

# The HORNET BUZZ




## WINTER BREAK PLANS

By Breanna Bildner '19

Winter break is upon us and it's the time where people go all over to get away from Hillsdale for the holidays. Some people go to visit family and some just go on vacation. Every year it feels like less people are staying in Hillsdale for Christmas break. I don't blame them though, I want to get away from the snow too. This year people are going quite a distance for the holiday season. Grace Olinger is going on a big road trip to visit family in Indiana and Florida. Sierra Kelly and her family always go to Detroit on Christmas Eve, and Ella Lewis' sister is coming home from Alabama. Grace's plans are up in the air at the moment. Her family is trying to figure out the best travel plan so that they can visit as many people as possible. They are planning on going to Indianapolis first to visit her cousins on the Olinger side. After that, they are planning on traveling down to Alabama to visit more family on the Olinger side. Continuing with their trip, they will go down to Fort Myers, Florida to visit Grace's Grandma on the Bowen side. Their

trip is not over yet. On the way back up to Michigan, Grace's family is going to stop at the NiCE Foundation in St. Lewis, Missouri. That is where the Olinger family trip would come to an end.

Sierra Kelly has always gone to Detroit on Christmas Eve. It is a tradition that her and her family have always done. They visit all of her family including her grandma, aunts, uncles, and cousins up in Detroit. Ella and her family will be welcoming home her sister Ivy from Alabama. They haven't seen Ivy since last summer. She is extremely excited to see her. What are you Christmas vacation plans? Even if you aren't going anywhere different, still enjoy the time with your family! Have a great break and Merry Christmas!

## FAVORITE HOLIDAY TRADITIONS

By MacKayla Gingerich '19

Around the holidays everyone has a special tradition that their families have participated in for years, and it will probably always be in their family. Some traditions are original, such as setting up a Christmas tree the first day of December, or going caroling on Christmas Eve. Others might not be so normal, like leaving carrots and water out for the reindeer, or basically having a "Thanksgiving dinner" on Christmas Day. Many of the HHS students have their own traditions that they participate in every year. Some are similar, some are so unique that no one really guessed that they would have such a cool tradition.

Michaela Bowditch, in the class of 2019, has a fun tradition where her family decorates cookies and makes goodies the night before Christmas. They listen to music, and have a great bonding time with each other. Senior, Sierra Kelly-Scott, goes to Detroit every year to her grandparents house on Christmas Eve with her family. They all get pajamas that night to wear on Christmas Day. James Willes, in the class of 2019, sleeps all day during Christmas, he says he doesn't like socializing with his family. For my holiday traditions, throughout December, my family does so much Christmas stuff. We make Christmas goodies, watch Christmas movies and listen to Christmas music all month long. On Christmas Eve, we go to my uncle Ron's house to eat dinner, play Christmas games and just hangout with the family. Everyone has a special tradition that they will carry on for the rest of their lives, and hopefully their kids and grandkids will too. Some traditions will change, but some will always be the same.

## A SNOW DAY IN THE LIFE OF A HIGH SCHOOLER

By Emily Kimball '19

Snow days are arguably one of the most exciting things to happen during the school year. In the movies, a kid usually wakes up, gets ready thinking they're going to be late to school, and then realize their school is closed. In

real life, it doesn't always work like that. For most people, their parents get a call that the school is closed and then the kids get to sleep in. Still, some students get up so early that they're ready before the call is even made. Either way, people find out the school is closed and get to decide what their day is going to hold. There are a range of activities that students might do on a snow day, such as: playing in the snow, going sledding, watching movies, doing homework, sleeping in, etc.

I asked Maddie Moore '20 what a snow day might look like for her. She replied, "I usually wake up and make myself a nice breakfast, like an omelet. Then, I think about all the things I'm gonna do today, but I don't get any of it done because I get drawn into watching Christmas movies." I asked the same question in an interview with Gabe Alley '21. He responded, "I watch Netflix most of the time." So as you can see, lots of students choose to take this day to relax and take a break from a normal school day and school work.

