

# The HORNET BUZZ



## CHRISTMAS SPIRIT!

By Taylor Ronk '17

Christmas is the busiest time of year but it also can be the most stressful. Finding all the right presents and baking Christmas cookies is always a real hassle especially if you procrastinate. The most important thing about the holidays is to spread joy and be kind to everyone you meet. There's something about the holidays that people find special. Such as spending time with family, giving or receiving gifts, baking all of those delicious Christmas cookies, putting together gingerbread houses, playing in the snow, or even the big festive Christmas dinner. I'm going to tell you what some students enjoy the most.

For seniors I asked Alivia Butterbaugh '17 what is your favorite thing about the holidays, and why? "I have to say, Christmas dinner because the family is all together and I get to be fat." I also asked Braxton Smith '17, "My favorite thing about the holidays is how it brings everyone just a little closer. It enriches the air with joy, tends to put a smile on people's faces and it uplifts a few more spirits for the season." They both enjoy spending time with loved ones and being all together which is always a great part of Christmas.

For juniors I asked Jaidyn Lee '18, "Being with family because I get to see family I can't see that often." I also

asked Scotty Hasen '18, "Family being together because I don't get to see them often." Both Scotty and Jaidyn enjoy family time and being close with the ones they love.

For sophomores I asked Mackayla Gingerich '19, "My favorite thing about the holidays is the decorations outside of everyone's houses and the Christmas movies because it puts me in a great mood and the Christmas spirit." I also asked Walker Gibbons '19 he said, "My favorite thing about the holidays is that I get to see my family. My family is very important to me." Both enjoy being with family and being festive. It's an amazing part of Christmas and is always a wonderful sight to see.

For freshmen I asked Madisen Young '20, "Spending time with family and friends. It brings the whole family together and you just get to hang around, laugh, and have a good time." I also asked Gavin Lafollette '20, "My family getting together because they mean a lot to me." It's always important and wonderful to spend time with loved ones especially around the holidays.

As for myself I love being around people that make me happy. I enjoy doing festive things such as watching movies, playing in the snow, and baking cookies. Christmas can be the best or the worst time of the year it just depends on how you spend your time. How will you spend your Christmas?

## CHRISTMAS BREAK

By Sarah Herring '17

This year for HHS students, winter break starts on the 22nd of December. Many families go on vacations during the break. This year our break is 12 days long, January 2nd being the last day. I asked two students what their plans are during the break. Both the students seem very excited about their different winter vacations. Amber Butters, a sophomore here at HHS, when asked what her plans were for the break she says, she is going on a cruise along the coast of Mexico. Some of her holiday traditions include pizza and bowling on Christmas Eve. Her favorite parts about the break are eating food and sleeping in. However this year she said that she is more excited for the cruise than anything else.

Khyra Hickey, a senior at HHS, says that she is going to be spending time with family and sleeping in. Some of her holiday traditions are to open a few presents on Christmas Eve and opening all visible presents on Christmas morning. On New Year's she and her family stay up late and watch the ball drop while drinking eggnog. Her favorite parts of the break are not having school, food, and presents.

## PREPARING FOR THE HOLIDAY TOURNAMENT

By Trevor Kornak '17

The hornet basketball team takes part in the annual Pat Patterson Holiday basketball tournament every year. The tournament invites specific teams from around Hillsdale. We have won the tournament seventeen times and plan to add on to the seven year winning streak. Preparing for the tournament takes a lot of time and practices. Coach Felix puts many hours into getting film ready and having a scouting report describing each team we play.

The week leading up to every game we have meetings in coach's room to study the other team. We get papers describing how talented each player on their team

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is. We learn their strengths and their weaknesses. After reviewing the papers we watch about a half hour of film on the other team learning what they run, how they run it, what defense they have, how we can attack their defense, pressing, and out of bounds plays. Once we have a good idea of everything they do we head to the gym to prepare physically.

