Aaron Kim, Rebecca Kim and Katie Westergren saw many of Rome’s main attractions while on the annual senior trip to Italy. Photo by Sandee Shuman.

Italy’s culture captivates seniors

BY HANNAH CARLOS

On the evening of October 1, 76 seniors boarded two buses bound for Rome. Excitement was tangible. Amidst the desperate rush to find a same gender seat partner, Black Eyed Peas’ “I’ve Got A Feeling” could be heard from somewhere in the back, and as the buses pulled out of the parking lot there where various squeals and manly grunts of approval. They were off.

After a sleepless night of sugary snacks and Italy-inspired film watching, the buses pulled into a stark parking lot underneath an overpass at 6:00 the following morning. A day in Florence ensued in which students were brought face to face with Michelangelo’s David and the awesome beauty of the Duomo Cathedral. The first pieces of pizza were eaten and too much money was spent on Gelato. Quaint alleyways were explored, magnificent old bookstores were discovered, and leather goods were purchased. It was a fun and exciting start to a wonderful week of senior bonding.

The following day brought a trip to Vatican City. Teenage boys were made to wait in line, which resulted in a memorable human pyramid set against the walls. The Sistine Chapel was also a highlight that many students immortalized via covert pictures despite the constant mantra of “No foto!”

“Swimming that night was stunning,” one student remarked. “We swam in the Mediterranean Sea while the sun was setting and the moon was rising.”

Highlights from the rest of the trip were seeing the Coliseum, throwing coins into the Trevi Fountain (one to return to Rome, two for romance, three to ensure marriage, and five if you are Josh Manley), exploring the ruins of Ostia Anticay, friendly Eastern Europeans wandering the streets near the hotel, the classical music concert in Venice, bartering for sunglasses, interesting hotel dinners, and as Ben Fung so eloquently stated, “Two words: beach day.”

The sponsors also greatly enjoyed themselves. “The dinner in Rome was the best,” Gail Palsky reflected, “Walking around the city and admiring the lights was beautiful.”

Looking back on the trip many students have remarked it seemed like a dream. “Let’s go back to Rome,” exhaust ed seniors sighed while slaving over their make-up work. And maybe someday, with the help of the Trevi Fountain coins, they, like Eric Niles who saw Rome as a senior class sponsor this year and as a senior in ‘99, will.

Obama’s Nobel prize draws criticism

BY JONATHAN PRUDEK

The Nobel Peace Prize is a prestigious award. The laureates range from Martin Luther King, Jr. to the Dalai Lama. The Nobel Peace Prize is one of the five Nobel Prizes bequeathed by the Swedish industrialist and inventor Alfred Nobel. Alfred Nobel was a Swedish chemist, engineer, innovator, armaments manufacturer and the inventor of dynamite. According to Nobel’s will, the Peace Prize should be awarded to the person who: “during the preceding year has done the most or the best work for fraternity between nations, for the abolition or reduction of standing armies and for the holding and promotion of peace congresses.”

However, the awarding of the prize to President Obama has caused puzzlement, with many people questioning the integrity of the awarding. This puzzlement has come in part due to Obama’s relatively brief period in the White House since his election in 2008.

The Nobel committee defended its decision by hailing Obama’s vision of a world

see OBAMA page 6

U.S. President Barack Obama

Index

BFA Life .................................................. 2
Sports........................................................ 3
Surveys...................................................... 4
Village & World............................................. 6
Birthdays ..................................................... 8
Mystery at BFA

With autumn’s chill comes a BFA fall tradition: the high school play. This year students perform *Said the Spider to the Spy*, a play selected by director Michélle Phoenix.

Mark your calendars for November 13 or 14. Stay tuned for further announcements to secure tickets for you and your guests.

**Hey Staff,**

Are you enjoying the Staff Surveys? If you still have yours, please fill it out and put it in teacher mailbox #61 (changed from #60).

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**Stars shine in middle school**

*Above:* During the middle school spirit day, seven girls dressed up as movie characters from *The Wizard of Oz*. Pictured starting left are Talya Bultema, Jessie Ellis, Hannah Harrop, Britta Parsons, Emmaile Evans, Priscilla Martin, Karyn Olson.

*Left:* Middle school staff came in character as *Men in Black* actors.