However, some people are more productive than others when it comes to getting work done. Sarah Shreffler '19 is dual enrolled at Hillsdale College and usually has a lot of work to do. I asked her what she does on snow days. She explained, "I drink hot chocolate and I try to use the day to get homework done." I asked the same question to Hunter Sharp '19 who is also dual enrolled at Hillsdale College. She said, "I do homework because I most definitely procrastinate during the week. The night before a possible snow day, I hope and pray that it's going to be a snow day because I don't do my homework and then it's a guessing game with the weather. It's a seasonal game I play." Overall, high schoolers are a mixed bag of those who do work on snow days or use that time to relax. Either way, everyone is grateful for snow days!!

## WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR?

By Kylee Hassenzahl '21

Although Thanksgiving is over, the thankful season never ends. Have you ever thought about all of the little things in life that we may sometimes take for granted? You might have never thought about minor things in your daily life that some people will never have. If you take time to reflect on what you do have in your life you would be surprised on how many things you have to be thankful for.

I asked a couple of my friends what they are thankful for. Rachel Rufenacht says that she is thankful to be able to represent her family in everything that she does. She is thankful to have the ability to play sports. Grace Shreffler told me that she is thankful for her epic friendships and her family that she loves dearly. Brylee Boyd had a more internal answer, says that she is thankful for her life and her ability to be living on this Earth.

I hope after reading this article you think about what your truly thankful for, and how you should cherish every single moment. I hope everyone can learn to be thankful for the things that really matter. You never know what the future holds, so cherish what you have in life now.

## FRIENDSHIP

By Kara Horn '19

Friendship. A ten letter word that holds such a significant meaning that it's existence is nearly vital in the world we live in today. What does friend-

ship mean to you? To some people, friendship translates into trust, honesty, and even humor. All friendships have different characteristics, but it is safe to say that friendship has a universal theme; love. We love our friends through hardships, and we roll together through the good and bad times.

Friendships provide us with burial grounds for secrets and doubts. Friendships provide us with reassurance and hope. A lot of the time, we take our friendships for granted without even thinking about how much our relationships with others impact us on a daily basis. School has the perk of introducing you to your friends, at least most of the time. This holiday season, take a moment to appreciate the people in your life and the influence that they have on your life.

## INSIDE LOOK AT COMPETITIVE CHEER

By Sierra Kelly '19

Prove them wrong. The Hillsdale Hornet Cheer Team is going into their 5th ever season with the motto "prove them wrong". New coach, new team, new routines, new equipment, and new competitions. The student athletes are determined to change how others view the Hillsdale cheerleading program. The girls are hungry to break their score record again this year.

This year, as the program continues to grow a Davis Middle School team was started. At their first ever competition, the middle schoolers finished sixth out of nine teams. The high school cheer team is excited for the girls to continue to improve and soon be on your high school team. In addition to the new team, they added new equipment: the tumble track. After only having this tumble track for 2 weeks girls are already

## REAP THE REWARDS OF GETTING INVOLVED

By Editor Annie Hamaty '19



Homework, friends, and family. How could you possibly find time for anything else? You may want to consider joining a club, sport, or organization because student involvement in extracurriculars is linked to academic success.

Ralph McNeal, an Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of North Carolina, studied the correlation between youth and extracurriculars and found that, “students who participate in athletics, fine-arts activities, and academic organizations were an estimated 1.7, 1.2, and 1.15 times, respectively, less likely to drop out than those who did not participate” (ASCD 75). Now, that does not mean that if you participate in a club you are going to have a 4.0 GPA, it argues that a person who partakes in something outside the classroom is going to learn time management skills and have an activity connecting them to the school. In addition to increasing the academic success of a student, association in activities outside the classroom are fun!