When we get into the gym we always start practice with a couple drills to get warmed up. After running through the drills we separate into two teams. Blue team is usually our starters for the next game and the yellow team is the players that come off the bench. Yellow team and blue team will go back and forth running the teams plays that we are facing that week. This gives each team a sense of what to expect when time comes to play our opponent. When we have learned how to adjust to their plays and defense we usually do some more drills to work on our quickness, rebounding, defense, offense, and shooting. Practice ends when coach feels we are ready to take on our opponent. Practice prepares us very well for upcoming games. The hornet basketball team is always ready to take on any type of competition we are faced with.

## SNOWBALL

By Ashley Garfield-Giminez '17

Snowball is coming and it's time to get prepared. The date is set for January 14th at 8pm in the Hillsdale High School Cafeteria. This years dance is a semi formal which means no need for a full blown tux or a huge gown. Semi formal consists of dress pants, a button up shirt, and a tie for guys. For girls it is a cocktail type dress or a short homecoming dress.

Snowball is an exciting time. Girls and boys of all ages get to dress up and go out for a fun night of dancing with friends. You don't have to be a junior or senior to go like prom. If you are planning to bring a date from another school you must fill out a guest form and turn it into the office.

Snowball is a great way to make many memories with friends. Cost is only \$5 and you won't regret it. Complementary pictures will be taken at anytime you are there as well. So come out to Hillsdale High School on January 14th at 8pm to have a fun night of dancing and good music!

## TIS' THE SEASON TO BE FREEZIN'

By DeAnna Lucas '17

With the snow and freezing temperatures it's beginning to look a lot like Christmas. Christmas is right around the corner. People are scrambling to finish their last minute shopping.

Everyone has different family traditions. Some families open one present on Christmas Eve, and others don't. Families watch Christmas movies all day, play games, and go to family dinners. My family goes to my grandma's for Christmas Eve and we have a big dinner and open presents. On Christmas my family and I open presents and then stay in our pajamas and watch movies.

So whatever your family traditions are enjoy Christmas and don't be a grinch. Bundle up and stay warm this holiday season. Have fun with your family and friends and drink hot chocolate.

## STUDYING 101

By Alexis Higgins '17

Studying can be hard, and even though it sounds like a simple task, it isn't always easy. There is such a wide array of studying habits it can be difficult to find a way that works for you. Personally, I find that math is one of the most difficult subjects to study for. I mean really, how do you study for math? With this question in mind I researched the study habits of Ivy League students.

One of the most recurring tips is to AVOID STUDYING IN BED. Your brain makes the correlation that when you're in bed, you need to sleep. So when you



bring your homework to bed with you, it will most likely not get done.

Another tip is to TAKE A BREAK. Take a walk around the living room, or go outside and get some fresh air. Taking regular breaks can boost productivity and improve our ability to focus on a single task.

EXPERIMENT where the best place is for you to study. Not everyone can sit for hours in their room and study. Mix it up a bit and head downstairs or take a trip to the library. Doing this helps force our brains to make new connections to places (just like how your brain knows that when you're in bed, you should be sleeping).

Most of the students I know can't go a day without their headphones. FIND MUSIC TO HELP YOU STUDY. Studies have shown that music helps us beat stress. Turn on your favorite band and crack open your books. Or even try a different genre so that you're not too distracted.

Sure studying is hard, but there's no reason to not do it. There are so many ways to make studying seem like less of a chore. Another great way is to form a study group with other students in your class. It's important to find a way that works for you. Staring at a book for ten minutes probably won't cut it.

## AP CLASSES

By Claire Felix '17

Hillsdale High School offers five Advanced Placement classes such as AP

Environmental Science, AP English, AP Calculus, AP United States History and AP Chemistry. These classes are designed to prepare students for college courses. All of these classes are year long and have a specific exam in May. The exams are what determine if you will receive college credit. If you score higher than a three, college credit is usually given.

I have taken two AP classes in my high school career. I took AP United States History my junior year and it was a tough course. The workload is much larger than a high school level class and expectations for students are much higher. I am currently in AP English and I personally feel that it is more difficult because there is more reading and writing. Now that I am in my senior year, I feel like these classes have benefitted me and I feel much more prepared for college this coming fall.

