

# the Slate



February 2017

Issue 2

Slatington, PA

## Northern Lehigh Gives Their Opinions on Valentine's Day

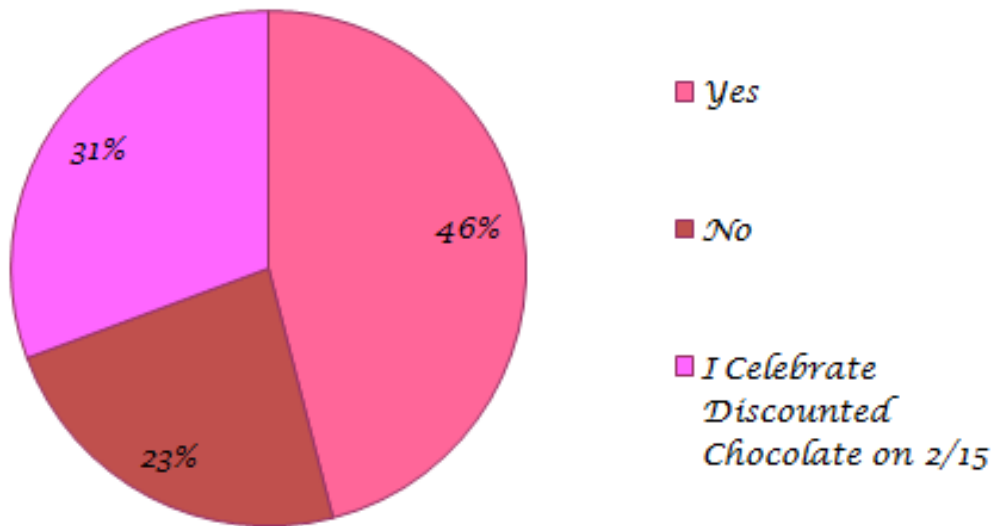
By Nick Lehman, Carmen Alvaro, and Tori Csanadi



We, *The Slate* staff, wanted your opinions about Valentine's Day. In these graphs, we will show you if our student body celebrated Valentine's Day this year, what your favorite Valentine's Day gift is, your favorite aspect of Valentine's Day, what best represents Valentine's Day, and where you spent your Valentine's Day.



### Are you celebrating Valentine's Day this year?



\*Results continue on page 4

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## Moana, Disney's Newest Frozen

By Kyle Detweiler



**M**oana is the newest feature animation coming out of the gold mines of Walt Disney Studios.

The story follows Moana, an adventurous girl who is next in line to be the chief of her village that she desperately wants to leave. The only problem is that she lives on an island with boats that are not capable of seafaring.

After getting a ship, Moana embarks on an epic quest to save her people by finding the

demigod Maui to take him to return the heart of Te Fiti, which was stolen by Maui.

This film was made entirely using computer generation. Throughout the entire film the animation stays smooth. Along with the stunning visuals the music effectively helped tell the story in a way that will surely have some people singing for a while.

Throughout the story, Moana is always struggling to be herself, instead of the girl that her father, the chief, wants her to be. He constantly tells her to never leave the island, while the whole time Moana

sees her calling in the ocean. This brings out a very important lesson for the primarily young audi-



ence of this film. It tells them that it is ok to be yourself instead of conforming to the expectations of society.

The execution of this film is very well done. With music written by Lin Manuel-Miranda, the soundtrack delivers with plenty of extra to go around. The numerous talented vocalists, such as Auli'i Cravalho, Christopher Jackson, and Dwayne "the Rock" Johnson, really bring the music to life. When the visuals, music, and story come together, we get a film that solidly conveys its messages in an entertaining manner.

My final verdict would be 9/10. The animation, music, and voice acting are all extremely pleasing, but the story leaves a

little bit to be asked for. Moana is a magnificent film that should be in the lineup for any good family movie night.



## Gardening, Rats, and Museums

By Blake Schuck



**T**he Science Club has been working extra hard this year to do many new projects. On our plate this year, we have the native gardens (located along the classrooms of the science department), rat experiments, and a field trip at the end of the year to the Academy of Natural Science and the Mutter Museum.

Earth Day of last year marked the day that Sci-

ence Club officially started its current work on the garden. Since then, we have been very hard at work to make it as beautiful as a native garden from Pennsylvania can be. I

n the beginning of our work, we started by weeding, removing large rocks, and cleaning up litter that had been left behind.

