



# The Wildcat Crier



March Issue 2018

## Underdog Takes the Leading Role in the Musical

by Aona Williams

Betcha five dollars!

What better way to get someone to do something for you than to bribe them, especially with money. This is how Erica Stophel bribed Evan Antes to join the spring musical. Erica Stophel is student producer of the musical *Once On This Island*, and her job is to do whatever Mrs. Rosco needs to have done. Being that they desperately needed guys to audition, Erica’s plan worked out perfectly.

Evan, who has never held a leading role, decided to take Erica up on her five dollar bet. This shocked everyone, because although she had been serious, she didn’t think that Evan would actually follow through with it. “I thought he would for sure bail, but he proved me wrong, and I couldn’t be happier about it,” says Erica.

Since this is his last year in high school, he decided to take a risk. Luckily, this was a win-win for the both of them. Although, he didn’t receive the five dollars, because she spent it at lunch, he did land the leading male role and Erica got a guy to audition.

The musical he is starring in is based off a 1985 novel by Rosa Guy, entitled *My Love, My Love*. This story tells of how people living on an island lives are influenced by their choices and societal limits. At the center of the story is Ti Moune, who is played by Brooke Bannister.

Ti Moune is a poor peasant orphan who is saved by the gods of the island and sent on a special journey. During her journey, she rescues Evan’s character, Daniel Beauxhomme, who has been in a car accident.

Ultimately, Ti Moune falls for Daniel. In order to save his life, she has to make an agreement with the god of death—her life in exchange for his. After traveling to find him with hopes of becoming a part of his rich world, she discovers that he betrayed her and she is now forced to choose between love and death.

Every day (except for Thursdays), Evan rehearses from 2:30-5:30 for his leading role. Rehearsals for him are fun and he says that performing gives him a feeling of adrenaline, especially when it’s done the right way. If he just so happens to do it the wrong way, he says that he “feels like garbage,” but the good thing is his co-star and Mrs. Rosco are there to help.

Evan’s co-star and lover in the musical, Brooke, has been performing since 8<sup>th</sup> and starred as Dorothy in the *Wizard of Oz*. Brooke and Evan have known each other since middle school and work well together, especially because of her experience.

Sometimes, being new to the stage causes a performer to develop a lot of nerves, which might affect them on the day of the performance. This is not a worry for Brooke, because she says, “once we are on stage, everything falls into place, and

Mrs. Rosco is really awesome at working with us and pushing us to be the best we can be.”

Having the leading role isn’t always easy, especially for first timers like Evan. Erica says, “he’s been a little nervous, but he’s been more than willing to listen and learn everything Mrs. Rosco is teaching him because Mama knows best.”

Who would have known that a five dollar bet could lead to something as big as this? This just goes to show that it’s best to step out and take risk. Who knows, something great might come as a result. For instance, look at Evan; he had never been in a leading role, but he took a chance and it paid off.

If you are interested in seeing the musical, *Once On This Island* will be performed on April 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 and Saturday the 14<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 and 7:30.



The cast of *Once On This Island* includes thirty-three students in grades 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> as well as two elementary students in 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade!

Photo courtesy of Brooke Bannister.

# Seth Fuller is Full of Excellence

by Haley D. Novak

Senior Seth Fuller has completed his last PMEA (Pennsylvania Music Education Association) Regional Festival after participating in nine total festivals throughout high school. Seth is well known in the school as well as state wide for his musical accomplishments. Seth has won the PMEA All-State Festival twice. Although he didn't enter All-States this year, his achievements have made a lasting impression.

PMEA (Pennsylvania Music Education Association) is a music competition whose main focus is to improve the musical development of Pennsylvanians. The process starts with a strict audition in which they perform a piece in front of a panel of judges who determine whether they can continue. They practice for two hours a day for a few weeks. After practicing, the students perform in a concert for judges and parents. Afterwards, the judges determine which student musicians will move on to the next level of festivals. Seth has participated in nine festivals as a high school student, with three regional wins and two All-State wins.

