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VOLUME III ISSUE II  
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# BERLIN UPDATE

## Is this really the end?

By Becca Wenig

The countdown begins. Some scientists say that on Dec. 21, 2012 the world will end. There are several different reasons this year is predicted to be humanity's last year to live.

According to [www.bu-buruza.com](http://www.bu-buruza.com), solar experts say there have been solar storms occurring that give off too much radiation energy. This has led to power grids being knocked out and satellites destroyed.

This activity is predicted to get worse and reach a deadly peak sometime in 2012.

On the same website, scientists and religious scholars proclaim different reasons the world may end. Scientists, through research, say that natural causes, including magnetic pulls and a super volcano eruption could also end the world. The most important predictor according to archeologists, is the Mayan Calendar.

Centuries ago, accord-

ing to mayan-calendar.com, Mayans hypothesized the lunar calendar has "29.53" days in one month. By being so accurate with the prediction of how many days are in a month, they could possibly be correct with the marking of the end of the world.

There have been many false dates for when the world would end, from the death of the last apostle John in the New Testament to the end of the Mayan Calendar in 2012.

The question still remains, is this really the end?

What's the one thing you want to do before the world ends?



"See what's left of the Seven Wonders of the World," junior Bethany Hietpas said.

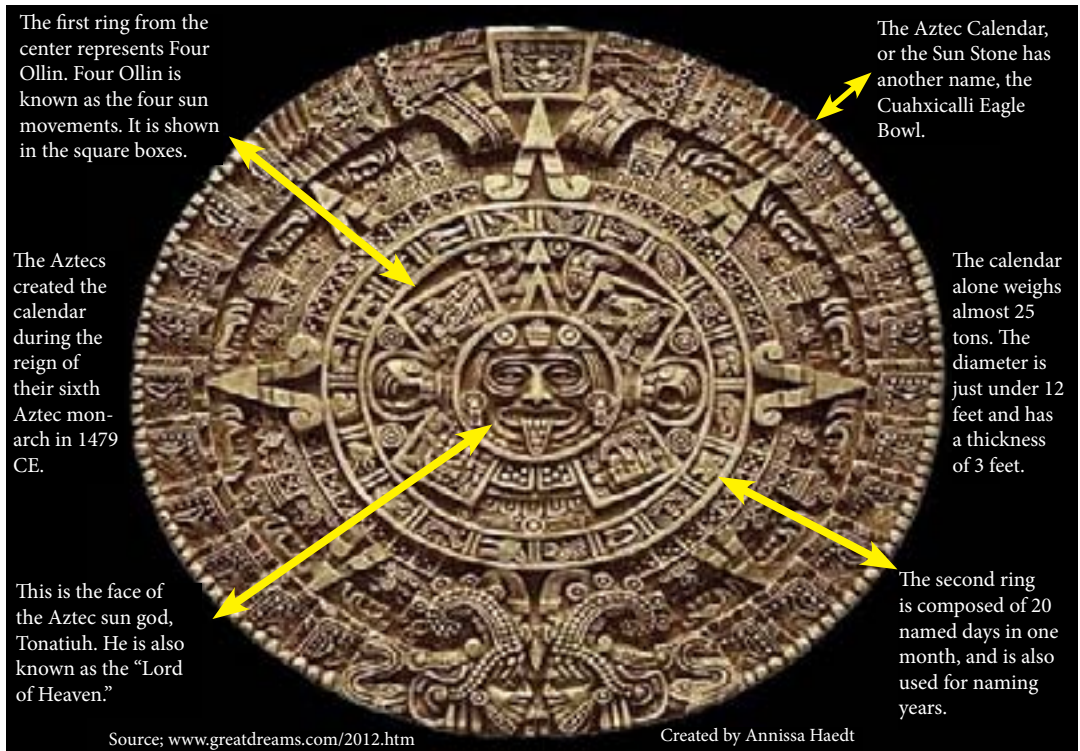


"I would want to go to a Packer game," freshman Alex Konen said.



"I want to go skydiving," sophomore Stephanie Klika said.

Photos and text by Becca Wenig



The first ring from the center represents Four Ollin. Four Ollin is known as the four sun movements. It is shown in the square boxes.

The Aztec Calendar, or the Sun Stone has another name, the Cuauhxicalli Eagle Bowl.

The Aztecs created the calendar during the reign of their sixth Aztec monarch in 1479 CE.

The calendar alone weighs almost 25 tons. The diameter is just under 12 feet and has a thickness of 3 feet.

This is the face of the Aztec sun god, Tonatiuh. He is also known as the "Lord of Heaven."