Next, during the first few weeks of this school year, a few members of Science Club helped spread newspaper and mulch in the garden. The newspaper

acted as both a weed block and a source of food for worms and other helpful creatures in the soil.

After being sprayed with organic pesticide, Science Club took a break from the garden, as winter was making way.

Later in the year when Spring rolls around, Science Club plans to continue its efforts.

The Pennsylvania Society for Biomedical Research has a brilliant idea for schools to do experi-

ments with rats, which Science Club has offered to help. The program is called The Great Grow Along, and Science Club will have a total of four baby rats. Two of the rats will be given milk and two will be given sugar-sweetened drinks. The idea is to see which rats will weigh more when the experiment is completed.

After Science Club is finished, four members each get to keep one rat as a pet, along with all of the supplies.

To end our year of hard work, Science Club is planning to go to the Academy of Natural Science and the Mutter Museum. Many members of Science Club are very passionate about science-related fields, and we feel that this will be a wonder opportunity for members.

If any other students are interested in science, our club is the way to go and new members are always welcome!



## NL Choir Takes on the County

By Kyle Detweiler

Once again, year these students come Northern together at the designated Lehigh stu- host school to put on a concert after two days of seven taken part in the annual hour rehearsals. With only Lehigh County Chorus an hour of rehearsal per Festival. Just as the name song in total, these stu- suggests, this chorus is dents perform the impressive task of bringing them the choirs of participating all together for the concert. schools from the Lehigh County. The content for the concert consists of one piece for each director from the different schools to conduct. Every

the morning on January 26th, 27th, and 28th to rehearse and perform at the concert.

There were fourteen participants from Northern Lehigh. These participants include Sabrina Grabarits, Kristi Grabarits, Kira Rex, Julia Malave, Jocilyn Duschak, Paige Hemingway, Samantha Papay, Breanna Hoffman, Tyler Hoffman, Chase Ohlson, Nicholas Lehman, Dorian Beil, Kyle Detweiler, and

Michael Martineau.

On January 28th, the choir was assembled at nine in the morning for a final dress rehearsal. After all of the final touch-ups were made on each song, students ascended the many levels of the school to change into concert attire.

After eating lunch and having a picture taken, it was time for the concert. Selections for the concert included Rockin' Jerusa-

lem, Nine Hundred Miles, When I Was Single, I Am Not Yours, House of Gold, Build Me Up Buttercup, Seal Lullaby, and Beautiful Day.

The concert was an enjoyable experience for both the performers and the audience.



## NL Band Takes Part in County Concert

By Nick Lehman

Every year, the high schools throughout the Lehigh County send their best musicians to perform at the Lehigh County Honors Band Concert.

In total, there were 115 musicians sent from Allentown Central Catholic High School, Catasauqua High School, Dieruff High School, Northern Lehigh High School, Northwestern Lehigh High School, Parkland High School, Salisbury High School, Southern Lehigh High School, Whitehall High School, and William Allen

High School.

This year, Northern Lehigh High School sent 12 musicians to participate in the festival. Kyle Detweiler and Austin Deibert played in the trombone section, Nicholas Lehman played in the alto saxophone section, Samantha Papay, Tyler Hoffman, and Breanna Hoffman played in the flute section, Kira Rex, Emily Bachman, and Michael Martineau played in the clarinet section, Robert McIntyre played in the percussion section, and Lorenzo Cozzi and Cameron Deibert played in the trumpet section.

The concert was held at Salisbury High School to mark the 59th annual concert. To begin the concert, the Superintendent to Salisbury, Dr. Randy Ziegenfuss, conducted the national anthem, and then each director conducted their chosen pieces.

This years repertoire included "With Every Sunrise" by Robert Sheldon and directed by Mr. Eric Moser of William Allen, "He's Gone Away" by Stuart P. O'Neil and directed by Ms. Rachel Reinecke of Salisbury, "The Addison Red Line" by Jeremy Bell and directed by Mr. David