Although Hillsdale High School may be small, the opportunities to get involved in extracurriculars are extensive. Some of the activities Sarah Shreffler are involved in are Student Council, Business Professionals of America, track and volleyball teams, Polar Bear, Interact, Freshman Mentor Program, and National Honor Society. Another perk of joining clubs are the options to run for leadership positions. Sarah is currently a senior and Freshman Mentor Program President, Business Professionals of America secretary in her second year, an Interact board member, captain of the Varsity Volleyball team, and Student Council secretary for all four years of high school. Her favorite club is BPA because she has had many enjoyable experiences such as qualifying for state multiple times and nationals as a junior (last year). Track is her favorite sport because of the supportive environment. Sarah is not only well rounded in extracurricular activities, but also academics. She has taken AP U.S. History, AP Literature and Composition, and dual enrollment classes at Hillsdale College. Sarah says that being involved in activities has helped her succeed in the classroom because, “I have learned the importance of time management which will be important in my future... [and] the importance of hard work through my involvement in sports in particular.” Don’t be shy! There are many opportunities to join extracurriculars for all students with different interests. Put yourself out there and try something new, you won’t regret it.

gaining new skills to improve score sheets.

Saturday, December 8th the cheerleaders had their first competition. They began their season extremely well. Their round one score was the highest ever by more than 20 points. In round 3, they were the only team in their region that hit all their stunts. The girls are only 60 points away from beating their record. The girls are practicing hard for their upcoming competitions this year. This team is excited to “prove them wrong”.

## CAFETERIA OR HOMEMADE LUNCH?

By Sarah Korn '21

Do you prefer a hot lunch or a lunch from home? The cafeteria chefs prepare a lunch everyday. The school cafeteria has a wide variety of delicious options from pizza to sweet and sour chicken! Many students love to buy a hot lunch, but many students love to bring a lunch from home. If they bring it from home, they get the option to bring anything they have. Even though many students are too tired in the morning to make a lunch, the cafeteria chefs will give them a lunch they can buy! The food manager creates a lunch menu every week. If you don’t want a hot lunch, the salad, sub, and veggie line is always open! The hot lunch line gives you the vegetables, fruits, and a main meal you need to get energy to get you through the rest of the school day. You can pick your choice of a beverage from three types of juices and three types of milk. Grace Vondra says, “I love to buy a school lunch because it is very good and it fills me up. My favorite meals are the hot dogs and the spaghetti.”

What happens if you are running late one morning and don’t have

time for breakfast? Not only do the cafeteria chefs make a lunch, but they also prepare an enjoyable breakfast to start your day off at school. They provide things such as cereal, breakfast bars, and even sometimes a breakfast sandwich. At the end of the day, the cooks will make up a sack lunch for after school except every Friday. They will give you a snack to enjoy before a sports practice or just on the bus ride home from school. These cafeteria chefs we have at school provide so much for the students and they put a lot of work into making sure we have food at school!

## FAVORITE TEACHER AT HHS

By Luke Kornak '21

At Hillsdale High School we have great teachers, those that have taught for a while and those who are new teachers that are excited to work at Hillsdale High School. I interviewed Grace Shreffler and I asked who her favorite teacher is, she replied, "Mr. Schiman." Clay Schiman is a new teacher here at HHS, Mr. Schiman is a history teacher, and he is excited to be helping students learn and grow in their academics. I also asked Grace why Mr. Schiman is her favorite, she replied, "He is very nice, helpful, and friendly while teaching."

I interviewed another student, Shea Woodard, I asked Shea who her favorite teacher is, she replied, "Marc Lemerand." Mr. Lemerand is not a new teacher at Hillsdale. He has taught for about twenty years he is a favorite teacher to a lot of students. I also asked Shea why he is her favorite teacher, she replied, "He is funny, and he is always helpful in the classroom." Mr. Lemerand teaches math and he is great at what he does in the classroom. Mr. Lemerand is also our varsity football coach, he has had great success in the classroom and on the field.