Students are usually afraid to take these types of classes because they are set at a college level. They are way more challenging and teachers have higher expectations. But these classes are worth the challenge because you will feel that you have learned so much more. Also, the class size is not as big, therefore you can have more one on one time with your teacher and work with your peers. If you feel that you need a challenge, take the AP classes offered, they are worth it.

## TEST BETTER

By Ryan Stone '17

When people think of tests, most of people get worried. They think that they aren't prepared for the test or that they will do poorly. Most of those people that have those fears haven't studied or didn't study well. Believe it or not, there are actual study methods that prove to help you get those better grades. Some of the methods are really simple and can make an impact on the grade you receive.

A method to study better is to take breaks. Most people think that the more you study the better you do, which is true, but you also want to take the occasional break to let your mind rest for a bit. Another method is to study with a partner. If you have a partner, you can help quiz each other and they can help you make sure you study the things that may be harder or the things that you aren't sure about. Try to eliminate all of the distractions from you as you study, so you really focus on remembering what you study and not what you watched on tv.

Don't think about a test too much. The more you think about the test, the more you can get worried about it for when the time comes. You need to go into the test with confidence that you will do well. If you don't know an answer, rather than just guessing, you should go with your first instinct on what you think it is. If you start to second guess yourself then you may think two answers could be right and end up guessing the wrong one.

## GOOD GRADES, GREAT FUTURE!

By Sevanna Goodwin '17

You may be thinking, "I don't need to get good grades in high school because colleges don't look at them," but you're wrong colleges look at your grades to see if you improved as a student and if you are a right fit for their school. Not only that, colleges will fight over you money wise and invite you to be a special guest. Also getting good grades in high school can help you qualify for scholarships to pay for college. If you're lucky you can get a full ride to a school of your choice. So, starting as a freshman with good grades you can possibly be the class valedictorian and get money from the school. Studies show that the more students with good grades in high school excelled in college.

Don't slack off and just push off school because in the long run it will come back and haunt you, but don't let me tell you what to, do just think about my advice. Hopefully you take it because who knows you might be one of those students who excel in college and have a happy life.

## DIFFERENT WAYS TEACHERS TEACH!

By Jasmine Wilson '17

There are so many different teachers in our school. They all have their special way of teaching the students. Some do hands on activities and others don't. There are teachers who talk the whole time too! Most teachers have learned that talking all hour doesn't help the students do better, they do better with hands on or independent work. Teachers usually adapted to how the students work best, either hands on or independent.

Some of the teachers use other methods to teach in their class because they learned that they learn and understand the topic better that way. Teachers have some different idea they want to try and they try them and see if they work or not. Teachers find it hard to believe how students do better working with someone or on their own. All the teachers that have worked many years know just about everything they need to know.

Newer teachers have their way of teaching and sometimes it's not the best way. They learn over the years how to do it. But in the end all the teachers have a certain way they teach that is the best way for them and the students to know what is going on. Sometimes the students gives the teachers ideas of new ways to teach some things they do or they explain how its hard and how to make it easier.

## WANDERLUST

By MacKenzie Gingerich '17

Everyone has the lust to travel, but sometimes we need an excuse to get away from our daily lives. Students usually have tight schedules and have little time to care for their mental stability. With this being stated, teenagers need to know the advantages of having wanderlust.

One of the most avid travelers in Hillsdale Schools is Amy Goldsmith. I asked her how travel enriches her life. She replies, " It depends on whether you go as a tourist or a traveler. Tour-

ists exchange money for pre-packed experiences. They tend to consume experiences and move on without engaging with the local culture. It can be relaxing and wonderful. Travelers tend to be more involved. They find ways to hang out with locals, try to learn some language and really be where they are.” I further asked her how traveling affected her as a person. “ Being somewhere else really highlights how different home is from everywhere else but it makes us appreciate what we have. Home is more than just where you live. In contrast, one of my favorite quotes is by St. Augustine who said, ‘The world is a book, and those who do not travel read only a page.’” Goldsmith says.

