

# THE BEACON

## THE DESCENDENTS ASCEND AT BEXLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL



by Stella Rogers-Bowen, Violet Eshelbrenner,  
Penelope Hickman-Filipow, and Mia Shankle

In early February, BMS performed *The Descendants* musical. It was a great success for the cast members due to their hard work.

Though there were some minor setbacks for the cast and crew with some understudies and mic/sound/light issues, the show went on and was great! The cast and crew members went through a long and hard (and sometimes brutal) rehearsal/build process, but all of their amazing work pulled it off in the end.

The audience enjoyed the show, despite the setbacks. One audience member, Sophie Lestini, says “*The Descendants*’ musical was overall a very fun musical. Some things that weren’t my personal favorite were that the microphones would sometimes make the other microphones around them sound static, and you couldn’t hear the singer or

the person that was talking. One thing that confused me was how they were singing songs from the second movie when I thought it was just going to be the first movie and the first movie’s songs.”

The show was good, but there were, of course, technical difficulties. Eleanor Walker, a sixth grader on the crew, said “I was on the spotlight. It was ok. I might not do the spotlight again, but I did enjoy the crew generally.”

The crew, especially positions like spotlight, had some hard times but persevered and the show went well. And it was rewarding for the cast and crew. Lily Turkovich, a cast member in the seventh grade, says, “I was Snow White, it was fun to be with this amazing cast and crew and make this show possible.”

Good job to all the people in *The Descendants*, it was a big success!

# HANGING AT ART CLUB FOR FUN AND FRIENDS

By Eleanor Walker

Maybe you have seen the funny and interesting videos on morning announcements about Art Club. What happens in Art Club? What is it like? Art Club happens on certain days after school in Mrs. Howland's classroom. Many students attend, and everyone enjoys it.

Students go to Art Club for many reasons. Meko Upton, an eighth grader, said she goes because she likes art, and Art Club gives her something to do. Another eighth grader, Zahara Bobo, said she goes, "just to spend time with friends and work on projects." Maybe Michelle Shanks says it the best, "It's a fun experience to spend time with friends and to be just you and hangout with people sometimes you normally wouldn't hang out with while doing art."

Most students, like Ash Hoy, an eighth grader, agree that "you can do whatever you want really," at Art Club. Michelle Shanks said, "There are different types of art projects you could do like sewing or drawing and you just talk with your friends." Meko Upton sums up Art Clubs activities simply as "art stuff and loud people."

What is the best thing about Art Club? Meko likes that "it gives you free range to do almost anything."

Zahara Bobo says what she likes best is that it is nice "just to have a safe quiet space where you can be yourself and make new friends." Ash Hoy thinks the best thing about Art Club is Mrs. Howland.

What does Mrs. Howland like about Art Club? She said, "I like seeing what kids make when they are unbounded by 'project requirements.' Art Club is also a very inclusive space. Kids who may not feel like they fit in in other spaces seem comfortable." Mrs. Howland also mentioned how it also makes her "really happy to see kids come back to my room after our quarter classes are finished."

For the future of Art Club, "I would love do more direct instruction and structured collaborative projects. I think students really value the freedom on the open studio, but with such a fantastic collection of artists each meeting- I would love to see what we could create if we put all our efforts into one big project."

Keep in mind, that Art Club is open to anyone, whether you have had Mrs. Howland in class or not. "Anyone can come by, you just have to sign in when you get here and respect the people and space. Watch for announcements to see when the next Art Club is," Mrs. Howland says, "I host them at least once a month, sometimes twice."





## ENVIRONMENTAL CLUB CONTINUES TO CARE AT BMS



By Maya Hernandez-Romito and Arya Gorsuch

The Environmental Club is back, and they have a new and improved idea for helping our Earth. The group has come a long way from putting videos on the news show, having recycling and compost bins in the cafeteria, and now an entirely new and improved project to help our Earth.

Maya Letostak is the Head of Digital Media in the group. When asked what the group's new project is she said, "The project we are working on right now is incorporating environmental sustainability in every class's curriculum. Which basically means you are learning about sustainability in all of your classes." Maya hopes that learning about the environment in classes will encourage students and teachers to help the environment.

The idea is that the group would make cards for teachers to look at so they can incorporate learning about the environment in daily classes. While

still teaching their regular subjects in class, they can also add some environment based ideas to help students learn more about sustainability and our Earth. Some students at BMS think that this project is important in keeping our environment healthy. Violet Eshelbrenner, a seventh grader, stated that, "The project will be pretty helpful because if the school works together to be more environmentally helpful then that is a lot of people being better for the environment."

Another seventh grader named Ace Miller says that, "The wellbeing of our environment is very important. Without a good environment, the food chain would get messed up, and as the temperature keeps rising and the world would get really hot and humid, which would make it harder to survive." All of these things are reasons why we should be more careful in the world, and why we should do more things to help our environment.

# STUDENTS QUESTION RECOGNITIONS AND AWARDS

By Ace Miller and Shoshanna Bricker

Awards for BMS are important to represent student and staff achievements; however, have we been picking the right people to be represented?

Many students have noticed that the majority of teachers getting awards have been all males, and it wasn't until the month of February that the first woman was awarded staff member of the month which was Ms. Brown.

Many students found this unbelievable because while there are many great male teachers here at BMS, the fact that female employees haven't been recognized for a while is quite shocking because there are more female teachers than male.

Mr. Price, our Middle School Assistant Principal says, "Our staff member of the month process is democratic. The students vote. They have one week to submit their nomination for a staff member who has had a meaningful impact on their lives. The staff member with the most votes gets the honor for the month. All staff members do get a chance to read the nominations students wrote about them. I send every staff member who was nominated an email including the great things each student wrote about them. It's a way of acknowledging the terrific work our staff continues to do regardless of the vote totals."

How are students chosen to be recognized? Mr. Price says, "For our quarterly recognition assemblies, grade level teachers submit nominations and collectively decide on a student to honor for each core value category for their grade level."

Students generally appreciate the awards and recognition, but they still have questions.

One student replied, "A lot of the students and teachers deserve the award, but it sometimes seemed really biased. Some of the people are not as nice as the



awards make them seem."

Another student thinks, "the right teachers are getting picked and some of the students, but also most of the students I feel like teachers are picking them because they just did one thing that was good and so they got rewarded for it." So, according to this response, a student can have a history of negative behaviors, do one thing right, and get rewarded.

Mr. Price points out that the process of picking the award winners is not probably never going to be perfect, saying, "There's no perfect process as we have so many students who live out the core values every day in our building."

Mr. Price also reminds us that many students have been recognized, just in different forms. "For example, our students earned ice cream from Johnson's and donuts from Resch's Bakery this school year for being on time to class and consistently demonstrating positive behavior. In the future, I'd like to see students nominating students for doing good. Maybe we'll see that added next school year!"

BMS students will probably appreciate the idea of letting students nominate other students for the awards. We all know that not everything is going to be perfect, but we can make it better for everyone by listening to their opinions.