At Hillsdale High School, we have so many great teachers but the students I interviewed had their favorites, most of the students love these teachers and will say the same about how helpful they are in the classroom and how well they teach their subject. We are so glad to have the teachers we have and we are proud and thankful for what they have done for us and taught us. We hope in the future we will have teachers that will do the same for the upcoming students at Hillsdale High School.

## SPIRIT WEEK

By Ella Lewis '19

Spirit week is all about getting together with your classmates to participate in the competition of dressing up each day to see which future corps group has had the most participants. The winning team will win a \$10 gift certificate to Subway. I love spirit week because whenever HHS has one, the most fun about it is walking into school to see some of the crazy outfits planned for each day. Students go above and beyond in their crazy outfits to show how much fun it all is to participate and possibly win the prize. The outfits each day were all planned by the Future Corps group in Hillsdale High School. The Future Corps members have worked hard to come up with spirit week ideas, along with fun activities for the seniors to participate in on Friday.

The first day of spirit week was to wear your shades! Tuesday was "roll out of bed" day, everyone came to school in sweats, messy buns, and sweat-shirts. Wednesday was "Wacky Wednesday." Wacky Wednesday was to

wear anything mismatched and wacky. Thursday was to wear a college or military sweatshirt. Lastly, Friday was hornet gear. I asked Emily Kimball what her favorite spirit week day was, and she answered with Wacky Wednesday because it's the craziest day to mismatch anything in your closet!

Overall, Hillsdale High School has the best Spirit Weeks! Seeing everyone with their crazy outfits on, is really exciting to see because you don't normally see that everyday. Participating in Spirit Week at Hillsdale High School is always a great way to show off your hornet pride with crazy outfits. The best outfits are the most bazaar ones! Seeing everybody match their outfits with the fun themes really shows off that hornet spirit to be involved!

## FLU SEASON

By Vivian Pickard '19

It is flu season again. Recently, a local school cancelled a day of school because of illness. In the announcement, they listed ways to stop the spread of germs. The steps are all very logical but many people are not following them. Here are a few ways to prevent the spread of the flu:

The #1 rule: students should not return to school or attend any school function until they have been clear of flu symptoms for 48 hours. But pressures of school, teachers, assignments, coaches, sports, and clubs bring students back way before that. They are told to "tough it out". This only leads to increased recovery time and more students getting sick.

If you have the flu, stay home. Don't come to school wearing a medical mask. Wash your hands. Don't share drinks or food. Keep your germs to yourself and if we are lucky, most of us will avoid the flu.

## TEAM DINNER

By Logan Riley '19

Team dinners have been a bonding event for teams, employees, and families for as long as dinners have been around. Practice environments can occasionally be stressful so these meetings allow conversation and memories to be made somewhere other than a place meant for hard work.

Senior Nathan Smith says, "My favorite part about team dinner is getting to spend time with my homies, Todd, Ryan, and Papa Sleet."

Although team dinners are used as a bonding tool, they are proven to also increase work proficiency and morale. Studies by Cornell University show that over a 15 month period a fire department ate team dinner together and strengthened not only teamwork but also improved general behavior and happiness. So it just goes to show when it comes to dinner, the more the merrier.

## HOW DO YOU GET TO SCHOOL?

By Grace Shreffler '21

Students have many options on how to get to school. During the warm seasons, students walk or ride bikes to school. During colder seasons, students find rides so that they do not have to be out in the bitter cold weather. They may have their parents or another family member drive them, drive themselves, or ride the bus. Some do not show up to school, or show up late, because they miss the bus or cannot find a ride.

I asked a few students around the school how they got to school. There was a variety of answers, but one stood out more than others. Some students get to school by their parents dropping them off. Shea and Brock Woodard, Ryan Price, and

Logan Wagler all get a ride by parents. Luke Kornak rides his moped to school some days. Kylee Hassenzahl rides the bus. Sarah Shreffler, Emily Kimball, Rachel Rufenacht, Noah LoPresto, Gabe Alley, and Maddie Moore all drive themselves to school. A lot of students, if they have their license drive themselves to school.