Though we think we have it all figured out. The world is bigger than we think. Traveling gives us opened minds and broaden perspectives. Helping students of any age, realize that our problems are not as big as we think. Knowing this, we can relieve our stress.

## ADD A LITTLE EXCHANGE TO YOUR FAMILY

By Khyra Hickey ‘17

The best part of hosting an exchange student is gaining knowledge on their country and culture. Opening your home to an exchange student is a wonderful experience and a great opportunity. Hosting is a great way to broaden your family tree and spread the culture of America across seas. By opening your door to a student from another country you are helping them expand their knowledge of America. I have personally hosted five in my lifetime. I have loved hostessing because I was an only child for eleven years and having an older sibling was always a dream of mine. My favorite exchange student is my brother Phil from Brazil. He came and stayed with my family when I was in grade school and he was seventeen. He showed me how blessed I was to not have an older irritating brother. We still stay in touch to this day.

Hosting an exchange student is a wonderful opportunity. The benefits of hosting an exchange student is that they will sometimes cook their food for you to try and they are another helping hand around the house. Also if you have children it’s a great way to add another sibling into the family. The best part is you choose the best fit student for your family and you aren’t left in the dark when they get here because the coordinator checks in and is always willing to help out through the year.

## HORNET BASKETBALL DYNASTY

By Ethan Bernard ‘17

There really is no secret to the success of the Hornets’ basketball program. There are many things going into that success though. One of those is being consistent not only with good players but preparing the same way running the same defense and offenses over the years so the players are not constantly learning so many new things at one time. If the preparation is working for you on and off the floor don’t fix what’s not broken.

Another reason for success is knowing what’s working and what’s not. A team always has to grow and get better there’s a difference between changing things up that are working for you and taking what you already know and expanding it. There is always something you can do better on both sides of the floor. Finding what’s wrong and making it better is the hard part. Also Coach Felix believes that being a better conditioned team plays a huge role in the outcome of games. In most of Coach Felix drills there’s conditioning and the guys over the years have bought into that aspect of the game and wins many games for us.

Knowing the roles of the players on your team is another huge reason for the hornets’ success. At the beginning of the season Felix gives the players a paper of their roles so everyone can see what he expects from us. If the guys buy into their roles and be great in their roles you will always have success on the court. The roles help everyone out knowing their own and their teammate’s limits on the

floor so you don’t have guys who can’t shoot threes shooting threes or guys who can’t handle the ball bringing it up the court. So knowing your role within the team and being a star in your role can make a good team into a great team which the hornets have had plenty of these over the last few years.

## WHAT IS POLAR BEAR?

By Tristan Burcham ‘17

“What is Polar Bear Club?” That’s a question frequently asked by the students that are unfamiliar with our track program or new to this school. Polar Bear is Hillsdale High School’s indoor track program. It is considered a club because in the state of Michigan it is not considered to be a school sport. It is for athletes who are looking to better themselves for the upcoming track season or even other sports in the spring. The practices start everyday after school for about an hour or even a little shorter time than that.

The workouts for Polar Bear are not that challenging, you are just running in the cold, rainy, snowing weather each and everyday to get better. The worst thing that can come from running Polar Bear is being cold and possibly getting a cold, but that’s why you have to dress warm. Most of the athletes on the Polar Bear team have been apart of all three state championships that the outdoor track team has managed to do the past couple years. Those of which being all of the seniors, Rees Nemeth, Tristan Burcham, Ryan Stone, and Gage Hite. They are all putting in the time and work to potentially walk away from high school with four state championships.