The second ring is composed of 20 named days in one month, and is also used for naming years.

# A day in the LIFE

After morning announcements, the class watches their favorite weatherman, Pete Petoniak, give the weekly forecast while filling out the corresponding worksheet. After special education teacher Michelle Gregor corrects the sheet with them, Wyatt clips a clothespin to a sheet with the alphabet listed on it. As he matches the letters, he thinks of a unique word to go with that letter.



“C is for chump!”

“G is for galoshes!”

“D is for delightful!”

At the beginning of third hour, Wyatt punches in to work. Each student in the class has his own special job. His assigned job is to fill the water machine and flatten boxes that were used in the kitchen. Wyatt’s personality really shines when he is working because he can take something as simple as a box and turn it into something hilarious. Whether it is an imitation of a robot, an alien or an astronaut floating throughout space, Wyatt can do it all perfectly.



As part of his Employment Skills class, Wyatt does the laundry for Karen Macaulay’s foods class. He uses the body parts that he learned in biology and applies it to the washing machine. He loads the digestive system with the dirty towels and aprons and pours the detergent into the esophagus. Then Wyatt puts the epiglottis (the cover) onto the esophagus and presses the start button to let the gastric juices (the water) to fill the machine. While the washing machine is running, he folds all of the clean laundry.



# of Wyatt Kutchenriter



Their Employment Skills class is graded on the quality of the work that they do. Their attitude, how well they focus on the task, how well they work with others and their appearance plays a part in their grade, too. Before Wyatt gets paid every two weeks from his jobs at school, he and all of the students set goals for themselves about what they want to do with their money.

Wyatt is never shy about what foods he does and does not like. Often times, teacher assistants Amy Wagner and Jody Congdon joke with him about how he should get pasta bar for lunch that day. Wyatt clearly points out he does not want it when he says, “I hate pasta!” One of his favorite foods is bacon, and he loves the banana ice cream that they make during class.



On Thursdays, Wyatt, Sean and Isaiah have phy ed class in the cardio room. They always begin with 15 minutes on the treadmill before moving on to other activities. If Wyatt does well, he gets to watch his favorite television channel, Cartoon Network. If someone were to ask Wyatt about any fact relating to the cartoons, he can answer it without fail.



“The first Tom & Jerry episode premiered in 1940.” - Wyatt K.

# New Year, New Resolutions

## What is your New Year's Resolution for 2012?



"My New Year's Resolution is to get my grades up enough to get on the honor roll," sophomore Trevor Dawson said.

"My New Year's Resolution is not to judge people before I get a chance to know them," senior Sadie Henkel said.



"This year, I really want to put more time into dance to get better at it," freshman Breanna Staranowicz said.

"To eat fewer calories per day and to exercise more," science teacher Pat Ardnt said.



Photos and text by Lauren Schmidt

## Student teachers explore foreign boundaries

By Payton DeMaster

Five local student teachers were ambitious enough to take on the task of teaching in Australia.

Not only are these student teachers local, but one, Max Finger, is placed at Berlin High School.

"I wanted to broaden my horizons. While I'm still young, I thought it was time. It was now or never," Finger said.

Going to Australia, the student teachers did not know what to expect, but these five have gained more than just teaching skills.

"I learned which plants are good to eat or for medicine and what animals are easiest to catch," fellow student teacher in Australia, Alyssa Sigler, said. Schools in America and

Australia are fairly different in terms of teaching styles, cultures, nationalities and, of course, accents.

"The accents and slang were a hoot. The kids laughed at mine, while I tried to learn and mimic theirs," Sigler said.

Finger also found out how different the teaching styles were.

"Kids didn't use textbooks and the materials were taught differently," Finger said.

Seeing great teachers in action encouraged these student teachers to teach not just in Australia, but overall.

"By having a few exceptional teachers, I know the positive impact a teacher can have, and I hope to have that same positive impact on a student," fellow student teacher in Australia, Brooke Deans, said.



Student teacher Max Finger taught an English class to eighth graders at Guyra Central School, Australia.

Finger has the same kind of feeling about teaching that Deans does.

"I feel like classes are under appreciated and I want students to feel the same passion for them that I had," Finger said.

Deans, Sigler and Finger all had positive experiences during this trip, but most importantly, they learned some new tips for teach-

ing. "There were so many new experiences and opportunities that I'm still thinking, learning and teaching about," Sigler said.

Finger's thoughts about teaching in Australia were similar.

"I learned new ways to teach, and understand the expectations," Finger said.

# Juniors talk about their future

By Kinsey Harmon

As people talk about the New Year and a fresh start in their lives, juniors are encouraged to open their minds and discuss what their future holds.