Some kids have to carpool if their parents cannot take them to school. Others that live far away and have to get up earlier to get to school before the bell rings. A lot of parents have to wake up early to get their kids to ready for the school day. All students at Hillsdale High School have different ways of getting to school. How do you get to school?

## THE GIVING SEASON

By Nathan Smith '19

It is that time of year again, the season of giving. With the end of November rolling into December people are already in the mood after giving thanks. Amidst the countdown to Christmas rolling in, people are already getting presents for their friends. After Black Friday and Cyber Monday there is still more shopping that needs to be done, and a relatively new tradition that is spreading is Secret Santa.

The Polar Bear Club is doing their first annual Secret Santa where the members are chosen at random to get gifts for each other. Coach Clay Schiman decided to make this event to bring the club closer. The gifts will be given on the last school day of the 2018 year after the Candy Cane Run that only Polar Bear Club members are allowed to participate in. On the Candy Cane Run the club members run to Gier Elementary where members wait for the kids to get out.

The Giving Season is upon us and it's also a time to enjoy the people

around you. Start gifting stuff to your friends whether it is time or a present. Appreciate the people around you no matter what they have said or done to you. They are still your friends and they still care about you so show them a little appreciation and get them a gift. It is the Giving Season, after all.

## WHAT MAKES A GOOD TEACHER?

By Kayden Vick '19

When people are asked what makes a good teacher there are very different answers that are given. Logan Riley thinks a good teacher is, "A patient teacher who can deal with immaturity." These teachers are the ones who teach kids that it is okay to be different, but sometimes they have to control behavior in order to get points across. Logan Riley says teachers are successful "because a lot of people don't always understand the subject and you need a teacher who will be okay with the fact that some kids learn differently."

Nathan Smith has a slightly different opinion on what a good teacher is. He says a good teacher is, "A teacher that doesn't just assign the assignment and doesn't give an explanation. Someone who will help the students if they don't understand what they're doing." When teachers are constantly helping out students and making sure they are doing well it is a heartwarming experience because it shows that the teacher cares about your grades and what you take from their class. Nathan explains the importance of teachers by saying, "Teachers have the biggest role in our future and without a teacher who will actually TEACH a student, then we are all going to fail in life."

Different teachers are all around.

Some will have a lasting impact on us for the rest of our lives, but that's just personal preference. People can learn in many different ways and the teachers who adapt to the way the kids learn always ends up being a favorite. A teacher with a good personality and a good attitude is always a plus for the students because it also enables them to have fun and enjoy the class.

## JOINING THE MILITARY

By: James Willes '19

The Military can be scary, confusing, time consuming, and concern for loved ones but it can also be exciting in more ways than one. Knowing what you are doing with your life is crucial to joining such a program. Choosing part time allows you to live off base and go to college, but also getting paid for just standing by just in case you are needed on base. When someone is active duty they will live on base. When living on a military base things like accommodations, food and other utilities are provided if you need it. When enlisting you can choose how long you are enlisted with the minimum being a three year term.

Personally I do plan on enlisting into the United States Army full time for a three year contract as a petroleum supply specialist. Currently I am nervous but also excited to experience living outside of Michigan and possibly the U.S. and then seeing what I can do with my life after I have done my time. Nate Erts a full time Multi channel transmission operator maintainer is going to be in for 3 years 7 months, he will then get the option to leave or stay. Nate said that he wasn't very nervous until he went to the room and raised his right hand when he was swearing into the Army. Now

he cannot wait to leave for training and get to work.

When joining the Military you are making a big commitment. Talk to your family about it and see it as an option for life after high school, and possibly a career. You do not have to have a combat job either, you can choose to be an engineer or a supply driver, a medic, and a petroleum supply specialist; there are hundreds of different jobs that Americans choose every year when enlisting. After your time is up then the military can help you get a well paid job with certain companies like at General Motors. If you want you can go to college after and be more financially stable along with having the military pay for the tuition costs for your enrollment. I would recommend talking to a recruiter and exploring your options.