In Polar Bear, the hardest work out and most dreadful is 200m hills. It is not a full out sprint but a very fast paced run up the hill. The fastest people usually get it in 30 seconds or even faster than that. Then the easy days are when we have recovery days, but they are still a work out to replenish your body. I interviewed junior Devin VanDusen and I asked him what Polar Bear has done for him, he said, “It helps me stay in shape and gives me something to do during the winter so when it comes to tracks

season, my first couple of meets are not really bad and I can start off where I want to be." Devin plans on winning state in his events and he is one really competitive runner and Polar Bear has help him achieve his goals. So if you are looking to improve yourself mentally and physically join the Polar Bear Club! Dress warm!

## **ROBOTICS**

By Jacob McGowan '17

Robotics is not just about building a robot, although it is a huge part, there are many more aspects to the program. Robotics involves engineering, programming, marketing, photography, accounting, graphic design, and website design. There is a six week time period every year where the team designs, fabricates, and builds a new robot. Fundraising begins at the start of the school year to gain sponsors and collect thousands of dollars to start and keep the program running. Robotics teaches hands on learning in an extremely fun environment, the team is encouraged to solve problems with their peers and mentor Mr. Tucker.

FIRST Robotics Competition is put on by FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) to interest students in technology and science. Each year the team must participate in at least two competitions in the state of Michigan. Every season there are new tasks at hand which involve new thinking and a newly designed robot. This season is the third year that Hillsdale High School has ever had robotics and the team has grown exponentially since then. The team's goals are to improve yearly and gain as many donations and sponsors as possible, because donations and sponsorships are the only source of income for the program.

Although the program is fairly young, the amount of knowledge and support from the team is substantial. A huge aspect of robotics is also problem solving, which is essential in college and in life. For more information on how to get involved, contact Nick Tucker. The team has meetings every Wednesday

and are accepting anyone who would like to join!

## **KEY CLUB**

Ella Lewis '19

The Key Club of 2016-17 has been a great experience so far for the kids involved. The Key Club helps better the community and the school. Being involved in the Key Club is a fun way to help out, and show others that you are having fun doing so. The Key Club has fun activities for the kids involved, such as having a bake sale, and other fundraisers. Community service activities that have happened so far in the school year, would be things such as ringing the bell, and helping at the Kiwanis kids' Christmas Party.

Interviewing DeAnna Lucas, one of the Key Club members, I asked why did she join? "I joined because I like to be involved, and to better the community and school." DeAnna believes more people should be involved in the club. More people would make it more fun! The Key Club meetings are every Tuesday at lunch. The meetings consist of upcoming events being planned, and what more they can do to make school and the community a better place.

From seeing what fun the Key Club looks like, more people should get involved in this great new experience. The club sounds like it really benefits the community, and the kids have fun in the process. Meeting new people and making new friends is something that happens often in Key Club. This club has been in HHS for years, and always has a great outcome from the students in it. Helping is always a great opportunity in HHS, joining would be another!

## **SEW INTERESTING**

By Amber Butters '19

Hillsdale high is home to a large variety of clubs and activities. From sports to sewing the students here have a variety of interests and skills. Sewing club is popular amongst exchange students and those with an affinity for creating and learning new useful skills. This after school activity was started when the Home Economics program was closed in 2010. Mrs. Dunlop however, was not

ready to retire so she continued teaching her craft in the form of an after school club.

Mrs. Dunlop is the queen of the sewing machine. She is the creator of this club and she supports those in their endeavors to learn and grow in their field of expertise. Mrs. Dunlop loves to make a difference in the lives around her. Many of the sewn creations she and her students make are donated to charities around town or donated to the school system. One of the donations to the school were 20" diameter plush balls for the gym at Gier elementary. The clubs have also donated to Drews Place and Hillsdale Hospital. Members of the club take their creations and personally deliver them to the donation destination. This has impacted the students in so many ways getting to see the people receiving the gift they have spent many afternoons working on is indescribable. Mrs. Dunlop's favorite thing about this club is the students. She loves interacting with high schoolers and learning about their lives. She loves making a difference in their lives through leadership positions in the club. Many who come and learn with her leave not only having more knowledge but also feeling like they have accomplished something great. If you have not found yourself in Mrs. Dunlop's Classroom give it a shot. It is a special and unique experience and you may learn something not only about sewing but also about yourself.

