

“green echo” meets “tide lines”

by Jessica Marascio

On November 20, 2009 members of the editorial staff of the Green Echo took a trip to Pottsville High School to meet with the editors of their school's newspaper, the Tide Lines. The purpose of the field trip was to gain the insight of the experienced tide lines staff on how to improve our newspaper. Our photographer, senior James Crossen thought that “it was an eye-opening experience and that it showed that effort goes a long way.



STAFFERS AT TIDELINES CONVERSING WITH THE GREEN ECHO STAFF. PHOTO: J. CROSSEN, ECHO

Pottsville High School's newspaper is nationally recognized and has received countless awards. The staff has attended national conferences in Seattle, New York City, and Miami. They gave us tips on improving writing, photography, and layouts, and shared with us their Publications

manual and numerous handouts that we can use to teach ourselves the page designing computer program, Adobe InDesign. The manual thoroughly explains every aspect of the paper, as well as their other publications that include their yearbook, newsletter, literature magazine, and school calendar. However, this wasn't just an educational trip. Editor of the Green Echo Mary Elchert, junior, said, “I think the trip was amazing. It was very informative, and I really enjoyed it. I met lots of great people and learned a lot.” Our groups formed a strong friendship with each other through everything we had in common. In addition, we hope to have them at Pen Argyl to visit sometime in the spring. The Green Echo will soon be receiving a makeover thanks to the much appreciated help of the tide lines editors and staff. Look for cosmetic, organizational, and writing style changes soon to come.

scholastic scrimmage victory

by Ryan Hutchison

As the tension mounted in the studio, with only a few minutes left in the match, the two teams were locked into a head-on battle for intellectual supremacy. As the time passed by, the Green Knights clicked off a few successive correct answers to gain a 40-point lead when the time finally expired. When asked about the team's performance, Mike Kukla, a senior and alternate on the team, replied, “It was a great performance by everyone, and it was really exciting.” With that, Pen Argyl's scholastic scrimmage team defeated Palmerton 150-110 and secured a spot in the next televised round.

Alicia Altemose, Justin Davis, Ryan Hutchison, and Alex Wallace were selected to start for Pen Argyl and will appear on PBS in January. After falling into an early negative-point deficit, Pen Argyl fought

back in a true comeback manner. When asked about the secret to the team's success, Alex Wallace, the team captain, said “This isn't just about grades. It's simply knowledge of certain school subjects. If you know any subjects well, you can be an asset to the team.”

For most of the match, Pen Argyl and Palmerton were trading the lead, gaining five-to-ten point leads and losing them just as quickly. The score was 90-85, Pen Argyl leading at halftime. More lead changes ensued after a brief break of no more than five minutes, and there was no clear winner until the final few questions. The match will air on PBS on January 2 at 9:30 AM and January 3 at 10:00 AM and 4:30 PM. Congratulations and best of luck to the rest of the team from the entire staff of the Green Echo.

no stage fright here

by Emily Walsh

Nerves start kicking up as the students wait for Ms. Campbell, the drama club advisor, to walk into the auditorium for the auditions to start. As nervous as they are, the students still joked around with each other during the whole audition process, easing the tension.

It all starts off with Ms. Campbell passing out “contracts” for all the students to sign, stating that they'll accept any part in Alice in Wonderland they get, provide their own transportation home, and then they have to write what part they want, any conflicts they have after school, and some of their special talents. Next, they are split into small groups of three or four people based on the characters they want to be. Ms. Campbell hands each of them little scripts, and gives them a few pages to read from. They are then sent off into a hallway to practice until they think they're ready to perform it on the stage in front of Ms. Campbell and Mr. Fritchey.

Mr. Fritchey is the long-term English sub for Ms. Paloni and decided to help out with the drama club this year. Ms. Campbell continues as advisor.

While practicing, in their groups, the section they were assigned to read, it doesn't

seem like any of them are “competing” with each other for a certain part. Instead, they all help one another out by giving advice on how to say specific lines or emphasize different words, and follow stage directions. When they think they've rehearsed enough times, they move on to the stage.



NICK DEFIORÉ, AN UPCOMING ACTOR IN THE SPRING PLAY. PHOTO: J. CROSSEN, ECHO

A lot of the time many people want an audition for the same part, but to decide who gets each part, “Mr. Fritchey and I have to look at their actual audition and see who did the best job. [We] look at their physical attributes.

Also, how they work with each other,” says Ms. Campbell.

While watching the auditions, Ms. Campbell and Mr. Fritchey look for “...heart and spirit [in a good audition, along with,] how much is put into a performance.” Also, “stage directions, how they act them out, [and] subtlety of the voice.”

When they're done performing on stage, and there's nothing else they can do, Ms. Campbell and Mr. Fritchey evaluate and then have them wait around until all the other original groups have gone. Afterwards, some people are picked to be in a new group where they do the same thing with different people, different characters, and different voices. I asked the upperclassmen if they still get as nervous auditioning even though they've done it before and had Alicia Altemose, senior, answer with “Oh no, no, just as nervous.” While Nick DeFiore, senior, responded, “Yes actually, I think my freshman year I was really nervous, and my second year, I knew what to expect so I just went out and did it.”

Well, even though it can be nerve wracking it seems like everyone has the best time auditioning, even if they don't get the part they want. According to Cody Moyer, junior, auditioning, “is a way of self-expression.” So, whether you want to express yourself, show off special talents, or have a good time while working hard, auditioning for a school play is a great way of doing so.