Managing to accomplish this proved Seth's musical ability to himself and everyone around him. Seth has also participated in East Allegheny's marching band, indoor percussion, orchestra, concert band, and musical. Seth continuously impacts the music department with his talent and dedication.

Band teacher Mr. Rosco describes Seth as kind and supportive and even goes as far as saying "if I could clone him, I would." He says Seth is a good role model and leader for the other band students.

One student in particular who Seth has had a great impact on is Aidan Foscoe. Aidan spends the majority of his Wednesdays and Saturdays with Seth. He describes Seth as funny, kind, and accepting to everyone. Aidan considers Seth to be a role model to him because of his outstanding leadership skills; he even says that he would like to be like him one day.

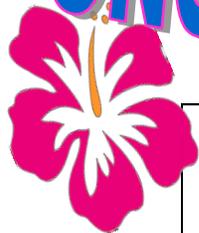
Despite how easy it may seem for Seth to accomplish these things, it has not always been so simple for him. Seth had to balance his advanced classes such as Honors Chemistry II, AP English, and Calculus, while practicing the multiple instruments he plays for hours. This impressive list of instruments includes the marimba, vibraphone, and the string bass. Throughout all of this, his mother has been the most supportive person standing behind him. When he first joined band, he wanted to quit because the workload was too much for him. His mom encouraged him to keep at it until the end of the season. Today, Seth's grateful of his mom's advice because he's had a great four years and has made some lasting friendships.

Seth Fuller is an example of a model student. His accomplishments in band and academics have set him apart from the average high schooler. For his younger peers in band, it will be hard to say goodbye, but Seth is moving ahead in life and not looking back.



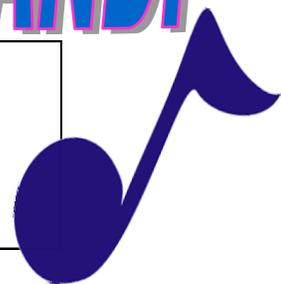
Not only did Seth compete in the PMEA Regional Festival, but he is also in the school's musical, *Once On This Island!*

# ONCE ON THIS ISLAND!

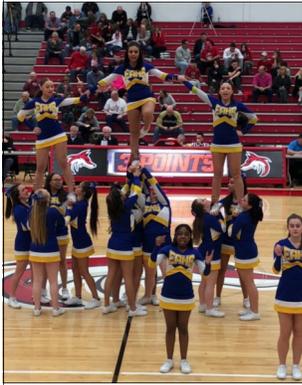


April 12th, 13th, and 14th at  
7:30

Matinee April 14th at 2:00



# Congratulations to the Girls Basketball Team!



# Section Champs, WPIAL Finalists, and PIAA Semifinalists!

# The Wildcat Crier Book Drive



**Look at all these books, oh my!**



**One for every girl and guy!**



The Wildcat Crier and students at Logan collected over a thousand books for Read Across America Day. That same day, TFIM went to Logan and read to the students. Each child left with a book and a smile on their face!

# Read Across America

# New Club for Students in STEM

by Abby Delisi

Mrs. Spallone and Ms. Sippey have created a new club for students interested in STEM, which is a growing education movement that treats science, technology, engineering, and mathematics as one cohesive subject that can be applied to the real world. STEM fields range from bio-medical engineering to designing video games. These innovative fields are at the center of the country's economy and in high demand, with around a 65% increase in jobs before 2020.

Ms. Sippey says the STEM Club was brought to EA to "expose our students to the ever-advancing world of STEM so they will be more prepared for the 21<sup>st</sup> century workforce."

President of the STEM Club, Starr DeJesus, decided to join when Ms. Sippey talked to her about it. She says that Ms. Sippey "always talks to me and pushes me to do better, and [she] suggested I join the club to see if I would enjoy it." Starr, as well as many other students, are using this amazing opportunity to gain information about colleges and careers.

Junior Brandon Hallick says, "it's good to look into your future if you're unsure, so unless you've got a solid plan, [the STEM Club is] definitely something to look into."