The junior meetings started Jan. 9 and continue through Feb. 28. All parents are invited and encouraged to meet with the guidance counselors and discuss their child's future.

"We discuss many things about the student's future; junior and senior year the stakes are higher," Guidance Counselor Matt Willett said. "As guidance counselors, we try to send the students in the right direction. The future is here and now for these juniors."

Willett likes the meetings because valuable information is given, and



Junior Emma Hargrave discusses college and career plans with Guidance Counselor Matt Willett.

the parents respond very positively to learning more about their child's situation and what they should do to help them prepare for schooling.

Senior Kelsey Gonyo agrees that the meetings were both helpful and reassuring about where she was with her plans.

"It made me feel more

relaxed about college. Mrs. Ragus told me not to stress if I wasn't sure about what college to go to, and what major I wanted to pursue. The meeting also helped my parents and I get on the same page about what I wanted to do," Gonyo said.

Juniors are excited to learn more about their

options for school including what majors to pursue and how to stay financially upright while finding ways to pay for college.

"I really want to learn about the costs of different schools, and I also want to learn about credits and how they work," junior Emma Hargrave said. "Finally, I want to learn about what classes I should be taking that will correspond with my major or minor."

Parents seem to appreciate the meetings, but after a survey and more input from parents, faculty has made one small change to the length of the meetings. Instead of being 25-30 minutes, they are now 40 minutes. This allows parents and students to ask all of the questions that they feel necessary.

## Departments expand class choices



### Business (all 1/2 credit)

- Social Media U Web 2.0, 1/2 credit, Luke Konrath
- Preparing for College and Future, 1/2 credit, Therese Tuinstra-Blunk



### English

- Contemporary American Literature, 1/2 CAPP credit, Shannon Kuehmichel



### Math

- (possible) Stats and Probability, full CAPP credit, Shawn Manata
- (possible) Pre Calculus, full CAPP credit, Eric Marquardt



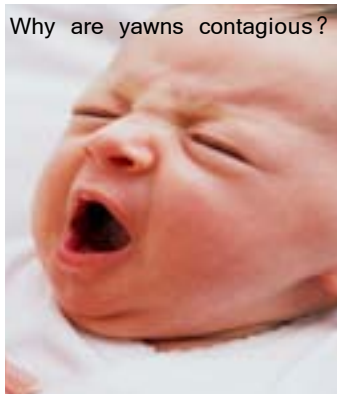
### Music

- Percussion Techniques, 1/2 credit, Ben Ruetten



### Technology and Engineering (all 1/2 credit)

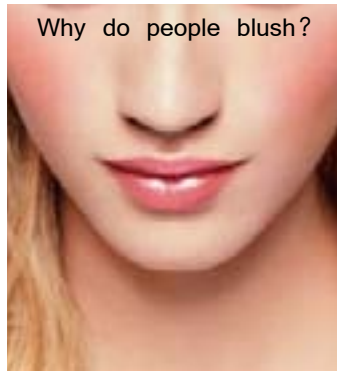
- CAD 2D, Marty Wenig
- Solid Works 3D Design, Marty Wenig
- Honors Furniture Design and Cabinet Making, Marty Wenig
- Advanced Engine Technology, Joel Johansen
- Honors Advanced Photography, Joel Johansen
- Honors Graphic Communications Management, Joel Johansen



Why are yawns contagious?

Ever been in a group of people when one person yawns and suddenly, everyone feels the urge to yawn? Studies show that yawning when others yawn is a sign of empathy and a form of social bonding. It could relieve stress after a period of being on high alert and bring a calm feeling to a group of people.

Source: news.discovery.com/



Why do people blush?

Whoah, what just happened? That was so embarrassing! Blushing and embarrassment go hand in hand. Do not worry, feeling flushed is a natural response to sudden self-consciousness. When a person is embarrassed, his body releases adrenaline. This causes one's blood vessels to dilate, and one's face to redden.

Source: tlc.howstuffworks.com/



Why does hair turn gray?

Ever wonder why the old woman across the street has gray hair? There is bad news; gray hair happens to everyone. Melanin creates the color in hair, and as a person ages, the cells that carry melanin begin to die. Cells continue to die and eventually all of the hair becomes gray.

Source: kidshealth.org/



Why do people sleep talk?

Sleep talking is an unusual sleep behavior. As a person sleeps, there is a pattern that the body follows every night. At one point the body is caught between being awake and being in a deep sleep. A person begins talking almost as if he is totally awake when he is not.

