more carnival and circus music. Instead, it was mostly modern pop music that didn't seem to fit the time period that the film took place in. The opera singer, whose performance was the true moneymaker for Barnum, didn't sing true opera in the movie, which seemed unrealistic. The choreography wasn't impressive for a film about a circus, but the acting was superb, and the actors worked in harmony with each other. Overall this movie was very impressive and surprising. It appealed to the emotions, but also to the mind, and was entertaining the whole time.

Veronica Knippling



Flirting With Friends (Highmore-Harrod's one-act play) Velvet Jessen

Over the past few months Highmore-Harrod Junior and Senior High students, led by Jackie and Jay Miller, have been working on a one-act play called "That's Not How I Remember It" in hopes of making it to the state competition. As the theme for the B level schools was a comedy, they chose "That's Not How I Remember It" not realizing how difficult it could be. The lead roles are occupied by Shantay Werdel, who plays "Lola;" Brianna Beckler, who plays "young Lola;" the head Knippling who plays "Barry;" and Dylan McDonnell, who plays "young Barry." This year's one act play was about a married couple, who were trying to send their child to bed when they started debating on how they first met and fell in love in high school. The stage was split for this play; one half of the stage showed the parents in the present, while the other half showed the memories of how the parents met in the past. The set up created challenges as the characters would have to switch outfits, in one case a haircut, when the parents would switch narrating what they each remembered happening. However, possibly the hardest part was the acting, almost every part in the play had to flirt with one character or another. Dylan McDonnell said, "A lot of the difficulties came from the fact that we were flirting with people we know pretty well and it made it awkward to perform." Brianna Beckler, who also performs a lead role has the same assessment saying, "It's just really hard to flirt with people that you've grown up with and try to cross those personal boundaries that you're not really comfortable with." However, despite these little bumps, you will hear from many of audience members that they thought it was very funny and despite the casts' struggle with flirting within the play, it was very well performed. Ms. Kaltenbach the band and music teacher said, "I thought it was hilarious, and my only complaint was that they didn't wait for the crowd to stop laughing before starting their lines." An unpopular opinion to be heard is provided by Shelby Isburg who said, "It was a little dramatic for my taste, however, I thought the acting was good."

Dear Pete (The Pirate)

Dear Pete,

Next year I'm going to be the only child in my house. I want a house cat, but my parents won't let me. What should I do to appeal to them?

Sincerely,
Lonely Daughter

Dear Lonely Daughter,

It's very tough to persuade parents, especially on the topic of pets. Two approaches you can take are that you will be alone in the house and it will teach you responsibility. With no siblings in the house next year it can get lonely. With a cat around it would help having a companion. It can also show responsibility, such as grooming and feeding your cat. Tell your parents you know how much responsibility cats can be and that you'll be able to provide time and attention to your furry companion.

Sincerely, Pete

Dear Pete,

I'm struggling balancing all of my schoolwork with my job and my sports. What can I do?

Sincerely,
Stressed Out Kid

Dear Stressed Out Kid,

There are many ways you can try to balance out both work and activities. It's best to keep them separate. Make a schedule and try your best to stick to it. When you have an event

after school plan ahead when you're going to do your homework. Also you can talk to someone if you are stressed. It helps to talk to a friend. Make sure you can relax as well. Don't overwork yourself and you'll be good to go.

Sincerely, Pete

Dear Pete,

Lately I've been feeling like people hate me. Is there a way to change their minds?

Sincerely,

Unaccepted Student

Dear Unaccepted Student,

First of all hate is a very strong word. Whenever you feel like you've made someone upset it is important to remind yourself that they might be having a bad day. If it is something that you have done, such as getting into their business or bringing up a sensitive topic, make sure to think before you speak. Also don't change for someone. Be yourself. It's the best option.

Sincerely, Pete



Question of the Month

Lainey Aasby asked the following question:
"Would you rather live in a Jurassic world or during a zombie apocalypse?"



Dusty McCauley:
"Jurassic world because you can hide from dinosaurs and I'm small compared to them so I'd be harder to find. Dinosaurs have small arms and wouldn't be able to grab me also. I'd be less likely to die in a Jurassic world."



Taylor Ashdown:
"Jurassic world, Zombies go and search for people to kill. Dinosaurs will leave me alone and wouldn't hurt me."



Miles McPeak:
"Zombie apocalypse because it'd be a lot cooler. Zombies are really slow and wouldn't be able to catch me."



Emily Semmler:
"A Zombie apocalypse would be more fun and like the walking dead. Zombies you can reason with unlike dinosaurs. Dinosaurs are large and would be harder to kill so I'd choose a zombie apocalypse."