The STEM Club meets almost every week to hear from a guest speaker. Ms. Sippey and Mrs. Spallone find people that work in fields that the students are interested in, such as chemical engineering. Recently, a geologist spoke to the students about her career, and she brought in a device that measures toxic amounts of materials in the ground.

If you don't know what career to pursue or what college is good for you, Evan Walker recommends you "come to a STEM Club meeting and find out!"

Not only is the STEM Club a great opportunity to learn about STEM fields, but it's also a great opportunity to learn about your peers! Sophomore Chloe Threets says the best thing about STEM club is that "it brings people with common interests together to make friends."

So far, 40 students have joined the STEM Club, and new people are always welcome to come to a meeting if they're interested.

Starr says exciting things will be happening next year if more people join, such as building robots and battling them! She also says that she "would love to have more girls in STEM Club."

"The future is now, so you better be prepared," Ms. Sippey says. "You could have a job in a field that doesn't exist today."

If you would like to come to a STEM Club meeting, be sure to listen to the announcements to hear about any future topics for the meetings. If you're interested in learning more about one of the topics, stay after school for the meeting, which will be held in Ms. Sippey or Mrs. Spallone's room. STEM is an amazing movement, and thanks to the new STEM Club, it's a movement you can be a part of.



STEM Club holds meetings depending upon their guest speakers' schedules.

Check their website with the QR code (right) for their event schedule.

Upcoming events and meetings are also sent through Remind. Text @eastemclub to 81010 to sign up. Students can also visit Mrs. Spallone in room 222 or Ms. Sippey in room 115 for more information.



## Join Today!

# Trevor Meets World: Volume 2

## Trevor Meets Basketball

by Trevor Ulichnie

As March Madness approaches, all of my friends are playing pickup basketball at the Y. The problem is, I want to play but I'm terrible at basketball! Not only am I not good at playing basketball, I'm not even sure I know how to play basketball. Sometimes I shoot outside on my friend's hoop; I have a pretty mean floater. Unfortunately, it air balls 95 percent of the time. I need to get better before March Madness is over so I don't miss the chance to dog on my boys at the Y.



I have watched YouTube videos on how to perfect my form to make my shot better. After about three days, I have gotten absolutely nowhere. I think my arms are getting toned from practicing so much, but sadly I've still missed the hoop almost every time. I'm afraid my chance to show my skills will pass because I haven't found them yet!

I then went to the option of using a girl's basketball, thinking because it's smaller than a boys basketball, it would be easier to shoot. Well, I was wrong; it made no difference in my shot.

I was completely out of options at this point, with nowhere to turn. I couldn't ask my friends, that would be really embarrassing for me. But who could I possibly ask?

Then I remembered, the boy's basketball team won their section for the first time since 1967. I could ask them! I know they could give me enough pointers to help elevate my baller skills before the end of the March Madness Tournament.

**Dress the part:** Jiggy Leek explained to me that you must bring "the swag" onto the court in order to ball. Never wear ankle socks. You have to find the perfect length between your calf and ankle; tube socks are a no-no. Also, rolling up your shorts and wearing arm sleeves are reserved for established buckets.

**Confidence is key:** "Be confident," said Leek, "if you don't know what you're doing and you look like it, you in trouble." Being assertive on the court is one of the most crucial steps to being a "certified bucket."

**Practice dribbling:** As the great TJ Banks once said, "if you're in 11<sup>th</sup> grade and can still only dribble with your right hand, why are you still hoopin'?" I also learned that there is a fine line between enough and way too much dribbling. You should only dribble if you really have to.

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**Play defense:** You know that old saying your dad told you when he coached your midget games? "Defense wins championships. Being able to play defense is just as important as playing offense. When you are covering an opponent who can't shoot, give him space (but not too much). Sometimes, you might have to throw the clamps on ya boy. He ain't going nowhere once you put the lock on him.

**Be Civil:** Ignore the trash talk and be civil with your opponents. Jiggy Leek said "you have to have a short term memory on the court." If you let your opponents or the crowd distract you, it will ruin your game.