## WINTER SPORTS PREVIEW

By Brock Woodard '21

This year's winter sports are looking bright for the hornets! We have many returning juniors and seniors for all sports teams including boys and girls basketball, cheering, wrestling, and boys and girls bowling. Not only for varsity on JV too. It won't be easy, but if our Hornets continue to practice hard and perse-



# HHS Newspaper Staff

**Annie Hamaty**  
**Editor**

*Breanna Bildner*

*MacKayla Gingerich*

*Kylee Hassenzahl*

*Kara Horn*

*Sierra Kelly*

*Emily Kimball*

*Sarah Korn*

*Luke Kornak*

*Ella Lewis*

*Hailley Perry*

*Vivian Pickard*

*Logan Riley*

*Grace Shreffler*

*Nathan Smith*

*Kayden Vick*

*James Willes*

*Brock Woodard*

*Shae Woodard*

*Mindy Eggleston, Teacher*

vere it will be a great season.

As far as basketball goes the varsity team is anticipating success with returning players Spencer Eves and Coby Nash. The hornets have already played in a scrimmage against Montpelier OH and won by a good amount of points, currently they are 4-0. You can go to the office for the basketball schedule if you are interested in seeing any of their games. Wrestling is looking good also with returning seniors Todd Grubbs, Ryan Reiniche, and Walker Gibbons and a full line up of other returning juniors and sophomores. Many of the returning players all had winning records last year so you can expect great thing from the wrestlers this year.

A relatively new sport for the Hornets that started in 2015 is competitive cheering. The captain of the cheering squad, Sierra Scott, is expecting a better season than last year. She is happy about this because the team set a huge scoring record last year. Last but not least, the boys and girls bowling teams are looking good again with many returning players with high scoring games. This years winter sports are looking very promising so go to the office and grab a schedule now to support our hornets.

## THE LITTLE MERMAID

By Shea Woodard '22

Hillsdale High School has cast roles for the musical, The Little Mermaid. For those who don't know The Little Mermaid is about a rebellious 16-year-old mermaid, Ariel. She is fascinated with life on land, and falls for a human prince. Determined to be with him, Ariel makes a dangerous deal with the sea witch to become human for three days. But when plans change for the star-crossed lovers, the king must make the ultimate sacrifice

for his daughter.

The main roles are filled by, Makena Dietz as Ariel, Xander Sallows as Prince Eric, and Hanna Ritchey as Ursula. Unfortunately most of the main roles are filled. If anyone is interested in being a part of the play but does not want to perform, the stage crew could always use help. If you have any other questions you can contact Tyler Hopkins.

The Little Mermaid will be performed on March 21-23 on the weekend of Artrageous. It will be held at Davis Middle School but the times are yet to be announced. The theatre can hold around 600 people so be sure to buy your tickets. You can purchase your ticket in advance or at the door.

## FUTURE CORPS SPIRIT WEEK ADVOCATE FOR YOURSELF

The Hillsdale High School Future Corps team hosted a senior last workshop on Friday to teach seniors about financing college.

The event included a Tower of Power activity, where students had to complete their FAFSA and then advocate for themselves to get scholarships, grants, work study and loans. The group with the tallest tower won.

"Self-advocacy is not only an important part of the college admissions process and getting aid for college, it is an important part of leading a successful life," said Michelle Milnes. Self-advocacy is a skill students need to learn in order to promote themselves. "Each and every student at Hillsdale High School has special talents and abilities," she added.

Students are involved in a wide variety of things including the community, at school or at church. These experiences can provide growth in helping them to promote themselves.

The event allowed seniors to practice the best ways to present themselves. Eggleston said there are specific questions scholarship reviewers want

to hear:

- Why should someone give them a scholarship?
- What's special about them?

Advocating for yourself is no easy task, but it is something that can be learned and practiced.

When students apply for scholarships they need to demonstrate why they should receive it over all the other students who applied. Therefore, they will have to know how to present their best talents, skills and experiences.