Photo by: Betsy Salt

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**The Chronicle**

**Advisor:** Betsy Salt
**Writers:** Hannah Carlos, Hannah Gibbons, Brandon Porter, Jonathan Prudek
**Design advisor:** Amanda Thompson
**Designers:** Noah Leigh, Jan Simpson
**Contact:** box #396
bfachronicle@gmail.com
Vancouver welcomes the world: the 2010 Olympics

BY BRANDON PORTER

The delegations enter, their flags waving proudly at the head. Speeches are made signaling the opening of the grand event. The anthem is sung as the Olympic Flag is brought in and hoisted to preside over the ceremony. Next, the torch is carried in with reverence and the Olympic Flame is brought to life. A judge and designated athlete swear their oaths. Fireworks dazzle, performers astonish, and the crowd roars. Let the games begin.

In 2001, Toronto was outbid by Beijing for the right to host the 2008 Summer Games. However lessons were learned and new tactics applied, and in 2003 Canada won the right to hold the February 2010 Winter Games in Vancouver, British Columbia. Canada signed a Multi-Party Agreement, which ensured that all areas of the 2010 Olympic project would be appropriately assigned. It also intended to coordinate the efforts of sports associations, customs, and other organizations that will be associated with the upcoming event. The MPA was recognized as a fundamental step in Canada winning the bid and as a result, several other prospective hosts have created their own agreement.

The international event allows countries not only to participate in the events, but also to share their culture with the world by hosting the Games. Canada has both participated in every modern Olympic Games and gained the privilege of hosting them on three occasions. First, in 1976, the Twenty-first Summer Games were held in Montréal, Quebec, secondly, the Fifteenth Winter Games in Calgary, Alberta, and lastly, the upcoming Twenty-first Winter Games in Vancouver.

The goal of the Olympic Games is to bring together athletes from around the world. It also revives the peaceful spirit of the Games of Ancient Greece. In following this tradition, the Canadian Olympic Committee chose a stylized image of an inukshuk for the 2010 Olympic Emblem. Inukshuk are structures of stacked rocks in human forms that were used by the Inuit as guideposts. They became symbols of friendship and hospitality, a fitting message for the Olympic Games. As the emblem it embodies the vastness of Canada with its lakes, forests, mountains, and plains captured in its colors.

The opening and closing ceremonies of the Olympic Games are one way that the host country can show its innovation. It also helps in developing the theme and message chosen for the event. There are certain aspects that must be included, however other elements have been added over the years. According to the Canada 2010 website, the Vancouver Olympic Ceremonies will not be an exception to this grand tradition. They will be “a living representation of Canada’s diverse nature. Highlighting Canada’s linguistic duality and Canadian Aboriginal cultures, the ceremonies will feature a rich tapestry of Canadian talent.”

One of the significant areas addressed in planning the upcoming Games is the Olympic Emblem. Inukshuk are structures of stacked rocks in human forms that were used by the Inuit as guideposts. They became symbols of friendship and hospitality, a fitting message for the Olympic Games. As the emblem it embodies the vastness of Canada with its lakes, forests, mountains, and plains captured in its colors.

Volleyball update

BY MICHAELA FRANTZ

This year’s team is composed of ten varsity players and nine junior varsity players. Both teams are having a winning season so far and we are very pleased with the way we have played this season.

For us, this season is about improving not only individually but learning to trust each other and play as a team. As we talked about our goals at the very beginning we said we wanted to be a team on and off the court. That way we could be friends and trust each other and that would affect the way we play together.

This team is also about more than just playing the game, we want to reach out to members of the teams we play against and build relationships, maybe even to eventually reach them for Christ. We try to show the love of Christ in the way we interact with our teammates and coaches as well be a good example to others around us. When we put these things together, we build strong trust relationships, are better players on the court, and are reaching others for the kingdom of heaven and that is what matters to us.
Senior Surveys

Marco Sergio Biscarini

**My hidden talent** is breathing underwater.
**I wish** I could have gills.
**One thing I would change about myself** is my fatness.
**My favorite childhood memory** is pushing my rabbit off the balcony and watching it have a seizure (I didn’t know it was dying).
**My favorite things** are Jesus, food and girls.
**My pet peeve** is people that live on land.
**No one knows** I live underwater.
**My greatest fear** is running out of water.
**One thing I would change at BFA** is the HBR senior bathroom.
**The quote that best describes me** is “fatty, fat sauce.” (by me and the people who think I’m fat.)
**The ideal date** would be eating a wedding’s worth amount of food then watching *Transformers 2* with Meg.
**My most embarrassing moment** was breaking the arm of a girl I liked in 5th grade and forgetting about it and having her remind me about it on Facebook.