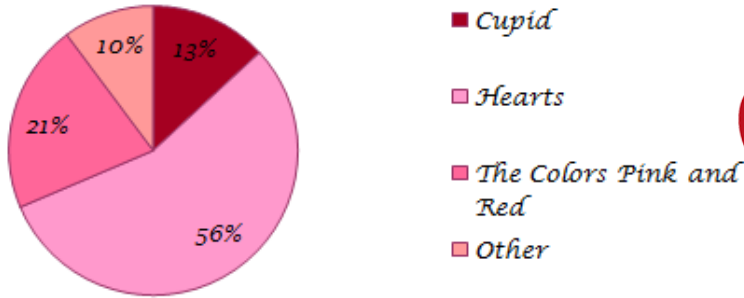
Carroll of Northern Lehigh, "Montana" by Jan Van der Roost and directed by Mr. Matthew Tanzos of Whitehall, "Gallant Marines" by Karl L. King and directed by Mr. Jason Lerew, "The Zest" by Ilari Hylkila and directed by Mr. Robert Arnold of Catasauqua, "I Am The Doctor" by Murray Gold and directed by Mr. Frank DiSimoni of Dieruff, "Crown Imperial" by William Walton and directed by Mr. Aaron Hetrick of Allentown Central Catholic, "Rage" by Randall D. Standridge and directed by Mr. James Lynkins of Northwestern Lehigh, and

"Second American Folk Rhapsody" by Clare Grundman and directed by Mr. Larry Fischer.

The musicians who participated in this years festival found their efforts to be very rewarding. According to Emily Bachman, "To see the concert and how well we have come together as a band, from people who have never even met each other, because they come from schools all over the place, is just truly amazing. I was so proud to be apart of it!"

# Valentine's Day Surveys Continued

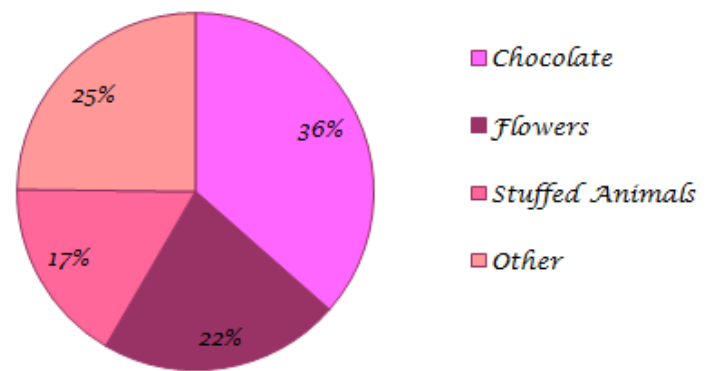
## What Best Represents Valentine's Day?



Our favorite fill-in responses:

- "Food"
- "Love"
- "Jeb Bush"
- "Nothing because I'm single"

## Which is the Best Gift to Receive on Valentine's Day?

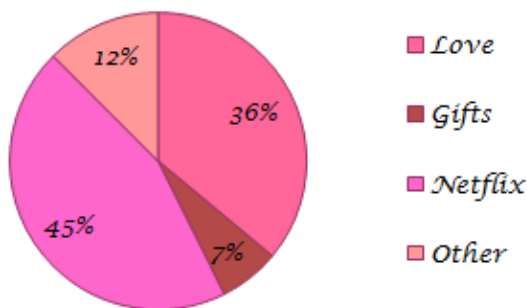


Our favorite fill-in responses:

- "Shrek 2"
- "Chicken nugget bouquet"
- "My wallet back"
- "Uninterrupted sleep"