Source: psychologytoday.com/

Created by Kinsey Harmon

# Drive safe in winter weather

By Lauren Schmidt

Earning a driver's license is a big deal to most teenagers. Some would argue that 16 is too young to drive because of the fact that they are simply inexperienced drivers.

Safety and inexperience become even bigger issues during the winter months, especially in Wisconsin where there is normally a lot of snow and ice on the roads.

Senior Maria Rhein knows about driving in the snow.

"I've had my license for a little over two years and have never had an accident until earlier this year," Rhein said.

Rhein's accident happened around a corner driving into town.

"I was driving to school on Dec. 12 and I came around a corner in the country by my house

when I hit a patch of black ice and lost control of my vehicle. I ended up in the ditch, and I hit another car that was already in the ditch because they hit the same patch of ice," Rhein said.

Driving in snow and ice is something that everyone will do sooner or later, and it is important to know what to do if a situation like this presents itself.

"It is important for students, and everyone for that matter, to know that black ice could be anywhere and to not slam on the brakes," Driving Instructor Deb Fyler said.

Driving in snow is considered safer than driving on black ice, although both could become deadly.

"I tell students all the time not to slam on their brakes when they hit a patch of black ice. The most important thing to do is not panic and to stay in control of

your vehicle," Fyler said.

Fyler educates new drivers on how to handle potentially hazardous Wisconsin weather.

"I always tell new drivers that they need to be safe and that they should not even go out and drive if the conditions are bad and if it is not necessary to go anywhere," Fyler said.

Freshman Maddie Blazel is taking a driver's ed class now and has already learned a little about safe winter driving.

"We have not learned that much about winter driving but our instructor, Jeff Muchmore, taught us that it is better to drive slower and not to slam on our brakes," Blazel said.



After Rhein's accident last year, she now keeps various supplies in her 'hick mobile' as Rhein referred to her car, in case of another accident.

### Supplies that will come in handy in a winter emergency:

- Blankets
- Extra clothing
- Flares
- Cell phone charger
- Jumper Cables
- Ice Scraper
- Sand
- Shovel
- Flashlight
- Food

# Students take new direction

By Becca Wenig

STAND (Students Taking a New Direction) Groups are starting. They are for students who want to learn about things like how to prepare for college or how to make healthy choices. It also deals with more personal topics such as students who are involved in abusive relationships or students who are trying to cope with the loss of a loved one.

Math teacher Kay Rossow is one of the leaders of a STAND Group. She has been part of it for 10 years. "I have done several dif-

ferent topics from anger management to personal issues, and currently I'm doing College 101. It is a very fun group of students to teach," Rossow said.

Rossow thinks every student who participates in STAND will get something out of it.

"The students always have a variety of things to learn about. From what I know, every student that has been part of STAND has gotten a positive experience out of it," Rossow said.

Senior Brianna Gunka is part of the College 101 group.

"This is my first year of

being in STAND. I wanted to be more aware of what college life was like so that when I go to college, I would know what to expect," Gunka said.

STAND Group sessions usually run from 35 to 40 minutes during first hour.

"This has been the second week now of STAND and I am learning a lot. It is very informative and you always get honest answers," Gunka said.

Even though this is Gunka's first year in STAND she thinks it has been very helpful.

"STAND gives a person a very positive look on things. It helps a lot," Gunka said.

### Topics for STAND

- Alcohol, Tobacco, Other Drug Awareness/Concerned Persons
- College 101
- Gone but Not Forgotten
- We Are in This Together
- Healthy Living
- Personal Issues

# Students prepare to enter work force

By Baylee Radke

At Berlin High School, students can take classes that will ready them for college or for entering the work force after graduation.

"The Work Based Study class is a really good opportunity to make the transition into life after high school because you get more out of working than just pay," Director of Instruction Jodi Becker said.

After taking the Work-Based Readiness course as a pre-requisite, seniors can take the Work Based Learning class.

"I took this class so I would be able to work more and get some extra money," senior Evan Beulen said.

If seniors already have a job, they can take the class and work either first or fifth hour each day. They keep a log of how many hours they worked and turn it in every two weeks.

"More boys take the course because statistically they have more jobs outside of school. There are some students who work up to 32 hours every week," Becker said.

Students are graded on how many hours they worked per every two weeks, and the coordinator evaluates them twice a trimester.

"My favorite thing about the class is getting the early release, especially if I do not have to work that day. Generally, I work outside doing jobs for my dad," senior Sean Gross said.



Senior Andy Krueger hands in his work log to Coordinator Jodi Becker. Students have to hand them in every two weeks.

This class can be taken every trimester for a half credit, and close to 60 students are enrolled in the course every year.

Even though seniors are working, barely any of them have had to drop the class to focus more on school.