Phil Bennetch

**Any siblings** at or graduated from BFA? Sarah Grace
**My hidden talent** is playing amazing music with Spencer Pickslay.
**I wish** I could fly and stick ads on the windows of airplanes in the air. It would surprise people.
**My favorite childhood memory** is playing soccer with black people.
**My favorite things** are David Lee, music, Hieber’s, teddy bears and Spencer Pickslay.
**My pet peeve** is listening to myself telling me what to do (i.e. “shut up Phil”).
**No one knows** I can blow spitballs from my nose.
**My greatest fear** is Spencer throwing a bunch of spiders on me while I’m sleeping.
**The quote that best describes me** is, “Shut up Phil.” (by myself)
**My favorite food** is cookie batter stuff.
**If I were a side dish**, I would be bacon.
**My most embarrassing moment** was when I told Brandon that Will and Min were watching *Gossip Girl* during dinner.
Staff Survey

Mrs. Myriam Grano

is new to BFA this year. She was born in Mettmann, Germany and has lived in the USA, France, and England. She is the Administrative Assistant to the Business Manager.

My hidden talent is proof-reading.

My favorite food is Ratatouille.

Mrs. Tracy Lubsen

is in her second year. She was born in Knoxville, Tennessee and has also lived in North Carolina and Virginia. She is a finance officer.

My hidden talent is adding numbers on a “ten-key” calculator at lightning speed.

I wish I could have some cheap US-Mexican food - queso dip, yum!

My pet peeve is untruthfulness.

My favorite food is Mexican anything!

My greatest fear is becoming a missionary... oops, I am over that now!

If I were a dorm student, I’d want to live at Blauen Why? Because Marzell is beautiful and Joe and Susie would be awesome dorm parents.

Mrs. Dan Kastelein

is from Iowa and has also lived in Illinois and Massachusetts. This is his second year. He teaches physics.

I wish I could travel to the International Space Station.

My favorite childhood memory is milking cows and riding pigs on my uncle’s farm in Iowa.

My pet peeve is litter bags!!

Mrs. Lynn Paterson

is from St. Catharine, Ontario, Canada. This is her second year at BFA as dorm mom at Storch.

My hidden talent is touching my tongue to my nose (thanks, Aunt Susan, for the lessons).

I wish I could fly.

My favorite childhood memory is playing Jane West with my best friend, Melanie.

My pet peeve is toast crumbs and piles of paper.

My favorite food is spaghetti and banana cake (but not necessarily together).

Mrs. Myriam Grano

is new to BFA this year. She was born in Mettmann, Germany and has lived in the USA, France, and England. She is the Administrative Assistant to the Business Manager.

My hidden talent is proof-reading.

My favorite food is Ratatouille.
free from nuclear arms, saying, “Thanks to Obama’s initiative, the USA is now playing a more constructive role in meeting the great climatic challenges the world is confronting.” However, many consider Obama’s policies to be purely ambitious, to the extent of being unrealistic.

Former Polish President and Nobel Prize winner Lech Walesa showed skepticism concerning the awarding, saying, “Obama has not yet made a real input. He is only beginning to act. This is probably an encouragement for him to act. Let’s see if he perseveres.” On the other hand, Mikhail Gorbachev, former Soviet leader and Nobel Peace Prize winner made known his approval of Obama’s selection. “In these hard times, people who are capable of taking responsibility, who have a vision, commitment and political will should be supported.” Both of these Nobel winners noted that the prize is an encouragement to the President as well as an award.

This raises the question, what has Obama actually done to earn this distinguished award? Mr. Samuel Won, Bible and Korean Studies teacher, thinks it is too early in Obama’s presidency for him to be awarded the prize. He adds that Obama now has more pressure on him to follow through on his promises. Mr. Isaac Micheals, the AP United States and European History teacher, does not understand the decision by the Nobel Committee.

He continues by saying that Obama needs to be humble now that he has received the award. It turns out that this is what Obama has already done. He said he did not feel he deserved to be in the company of some of the “transformative figures” who have previously received the award. Mr. Obama himself said some of his aims, particularly the goal of universal nuclear disarmament, would be difficult to achieve even within his lifetime, let alone his presidency. The award is certainly unexpected and might be regarded as more of an encouragement for intentions than a reward for achievements.