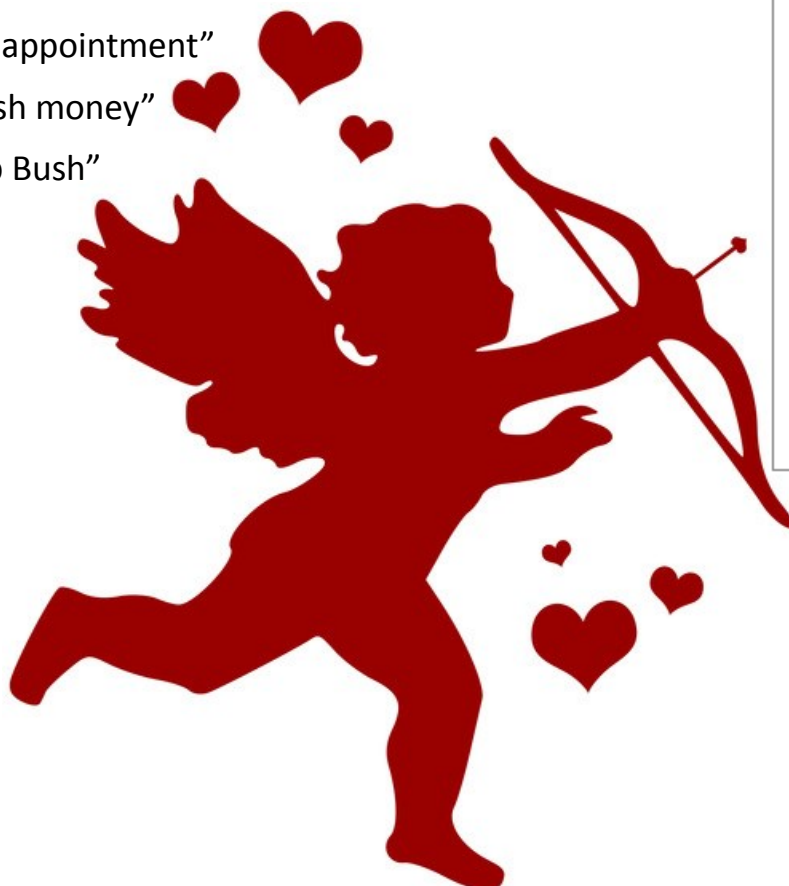


## What is your Favorite Thing About Valentine's Day?

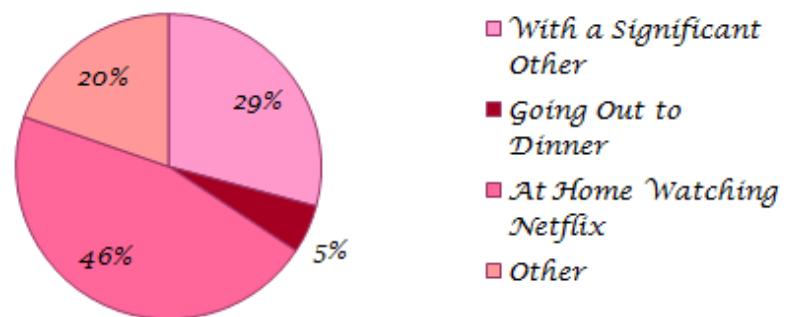


Our favorite fill-in responses:

- "The instinct realization of how much I suck"
- "Disappointment"
- "Cash money"
- "Jeb Bush"



## Where are you Spending your Valentine's Day?



Our favorite fill-in responses:

- "Chik Fil A"
- "Sleeping because it's the first day with no rehearsal in a long time"
- "All of the above. It's lit."
- "With my mom"

## WELCOMING NEW TEACHERS TO NORTHERN LEHIGH

### Miss Scheckler

By Nick Lehman

If you haven't already heard, we have a new teacher in the Northern Lehigh High School's English Department. Miss Scheckler, a graduate of Lehigh High School, began her year teaching English II and two sections of Academic English,

and is currently teaching Honors English III, Academic English III, and English III. Miss Scheckler received her degree in Secondary English Education from Millersville University, and she taught at Lehigh High School, helped with the reading groups in Palmerton, and taught at the Behavioral Health Academy.

Miss Scheckler was inspired in many ways to become an English teacher. Throughout her high school career, she had many amazing teachers, and she saw how their enthusiasm made class more effective. She also enjoys working with teenagers, which is why she chose to become a high school teacher.

When she's not in school,

Miss Scheckler enjoys artsy stuff and crafts, her cat Atticus, and watching horror movies. We, The Slate staff, are overjoyed to welcome Miss Scheckler as a new addition to the English Department.



### Mrs. Hoffert

By Kara Steckel



As of last school year, Northern Lehigh High School welcomed a new Spanish teacher. Mrs. Hoffert teaches Spanish 1 here. She went to Shippensburg University for her undergraduate degree and got her masters through Wilkes University. She pursued Spanish for a few reasons, including that she re-

ally liked Spanish in high school. She had to take Spanish courses in college and one of her professors motivated her to pursue foreign languages since she was so good at it. She then switched her major from business marketing to Spanish. Mrs. Hoffert taught Spanish at Jim Thorpe High School for 9

years prior to Northern Lehigh. She really enjoys teaching here! She likes the block scheduling, since it provides time for fun classroom activities and getting to know her students.