I took all of these lessons and all the advice and put it into effect. Dribbling with both hands was difficult, but now I can somewhat dribble with my left hand. Most importantly, I worked on my "jelly" shot. It's not as good as Buddah's, but I'm doing my best.

Thanks to the boys' basketball team I can now shoot threes on my neighbor's five foot hoop. Now it's time to go to the Y and put my boys in the mixer. I'll show them who the true dog really is.



# Martell Stewart Commits to Slippery Rock University

by Trevor Ulichnie

Soccer Star and the OG “Honcho Jack” Martell Stewart recently chose Slippery Rock University to continue his athletic and educational career. Martell received an athletic scholarship from Slippery Rock worth \$5,000! Slippery Rock wasn’t his only option though; he also had offers from California University, Washington & Jefferson, and Mount Aloysius. Martell plans on majoring in physical fitness management while he is attending Slippery Rock University. He chose Slippery Rock over the three other college options because “they’re a really good team” and Martell “knows them well.”



“Honcho Jack” dribbles the ball down the field against his opponents!

Once Martell heads off to college, his goals for himself are to “fight for playing time” and “get good grades” before he starts having fun.

Martell didn’t always think soccer would be his thing; he didn’t know if he could make a career out of it or even get scholarships. While playing for his former middle school team, the Penn Hills Predators, Martell finally realized that he could. In that game, he scored his first career hat-trick and knew the dream was alive.

Martell has had a successful and memorable high school career. One of his favorite moments took place last year on senior night in a game against Keystone Oaks. Martell remembers that night because his teammate Brandon Hallick (aka Boots) scored in double overtime and won the game.

Martell looked back on his high school career and thought about who motivated him the most and the coaches who helped him along the way. Out of everyone though, he’ll never forget EA soccer coaches Mr. Miller and Miss Hilbert.

“They could never give you compliments. They always kept you on your toes and made you better, and they always made fun of me for falling,” said Martell.

Coach Hilbert will look back on him as a “very hard working player and dedicated captain. He was the person to motivate the boys.”

Martell Stewart is appreciated by his teammates and coaches. He’ll never forget his “19202122” connection, which are the numbers of his teammates Brandon and Bradley Hallick, Michael McAnalley, and himself. The freshmen will always remember Martell; they saw him as a very “inspirational” and “motivational” player.

Freshman Zach Smith said “Martell was like a father figure.”

Zach says Martell was “very motivational, when [the team was] down, he picked us up.”

Out of everything and everyone though, Martell says he’ll miss being on the field, soccer camp, and “hearing Miller scream to us about not tucking in our shirts.” Martell says he loves his teammates and will “definitely miss them a lot.” As Martell is getting ready to graduate and continue his career at Slippery Rock University he has one final message to deliver to his teammates: “winners train, losers complain. The sky is the limit.”

## Horoscopes

by Madi Jarnot, Haley D. Novak, and Abby Delisi

**Aries (March 21-April 19):** It’s your time to shine! Take this time to appreciate the people around you, and the opportunities you are given. You’ll have your fair share of gloomy days, but don’t let that bring you down. Your energy can brighten even the rainiest days!

**Taurus (April 20-May 20):** Instead of embracing your friends, you tend to control them. Learn to love them without being overbearing, and don’t forget about loving yourself. Your indecisiveness and over-practicality is holding you back. This will be a difficult year if you don’t learn to let loose.

**Gemini (May 21-June 20):** Take time to learn about the people around you. Misunderstandings can tear people apart. Learn to support and love others even if they’re different. Another person’s perspective can help you understand a lot more.

**Cancer (June 21-July 22):** Focus on yourself. You must think about the consequences of your actions before you act on an instinct. Don’t let emotions control your thoughts.

**Leo (July 23-August 22):** Take some time out of the spotlight. Keep to yourself, and embrace the life you have lived so far. Not everything needs to be so detail oriented. Let things happen naturally, and appreciate them as they come.

**Virgo (August 23-September 22):** Take a step back and think about what’s going on in your life. If things aren’t exactly how you’d like them to be, it isn’t out of your control. But don’t fret about the details. Enjoy the big things instead of trying to perfect the small things.

