

THE TOTEM POLE

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Cultivating The Minds Of Students

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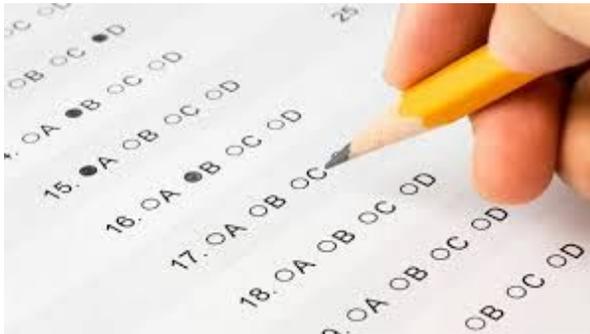
Bartlett's 2016-17 Basketball Team Wins First Clark Tournament Title Since 2006



**Bartlett Offers an
SAT Prep Class
After School**

**YOUiversity A
Success Over
February Vacation**

(AJC.com)



(ClipartPanda.com)



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SAT Prep Class

Klarissa Johnson '17

For those of us going to college, the SATs are crucial. It is important to practice and prepare for the exam to ensure you earn your best possible score.

According to the BHS Newsletter, beginning in April, Bartlett will be offering a class after school hours in the Fishbowl to further prepare students for the SATs. This class will only cost students around \$20 (for the textbook.) The class will be taught by class of 2003 graduate, Richard Lambert, who has attended and graduated Providence College and Harvard University.

I asked Mr. Lambert why he decided to teach this course for us. He responded, "I've worked across [the state] giving SAT prep courses at Concord-Carlisle, Worcester Academy, Bancroft, Williston-Northampton, Wilbraham and Monson [Academy]. ... But I noticed there seemed to be a lack of such courses around this area. Not to say these prep-programs do not exist at all, but access to them seems limited. With that, I decided to contact Mrs. Dobro to see about setting up a course at Bartlett to offer test-prep training to BHS students. I graduated from Bartlett in 2003, and so what better place to start?"

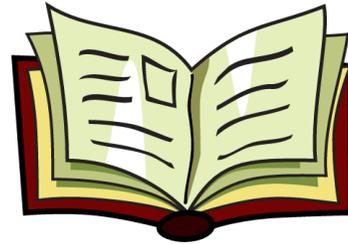
I also asked what his SAT score was: "I frequently take the SAT to ensure I keep up to date with what is being tested, and the last official score was in the 99th percentile. Getting a perfect score takes some luck, and fortunately there is no college or university that demands a perfect score. For example, getting a 1540 on the SAT is enough for Harvard--you don't need a 1600. Certainly, if you can get a 1600, that's fantastic, but it's not necessary."

As someone who has taken the SATs but not a preparation course for them, I wish I had had this opportunity. Don't pass this up!

YOUiversity- A Success!

Klarissa Johnson '17

YOUiversity is our after-school program to tutor students and help them catch up on work. YOUiversity was held for three days over February vacation- on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, from 9AM to 12PM each day.



(ClipartFox.com)

According to the BHS Newsletter, "this was put in place to address academic issues that were voiced by students and faculty." Students came to both study and volunteer to help other students.

I spoke with Ms. Ricciardi for her opinion on how YOUiversity went over vacation. These were her thoughts: "I think there was a great turnout. We had an average of 60 kids each day with a combination of students who were completing missing assignments, getting caught up on work, and completing volunteer hours. I think it was more successful than I could have imagined. I definitely think it says something as far as kids wanting to come to school over vacation. I'm recognizing YOUiversity as an opportunity to spend time with peers and get caught up on school work."

YOUiversity is still continuing its normal schedule of being after-school on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, from 2:05PM to 3:05PM in the library. Students and teachers will be available to tutor you, so if you need help, just ask! Even if you do not need the

Bartlett's 2016-17 Basketball Team Wins First Clark Tournament Title Since 2006

Abigail Adams '17

This past February Vacation, the Varsity Boys Basketball team took home the Clark Tournament title after a hard fought battle with the Westboro Rangers. Senior Tyler Davern put down a whopping 28 points, and snagged 15 rebounds in the big game. Sophomore Cody Adams brought 13 points to the table for the Indians, and Senior Anthony Grzembki, coming close to Adams, scored 12. When the buzzer went off at the end of the last quarter, the score read 72-61, and the faces of each and every Bartlett Indian in that gymnasium, fans and players, read victory.