## **HOW WILL THIS PLAY OUT?**

By Mikaylia Kramic '19

This year's school production is going to be The Canterville Ghost. With this production taking a surprising turn from the traditional musical put on by HHS, there are many different thoughts swirling around. The play is a tragic comedy about a family who moves into a haunted house. The ghost attempts to frighten them and the family refuses to be afraid. Although the school productions are normally one of the most talked about events of the year, this play is not getting much support.

When the chorale was asked why people were not planning on trying out as usual, they had a list of reasons. Some included having to work, playing sports, or having other after school obligations. However, the most common answer was that people were upset that it is not a musical. The actual number of auditions is yet to be known, due to a rescheduling of audition date due to a snow day on Monday.

Regardless of all this, choir director, David Boswell, has been enthusiastically promoting the play. He stated that most students could try to talk to the play director privately, to try to find a different try out time if they had to work. The same method could be used for students participating in any other after school activities. While the play may be a little different from the normal style of the HHS productions, Mr. Boswell is convinced that it will still be successful. This leaves everyone waiting eagerly, to see how this play will play out.

## **R E G I O N A L HONORS CHOIR**

By Danny Miller '17

Regional Honors Choir is a competition run by the Michigan Schools Vocal Music Association, or MSVMA. The committee selects a song for the musicians to audition with so that select musicians can sing together at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo. The committee sends the piece to choir directors all throughout the state whose students would like to audition. This year, the song selected was Sure On This Shining Night by Morten Lauridsen. Hillsdale had 6 students audition for Regionals, and all 6 students were accepted.

Among the selected was freshman Vanessa Brown, and sophomore Sydney Davis.

senior Khyra Hickey, senior Taylor Ronk, junior Meagan Roe, and myself were the students selected for Regionals. "It was very nerve racking at first, but overall a great experience." Taylor Ronk says, "It was exciting to meet new people and just to experience it for

the first time was amazing."

While the students were at Western, there were 162 other singers who had made it. All 162 students had a shot to move on to the next level. State Honors Choir at Grand Valley State University. The students spent all day working on the 4 pieces that they had received when they were accepted. Out of the 168 total students, only a handful would be selected. Unfortunately, none of the Hillsdale students were selected to go to state.

## **PRESIDENT ELECT, DONALD TRUMP**

By Briana Bradley '19

As everyone knows Donald Trump will be the President of the United States starting in 2017. His campaign will be one that no one will forget. He has promised a lot of changes and some are wondering "Will they actually happen?" It is really hard to tell when he hasn't even been in office yet. There are a lot of opinions about him so who knows if anything you hear about Donald trump is true.

Recently I have asked around to see what others opinions are about Donald and Shelby Osmun responded with, "I do not agree with 90% that comes out of his mouth but I feel he was the best fit for the presidential spot." I also interviewed Lizzy Reynolds and asked her "What are you looking forward to with the president elect?" Her response was, "I am looking for great change and a better economic issues." I asked both, "Do you think he will help or hurt the country?" Both responded with, "It can go both ways, but we will have to wait and see."

It is hard to predict what Donald Trump might do in the future. I do agree with Shelby that he is the best fit to become President. Trump might not be your choice, but he is America's choice.

## **WHAT WOULD YOU CHANGE AS THE PRINCIPAL?**

By: Shianna Keiser '17

Have you ever wondered what the school would be like if you were in charge and you told the students what to do? Have you ever wanted to change how the school is run? I have. If I could, I would change a lot.

If I were the principal I would change the food we eat for lunch. I would make it slightly less healthy and you would be able to have more than what is currently given to you. I would also change the dress code and make it more fair towards everyone.

MacKenzie Gingerich said that if she were the principal she would make our lunches longer. She would also like to make the dress code less sexist and fair for everyone. If Alivia Butterbaugh were our principal she would give us longer holiday and spring breaks. She would be less lenient on the dress code and give more choices on school lunch.