Sources: news.bbc.co.uk; nobelpeaceprize.org

Readers:

If you have visited one of the United States’ National Parks and would like to tell the Chronicle about the experience—or just even which one is your favorite and why, please send the information to bfachronicle@gmail.com

Thanks, the Staff

Denali National Park, Alaska
Love or hate: a look at the history of cats as pets

BY HANNAH GIBBONS

Cats are either highly regarded or hated. In Egypt they were necessary and valued, in Europe the cat was considered vile and satanic, in America superstitions surfaced.

The cat was first domesticated around 2000 B.C. in Egypt. They were used as hunting animals, and preyed on cobras, vipers, rats, mice, and other creatures harmful to the human population. In time, the cat’s position rose so that to accidentally kill a cat meant the death penalty. When a cat died, the occupants of the house would go into deep mourning and shave their eyebrows according to Herodotus. It did not take long before cats were not only treated like gods, but became gods.

Cats are not viewed, as reverently in this day and age, but there are still those who are devoted cat lovers. Mrs. Chasteen explained that her affection for cats comes from their ability to absorb stress. She also made clear that cats are better house pets than dogs because they do not smell as bad, they are easier to handle, and they always land on their feet. In fact, it has been scientifically proven that stroking a cat is actually beneficial to humans, lowering blood pressure and easing stress. In America, approximately 70 million are owned dogs, but 90 million cats.

In medieval times, as well as with the witch trials in America, the cat was sought and killed. It was believed that sometimes a witch took on the shape of a cat to slink around unnoticed. Consequently, cats were often burned with the accused witches.

There are remarkable stories about cats that have shown the enormity of their intellect and fortunate nine lives. One high profile cat ran back into a burning house exactly enough times to save each of her kittens from the blaze. Although cats may appear to be unsympathetic to humans, cats helped search for survivors in the World Trade Center destruction. There was an account of a cat that survived a 120-mile drive through Belgium stuck under the hood of a car. The cat had crawled underneath the hood and got stuck in the engine compartment.

Another story about the remarkable behavior of cats is shown in the case of a cat named Boris, who almost managed to order 450 cans of his favorite food on an Internet shopping site while his owner was not looking. His owner had ordered six cans—apparently Boris did not think that was enough.

Superstitions surround the cat species in both bad luck and good. At various times they have been considered either holy or diabolical, a bringer of good fortune or a hideous curse on humanity. A few of these superstitions are listed on the right.

Sources: cnr.vt.edu/extension/fiw/wildlife; essortment.com; richeast.org/htwm/cats

Superstitions about cats throughout time

-- If a black cat crosses your path, evil will soon befall you. (In England, however, the evil can be canceled if you spit right away.)
-- If a cat puts its paw behind its ear when it scratches (which it almost always does), rain is on the way.
-- Kittens born in the month of May will bring snakes into the house.
-- If you wake up in the morning and see cats playing, the rest of the day will be wasted.
-- In the days of the great sailing ships, sailors always took a cat on board the boat. On very calm days when no wind filled the sails, they would lock the cat in a cupboard. This would bring a breeze.
-- To meet a cat at midnight is to meet Satan himself.
## Birthdays

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### BFA Sketchbook: Italy

This sketchbook page comes from director Tim Shuman’s blog, shuworx.blogspot.com.

“This was a fun sketch to do. I liked the fact that the musicians are off to the side giving this drawing an unusual perspective. The concert itself was simply amazing,” he wrote on his blog, Unstringing The Bow at blogspot.

Do you have a sketch you would like to share? Email your suggestion to Manda Thompson at mthompson@bfacademy.com.

### OLYMPICS

The obligation to have all information about the Games in English and French. Being a bilingual nation, this is absolutely necessary to avoid international embarrassment. As it stands, about 3,500 bilingual volunteers have been recruited to aid in this area.

During the weeks of February 12 to 28, approximately 5,500 athletes and team officials will participate in the Winter Olympics. They will compete in 86 medal events in 15 sports. From March 12 to 21, 1,350 athletes and officials will participate in the 2010 Paralympic Winter Games. They will compete in 64 events in 5 sports.

Sources: canada2010.gc.ca/index-eng.cfm ; usatoday.com/sports/olympics