**Libra (September 23-October 22):** Although you think you’re doing all you can to have a peaceful life, your stubbornness is holding you back from truly having harmony. Let others guide you sometimes. You never know, they may lead you places you could never find alone.

**Scorpio (October 23-November 21):** Don’t feel the need to be in charge of all the variables. You’ll quickly find yourself at the end of an empty rainbow. Make sure to get out all your feelings and not keep them inside. We don’t need any angry leprechauns!

**Sagittarius (November 22-December 21):** Calm down and treasure the opportunities that are presented to you. These chances only come every so often, so take advantage while you can. Appreciate moments instead of objects. You won’t have them forever.

**Capricorn (December 22-January 19):** Open your mind and experience new things! You will never know how good something is until you take a chance. You might even end up enjoying it more than you’d ever imagine.

**Aquarius (January 20-February 18):** Although things haven’t been going your way recently, things are looking up! Stand your ground, and don’t let people walk all over you. Take control and embrace life. This will be your month!

**Pisces (February 19-March 20):** This month will be stressful. You’ll feel exhausted, but you’ll handle it. You have strong relationships with the people you are close with. This will help to make the spring season full of happiness and prosperity.

# Child Development Program Changes East Allegheny Seniors



Connor stayed afterschool to help chaperone Logan's Valentine's Day dance and pose for a few photos with Mrs. Yusko's class along the way!  
Photo courtesy of Connor Kieffer.

by Madi Jarnot

Connor Kieffer hates kids. Except the ones he teaches.

Connor is a senior who enrolled in the Child Development Program this semester. He wasn't planning on participating, but he was invited because of his GPA and good record. At first, Connor expected to be annoyed by "snot-nosed, crying babies" the entire time. Now, he even stays at Logan after school and loves teaching there!

Child Development is a program which pairs seniors with a teacher at Logan to help in their classroom. Invited students travel up the hill for their gym period to help teachers grade assignments, introduce lessons, and provide more individualized attention for students with need. Each day, they write in a daily log about what they've done and observed. Upon completing the semester, the student writes and teaches their own lesson for the class, which is reviewed by the principals.

Junior high school Principal Mr. Draskovich created this program with the goal of helping high school seniors learn about kids—whether it was their future students, their siblings, their family members, or their own children.

"It's a lot of responsibility ... when you give [students] this responsibility, they thrive." Mr. Draskovich believes this sense of duty and maturity is what impacts seniors the most after participating.

Connor agrees the program teaches students things about younger kids and responsibility. He's learned that "not every kid needs a hand to hold the whole time. A lot of them just want to know that someone sees them

and hears them. It gives them hope."

Connor hoped to be "a good influence and a role model" for the younger students, and Mrs. Yusko agrees he's achieved that. "I always try to be fun and different," said Connor. "I want to show the students there isn't a bar to meet or any expectations. You have to be yourself, and I think showing them that makes me a role model."

"His positive attitude permeates to the students," said Mrs. Yusko.

Although he doesn't plan on becoming a teacher, Connor knows this program has helped him understand his own field more. He plans on majoring in Communications and Marketing in college, which he knows "goes hand-in-hand" with what he's learned about interacting with the students in Mrs. Yusko's class. Having an "attentive" audience in the classroom helps Connor build confidence and practice vital communication and presentation skills.

Connor has "learned that there's so many different ways for someone to understand you and connect with you." His experiences in the class have also helped him outside of school, such as in his Studio G dance classes. Connor has been dancing for nearly twelve years and choreographing for three. When showing younger dance students new choreography, he's now able to teach them in more effective ways.

He wants other students to know East Allegheny "has a lot more than we think." Next year, Child Development will be a semester-long course available for seniors.

"This is a great opportunity," he said, as doing something like this after high school is difficult. "You can't just walk into any classroom and student teach."

Connor believes that anyone with interest in the program should try it, because "it benefits you and the kids. They see you, as a high schooler, like a superhero."



Connor wants every student with interest to participate in the program because "you'll regret not doing it."