Maybe one day these things will happen but until then we can dream and hope for the changes. Do you think these are a good idea? Do you have changes of your own? Tell people and maybe we can change things to make the school better for us.

## **WHY DO KIDS TRANSFER TO OTHER SCHOOLS?**

By Alivia Butterbaugh '17

Here is a list of reasons of why students worldwide switch schools, family has moved so you're forced to go with, parents split up so now you have to live with the other parent that ends up living farther away near a different school, and some transfer because of their bad experiences in that particular school. It can be scary having to grow up and have all of these friends beside you then up and leave one day. Not all kids want to leave so they're stuck with dealing with their choices. Other kids are relieved they are leaving and were waiting for the change to finally happen.

I've interviewed Taylor Ronk '17 on how it feels to go to the same school un-

til graduation and if she has ever considered switching. "I guess I've had the thought of switching schools because of drama but I never did because you get drama anywhere you go. It's nice to not switch schools because you know the same people but at the same time I would like to meet new people." For my next interview I asked Sarah Herring '17 if she ever misses her old school. "I transferred back in 6th grade because of music so no I do not miss my old school, I don't miss old friends either because I still go to church with them."

Many students that I've grown up with have transferred schools for several different reasons including myself. Some of my old friends when I was younger had to switch because of their parents splitting up so they had to go with the other. When they left I had no idea how that felt to leave friends behind to go to this complete new school. Until the summer before fifth grade I went from Jackson schools to Hillsdale. Big difference to me. I was always that shy little girl so by having to move I felt alone and had no idea how to make new friends. Every student that has gone through transferring schools knows the exact feeling of not belonging. Once you make those new friends it's the best feeling to feel accepted.

## HORNET ALUMNI SHARE EXPERIENCES

On Tuesday, December 20, ten Hillsdale High School graduates returned to their alma mater to share their college experiences. The students included Garrett Adams (2012), Dana Baker (2013), Bailey Boyd (2014), Trevor Clevenger (2015), Courtney Hinkley (2013), Sarah Maple (2014), Matt Nolan (2015), Emily Palmer (2015), Stefani Skiendziel (2010), and Victoria Stevens (2015).



Topics discussed included: their path after Hillsdale High School, information on choosing a college, balancing studying and personal time, deciding on a major, college life, and more.

Stevens, who attends Western Michigan University, told the students to make the best of their remaining time in high school as things will change once they enter college. "Believe it or not but you are 'babied' right now. Your mom does your laundry and your teachers remind you of due dates. Flash forward to college and you are on your own," said Stevens.

The panel all agreed that the hardest part of college is balancing personal time and studying.

"College will be the best and worst times of your life, you will make friendships that will last forever," they all agreed. Hinkley, who will graduate from Adrian College in May, said it is a good idea to use a planner making notes of important deadlines. "Learn to use them now, if you don't already," she stressed.

Boyd, a student at the College for Creative Studies in Detroit shared his experiences as an art and product design major. "I really wanted to know if I would be able to get a job pursuing something that I love." Boyd has been designing all

## Upcoming Events

### NO SCHOOL:

**December 22-January 2**

**1/6/17 BPA REGIONALS**

**1/14/17 SNOW BALL**

sorts of interesting products but hopes to land a job in the athletic shoe design industry.

Dana Baker, Stefani Skiendziel, and Garret Adams took different paths after high school. Adams favorite classes in high school were House Building, math, and science. He earned a certificate in just nine months from Alpena Community College which gave him the skills to land a job that he loves with the Hillsdale BPU. Baker will graduate from beauty school in April and Skiendziel is serving our country in the United States Navy.

Sarah Maple and Trevor Clevenger talked about being student athletes at the collegiate level. Both Maple and Clevenger played soccer during college.