Luckily I had the opportunity to attend the game, giving me first hand experience of the intensity and excitement of our team's win. But this wasn't the first time I got to witness Tyler Davern, Anthony Grzembki, Kyle Anderson, and Cody Adams win a title like this together. Interestingly enough, these four boys have been playing basketball with each other for about 7 years now. In their 6th grade year (Cody's 5th) the St. Louis boys basketball team won the CYO (Catholic Youth Organization) tournament, being the first team in St. Louis history to take home the trophy.

Recently I spoke with Davern, and asked him just a few questions comparing his experiences with the two wins, and his expectations for CMass D3 Districts.

Me: Trying to remember what that moment was like 6 years ago, how does that compare to the feeling you had when you guys won

extra support, you can still come and study.

Tyler: Well, winning my 6th grade year was really exciting and all, but I don't think it had as big of an impact as it does on me now as a senior. I think winning has meant a lot to the school and myself and that's why it's better.

Me: That's what I expected, you guys have a lot of fans! Speaking of, how ready do you guys think you are for the first district game against Leicester? I heard it's going to bring a huge crowd, especially after Clark. I bet you're excited to keep this winning streak going!

Tyler: We know they're a great team, and it's playoffs so we can't take anyone for granted. But if we play our game and we do what we do best, I know we'll be in the best position to win and make a great run further into districts.

Thank you Tyler for your time, and good luck to the whole team! Let's bring home another trophy boys!

Then and Now



Left to Right: Tyler Davern, James Trottier(Holy Name) Kyle Anderson, Anthony Grzembki, Dylan Gordon (Douglas High School) Picture Credit: Tyler Davern

Clark? Was it just as crazy, or do you think this was more exciting because it is your senior year and you've grown to love the game more since 6th grade?



Left to Right: Anthony Grzembki, Tyler Davern, Kyle Anderson, Cody Adams Picture Credit: Worcester T&G

Saint Patrick's Day

Emily Jones '17



Every year on March 17 Irish, as well as non-Irish people celebrate the Irish culture with parades and parties. Saint Patrick's Day began as a religious feast day offered for the patron saint of Ireland. Since the day was meant to honor the country's patron saint let's learn a little more about him. Saint Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland who was a christian missionary given credit for converting Ireland to christianity. After Saint Patrick's death in 461 AD, a Franciscan scholar named Luke Wadding wanted to ensure that the anniversary of Saint Patrick's death would become a feast day in the Catholic church.

Some traditions for Saint Patrick's Day:

- Wearing green clothing and accessories
- Parties with Irish food and Drink
- Some plan a visit to Saint Patrick's Purgatory in Lough Derg, County Donegal, Ireland. Saint Patrick's Purgatory is said to be a place of penance and spiritual healing and all those who visit the site will be absolved of their sins.
- Parades!

Saint Patrick's Day is celebrated all around the world especially in areas where Irish populations are high. There are many ways people can celebrate their Irishness.

Food is very important to this holiday seeing as it is a religious feast day. Some popular foods you can expect to see on Saint Patrick's Day are Irish brown bread, corned beef and cabbage (most popular meal), beef and Guinness pie, Irish potato soup, and Irish sweets.

What is the first thing you think of when you think of Saint Patrick's Day? I know the first things I think of are shamrocks and leprechauns.

The shamrock is a sprig of clover and its purpose is to symbolize the holy trinity.



So this Saint Patrick's day wear all your green attire, eat loads of potato soup and those little chocolate coins and embrace your inner leprechaun. Also if you want a little more celebration, the 35th annual Saint Patrick's Day parade will take place on Sunday, March 12, 2017 at noon in Worcester.



Source:

Timeanddate.com

I Stand With You

Arianna Czernicki '18

On Wednesday, February 22, 2017, Trump and his administration shockingly revoked Obama's call on the protection of transgender students, and a decision to use bathrooms of their choice. A law put in place keeping the youth of the LGBTQ community safe and free from harassment and questioning, important to the everyday lives of the transgender community, shockingly revoked.

While some question Obama's involvement in the issue, many believe it to be an important step towards equal rights for the transgender community. A law some believe to be a "free-for-all" that the trans community misuses the bathroom for inappropriate acts on other civilians, when in reality, they use the law to protect themselves in public situations, and use the bathroom as any other inhabitant would.