"I try to make sure that I am not busy with school

so then I can focus more on the work aspect," Gross said.

Beulen uses a slightly different method when it comes to balancing school and work.

"I usually do my homework during school hours so that it does not get in the way of work or other things," Beulen said.

# Student Council fundraises for student body

By Shayla Ferrel

Throughout 2011, Berlin High School went through some tough struggles, affecting multiple people. Student Council took a look at the situations and decided something needed to happen.

"We saw people going through so much. We knew we needed to do something to help," Student Council member Sadie Obrigewitch said.

In the beginning of the school year Obrigewitch and fellow Student Council member Brianna Gunka were first approached by a student in need of help.

"I was approached about helping a local breast cancer patient. After helping this patient, Student Council agreed

that the Student Council Lending a Hand (SCLAH) fund was the way to go," Gunka said.

After meeting many different times to get SCLAH started, Obrigewitch and Gunka were able to find a starting point with the help of Guidance Counselor Ann Ragus.

Obrigewitch and Gunka sent a letter to the school board about the idea for SCLAH and the board liked the idea and gave suggestions for improvements.

"It is going well. It is a slow process because once we came up with the idea, we had to figure out how we were going to go about the whole thing," Gunka said.

The purpose for SCLAH is to be a fundraising organization similar to the CHN fundraising pro-

gram and organizations. It is designed to help students or faculty in need of financial aid.

"Any student who applies or is nominated that fits the criteria can benefit from SCLAH. The criteria includes immediate family members in need, severe bodily injury or life threatening illness and death," Obrigewitch said.

SCLAH is going to take some time to fully plan out, but Student Council believes this fundraising organization will have great outcomes.

"Our goal for SCLAH is to first get all the kinks worked out and get it fully approved. Then, we would love to open it up to the school and help some people who really need Student Council to lend them a hand," Gunka said.

## Valentine's Day Fun Facts

\* 73% of people who buy flowers are men.

\* Over 50 million roses are given out each year.

\* 3% of pet owners give their furry friends a gift.

\* Over 36 million heart shaped boxes of chocolate are sold.

\* Men spend an average of \$130 for their dates.

\* Women provide 33% of all gifts.

\* Many believe the X symbol for kiss came from Medieval times.

\* Children receive 39% of gifts and candies.

Source: gumsugar.com

# FACE OFF:

## Should we have shorter/fewer breaks during the school year?

By Danielle Fralish

### Yes!

- Summer would be longer if breaks were shorter throughout the school year.
- We still should get breaks, just not as long.
- The longer the break is the more we will not want to come back.
- If there is a longer summer, that leaves more time for family and traveling.
- If breaks are longer, school work can be interrupted.
- Teachers can still give homework over break while they do not give homework over the summer.



By Shayla Ferrel

### No!

- We still get a summer even if we have lengthy breaks.
- The breaks throughout the school year should be longer for the sake of sanity and dealing with teachers, students and homework.
- Longer breaks allow more travel time, especially for those with family farther away.
- Shorter summers will help students retain school knowledge.
- The breaks during the year take off some stress or frustration with school work.
- Over breaks, homework can be taken home and finished just as easily as when it is assigned every night during the regular school week.

# Motivation pushes people to exercise

By Annisa Haedt

Exercise is a great way to feel better, have more energy and possibly live longer according to [www.mayoclinic.com](http://www.mayoclinic.com). The only question is, will someone get the best results by exercising with a group of people, or alone?

"Statistics prove that having at least one other person to exercise with will make a person more committed to a program," Physical Education teacher Michelle Walker said.

Whether someone is exercising in a group or alone, there will be both advantages and disadvantages. It all depends on the person to see

what works best for them.

According to [www.funfitchic.net](http://www.funfitchic.net), it is shown that exercising in a group will cause people to push themselves harder through being motivated by others.

"The majority of people will do better when exercising together. Classes are fantastic," Walker said.

When exercising alone, it allows someone to deal with their own personal demons. It can be tough to exercise at certain times and exercising alone teaches someone to not rely on others to push them to do their best, according to [www.funfitchic.net](http://www.funfitchic.net).

A down side to exercising in a group is people tend to get distracted easier by all the other

"Motivation is what gets you started. Habit is what keeps you going." - three time U.S. Olympian Jim Ryun

people. However, exercising alone can make it easier for someone to cheat and not do their best.

"In some cases, people do like exercising by themselves. If they want the best results I would say to join an exercise class," Walker said.

It all comes down to what the person prefers. If someone is not quite sure what works best, experiment by trying both ways.

### What students think Mr. Groundhog will predict this year

103 people were surveyed