Emily Palmer, Victoria Stevens, and Matt Nolan are currently sophomores at CMU, WMU, and Hillsdale College. Palmer talked about the benefits and philanthropic opportunities she has as part of a sorority. Stevens is extremely excited about her upcoming trip to the Cotton Bowl as part of the WMU marching band. Nolan is a member of the jazz band and Catholic Society. All three stressed that students should try new things and get involved at college. Stevens said there are over 400 different clubs on the WMU campus.

The panelists answered questions for over an hour in the gymnasium filled with juniors and seniors. It was a great learning opportunity for students.

Nine students at Hillsdale High School serve in the Future Corps Club led by Mindy Eggleston and Jenny Duff. Eggleston said it is the Future Corps mission to have 100 percent of graduating se-

niors leaving school with a plan, whether it is a traditional college, the military, a trade school, or a full time job. So far the group has hosted: College Application Month, How to Pay for College Night, and a FAFSA party. In February they will host Scholarship Application Week and on May 2nd they will host Decision Day.

## FAVORITE WINTER ACTIVITIES

By Sophia Chen '17

The winter season can seem like no fun at all, due to the shorter days and cold weather. It might even be the worst season to some. But there are many ways to make winter more fun, (especially on snow days) instead of being cooped up indoors staring at your cell phone or TV screens.

One activity that is a common favorite among students includes snowboarding, skiing and sledding. With the recent 8+ inches of snow this past week, it seems like the perfect reason to get outside! Some students' favorite snowboarding and ski resort is located in Boyne Falls, Michigan.

Of course, everyone's favorite part about the winter season is the holidays. Following Thanksgiving, there are so many more things to look forward to. For students, it means winter break. Christmas is the season of giving; make the most of it and enjoy the holidays!

## SCHOLARSHIPS - WORTH THE EFFORT

by Mindy Eggleston

After the holidays it will be time for seniors to begin working on scholarship applications. The Hillsdale County Community Foundation (<http://www.abouthccf.org>) has an entire booklet with hundreds of scholarships up for grabs. The applications are due by March 1, 2017. You must complete the application, write an essay, and complete your FAFSA in order to apply. Don't worry though, the Future Corps team will be here to help you through the process. February 6-10, 2017, during 3rd period, seniors will be called down to Mrs. Eggleston's computer lab to attend a "scholarship workshop." Susan Stout from the HCCF will be there to give you her "Tips and Tricks" speech for winning scholarships. However you could start now during holiday break. Get a jump on the competition and start working on your essay. A good essay will have three main components: (1) your story, (2) your evidence, and (3) your big statement. You can write about your background, identity, interest, or talent, you could write about a lesson you learned from failing, you could describe a problem you've solved or a problem you'd like to solve, or you could even discuss an accomplishment or event. Start by brainstorming, let your first draft flow (write, write, write), then do some "goldmining" (pick out key points), find a creative angle, tell a story, be specific, showcase your qualities and be honest. After you have a working rough draft GET SOME FEEDBACK. The teachers at HHS are pretty wonderful . . . I know that they will take time to read your essay and give you feedback. Lastly please don't forget to proofread. There is nothing worse than submitting an essay with silly spelling or grammatical

mistakes. Mistakes could cost you hundreds of dollars.

Lastly, I just want to point out a simple fact . . . if you spend two hours working on a scholarship and you win \$500, you just earned \$250/hour for your time. If you work a summer job at \$10/hour, it will take you fifty hours to make \$500 (and that doesn't include the taxes they take out of you paycheck). I'm just saying, what does it hurt? If you don't try for a scholarship, you definitely won't win one!

## THE RIGHT COLLEGE

1. Learn what's out there. Jump online to read college guides. Attend local college fairs and information sessions.

2. Take a closer look. Browse college Web sites for information on academic requirements and student life. Create a chart with a row for each school and a column for each feature (size, cost, admission requirements). Request brochures and catalogs from schools you're interested in.

3. Develop a list. Finally, narrow down your choices. Come up with a list that includes a few "safety" schools (those you should get into), "target" schools (ones with a 50/50 chance of being accepted), and "reach" schools (schools you like but might be tough to get into).

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