Insulting titles such as "perverts" or "predators" false logic that some may misuse the law to harm, or spy on other pedestrians, a transphobic comment that dehumanizes normal bathroom use for the transgender community.

After countless comments on protecting the LGBTQ community, Trump and Education Secretary Betsy DeVos have ultimately attacked the transgender community altogether by revoking an important law to keep LGBTQ safe. Many refuse to see the revoke of this law as a threatening act, that many are overreacting to a simple change. Some have the audacity to even state that bathrooms are "returning to normal."

As with every law surrounding the LGBTQ, Trump believes they should be decided by the state, an attempt to avoid any LGBTQ-related issue.

Students newly, and already transitioned, are forced to use the bathroom that corresponds to their illegitimate gender, even if physical appearance advocates otherwise, schools, businesses, and other public areas force the LGBTQ into unsafe situations, surrounded by those out to harm or insult the trans community and ultimately out them to others involved.

The entirety of the trans community affected by this law made up of children, adults, and everyone inbetween, consider a law revoked, protecting their basic rights in public situations harmful and downright transphobic.

The transgender community differentiates regarding statistics with 55% physically attacked and 74% harassed at school even with proper laws regarding bathrooms. Removal of these laws only further raises the statistics of in-school, and out of school harassment towards the LGBTQ community, a real issue that LGBTQ face. A law's removal, only causes further stress to the transgender community by removing protection in certain areas.

Some argue that the transgender community should receive their own bathroom. This action dehumanizes the transgender community, and refers to their sexual identity as a title, insisting that they will never be deemed "normal" and thus removes the issue of needing proper bathrooms that fit specific gender identities insisting that they deserve special bathrooms, instead of the proper use of normal, every-day bathrooms they deem proper for the gender they identify as.



Some even insist that children, trans youth, are too young, and deserve little, to no recognition regarding their personal opinion on their gender identity, insisting that parents are to blame for the issues LGBTQ face.

I write to inform those uninformed of the issues the transgender community face. To those questioning or hiding their true identity to keep themselves and their identity safe, I stand with you.

Oscars Mishap

Samantha Saad '17

The 2017 Academy Awards (aka The Oscars), a night that was to recognize and celebrate the best Hollywood has to offer, is now going to be remembered for one of the most bizarre and unlikely mistakes TV history.

In what was described by LA Times as ‘one of the strangest and most shocking [moments] in Oscar history’, there was a mix up over the results of the biggest award. The presenters had mistakenly been given the wrong envelope for the appropriate category. When the mistake was discovered, it was immediately corrected. It upset many people though and caused lots of regret and embarrassment.

Some called this the ‘Steve Harvey’ of the Oscars. Let me explain. In 2015’s Miss Universe competition, famed host Steve Harvey made a live television mistake and announced the incorrect winner, only after the incorrect contestant had taken the walk, flowers, and crown. Imagine how humiliating that must have been for both parties. Terrible!

I know some students from Bartlett who have been eagerly awaiting this event, and some who were not so eager. How about you? Did you watch this event? What was your opinion?

Overall, the event was a great one and the anticipation for next year is already building.

The following list is from TheGuardian.com.

2017 WINNERS:

Best supporting actor

WINNER: Mahershala Ali (Moonlight)

Best makeup and hairstyling

WINNER: Suicide Squad

Best costume design

WINNER: Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them

Best documentary

WINNER: OJ: Made in America

Best sound editing

WINNER: Arrival

Best sound mixing

WINNER: Hacksaw Ridge

Best supporting actress

WINNER: Viola Davis (Fences)

Best foreign language film

WINNER: The Salesman

Best animated short

WINNER: Piper

Best animated feature

WINNER: Zootopia

Best production design

WINNER: La La Land

Best visual effects

WINNER: The Jungle Book

Best film editing

WINNER: Hacksaw Ridge

Best documentary short

WINNER: The White Helmets

Best live-action short

WINNER: Sing

Best cinematography

WINNER: La La Land

Best score

WINNER: La La Land

Best song

WINNER: City of Stars (La La Land)

Best original screenplay

WINNER: Manchester by the Sea

Best adapted screenplay

WINNER: Moonlight

Best director

WINNER: Damien Chazelle (La La Land)

Best actor

WINNER: Casey Affleck (Manchester by the Sea)

Best actress

WINNER: Emma Stone (La La Land)

Best picture

WINNER: Moonlight

Blood Drives

Matthew Madsen '18

Most people on a typical day do not wake up and worry about the wellbeing of their blood quality, and whether they are going to need a transfusion or not. For some people this is not the case, as these transfusions are they only thing keeping them alive or healthy. In order for these transfusions to be possible, there is something people getting the transfusions rely on heavily: OTHER PEOPLE!!!

For people to get these much needed transfusions they need people who have quality blood to donate. If there are not enough people donating blood this could pose a threat as this could potentially cause shortages. To maintain the amount of blood needed for people's wellbeing, awareness needs to be made. This is done through one major thing. BLOOD DRIVES!!!

A blood drive is an activity that is usually a charitable event where people are requested to donate blood in response to blood shortages in specific areas. They are also used to maintain overall blood supply. People tend to think that a blood drive is beneficial only towards the people that need the blood from the donor. This is not the case though, as there are benefits that the donor receives as well.

Besides the benefit of feeling accomplished for giving back to your community, people do not think it is beneficial for the donor. This is not the case though. Firstly, when a donor gives blood it is screened and evaluated for any disease causing agencies. Secondly, by donating blood, stored iron in your body is maintained. The reduction of iron levels are linked to low cancer risk as well as reducing the risk of heart and liver ailments.

If you have considered or are now

organizes her own blood drives. Although the next blood drive has not been determined, it will be advertised throughout morning announcements and flyers.



Facts About Blood

- There are **150 Billion** red blood cells in **one ounce** of blood.
- There are **2.4 Trillion** red blood cells in **one pint** of blood.
- The human body manufactures **17 million** red blood cells per second. If stress precipitates a need the body can produce up to 7 times that amount. (That's up to **119 million** red blood cells per second.)
- A red blood cell is around **7 microns** in size. (A micron is one millionth of a meter).
- It only takes **20 to 60 seconds** for a drop of blood to **travel from the heart, through your body, and back to the heart again**

(Source: CBCO.org/blood-fun-facts)

considering donating blood and are over the age of 16 with parent's consent you will have the opportunity to. Here at Bartlett High School Mrs. Pepin

Should You Make the Switch?

Nicholas Tobolski, '17



(Courtesy of zeldainformer.com)

On March 3rd, Nintendo unleashed the massively hyped successor to the failed Wii U, the Nintendo Switch, a hybrid console, consisting of a 720p handheld, and a dock that turns it into a 1080p powerhouse. But should you buy one?

Well, if you didn't pre-order, good luck trying to find one. Cheap that is. Nintendo's MSRP of \$299.99 is long gone, and Amazon currently sells it for a reasonable \$430. Four hundred thirty dollars. Let that sink in for a moment.

Now why so much? Simple. Demand is so high for the Switch that Nintendo can't keep up, so we have to import them, which is a costly endeavor. That and fans willing to sell them will do anything they can to get as much money out of you as possible.

So what else will the Switch break other than your heart and bank account? How about itself?

Although the console recently launched, complaints are pouring in from dismayed buyers, who have experienced glitches, scratched displays, dead pixels, Joy-Con troubles, and more.

Wait? What's a Joy-Con? The Joy-Cons are the two pieces that slide into the screen of the handheld. (Fun fact: they can also work like Wiimotes and use motion control in some games) Joy-Con L (Known for major connectivity issues) has a dedicated button for taking screenshots and recording video, while Joy-Con R has an NFC reader to scan amiibos, and an infrared sensor (so far used for Rock, Paper, Scissors in 1, 2, Switch!) which can detect hand gestures.



(Courtesy of engadget.com)

Another piece of bad news. The Switch is not compatible with Gamecube, Wii, or Wii U titles. And as of the time of printing, there is no Virtual Console. All this means you can play the current Switch titles, and that's it. No original Splatoon, no classic Zelda on VC, and a real let-down for me, no Mighty Switch Force (a Wii U exclusive).

So, should you Switch to Nintendo Switch? If you find one for MSRP, and keep all the aforementioned things in mind, go right ahead. If not, just hold out a little longer. Nintendo will fix the issues.

Eventually...