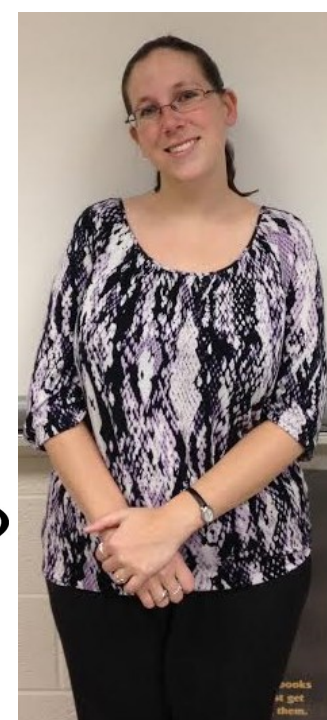
### Miss Urban

By Kara Steckel

This school year, Northern Lehigh High School welcomed a new English teacher. Mrs. Urban has always wanted to become an English teacher. She was the oldest of many cousins and so she felt that she has

always been like a teacher. Mrs. Urban is a graduate of Arcadia University. She has taught at various schools in the Philadelphia area and in the Lehigh Valley, she has taught at Parkland, Pen Argyl, and Northwestern.

Mrs. Urban really enjoys teaching here because of her students. She thinks they are all a lot of fun to work with, and they are always excited to learn.



# WELCOME



## *Beauty and the Beast*

By Kyle Detweiler



This year, the Northern Lehigh Little Theatre will be performing Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*, the tale of a young woman named Belle (portrayed by senior Sara Hunsicker).

Upon the disappearance of her father, Belle finds herself in an enchanted castle ruled by a cold-hearted beast (portrayed by sophomore Jack Ligenza). Belle quickly finds friendship in the denizens of the hospitable furniture and dinnerware of the castle. To see what's next, you'll have to see the show.

The cast is very excited to bring this tale as old as time to the stage of Northern Lehigh Middle School. The cast, crew, and staff have been working tirelessly to ensure that the show will be of the highest quality.

tirelessly to ensure that the show will be of the highest quality. Furthermore, they have nothing but praise for the show.

Director Colette Boudreaux has stated, "I think the show is going to turn out fabulous. I am very proud of all of the hard work being put forth by the students, and how far they have come since last year."

Jack Ligenza (who plays the Beast) said, "I think that this show is going to turn out amazingly. This is the best Northern Lehigh has sounded in a long time."

If you want to see what all the hype is about, come out to see the musical March 16th through 19th.



## **That's Debatable**

By Carmen Alvaro

The debate team kicked off the school year with two debates last fall on the topic of physician assisted suicide. The team went 5-11 for the topic of physician assisted suicide and is 2-6 for the topic of the criminal DNA database. Although the record is disappointing, debate president Nick Lehman says, "we prepare as much as we can. Everyone does their best at debate, and that's all that we could ask for."

Northern Lehigh and several other schools meet four times a year for debates. Each school brings teams prepared to debate for either the affirmative or negative side of the given topic. These teams are usually made up of four people, including two speakers, one question-

er, and one rebutter.

The speakers each make their argument in a five minute speech before being cross-examined by the other team's questioner. After the speakers and questioners from both teams are finished, there is a five minute recess for the rebuttal to write their speeches. The debate concludes after the two rebutters rest their cases.

Being good at debate demands both smart and quick thinking from all team members. Speakers must be able to write a solid speech and defend their side, all while remembering good speaking skills. Questioners have to listen closely to the other side and drill holes in their speeches during the cross

examination. Rebutters must be able to quickly construct a speech and pick apart the other team's arguments while still defending their side. All these roles take much practice and skill.

The debate team has four meets a year, two for each topic, before the semifinals in the spring. At semifinals, each school sends their best team to represent them.

There are three semifinal debates held during March, and the topics switch between physician assisted suicide and the criminal DNA database. Although the topic is known beforehand, the teams affirmative

do not know whether they will be debating for the affirmative or negative side until arrival. Those competing at semifinals must be prepared for both sides. The two teams with the most wins after the semifinals round will move onto finals.

As shown, the debate team consists of quick thinkers and good speakers. But the team encourages anyone to join, hoping to have four full teams next year. The debate team is open to helping anyone who may be interested and is hoping for more students to join for next year.





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# A Fish in the Crystal Pond

By Blake Schuck

Bright colors beautify the  
crystal water,

As each living being scatters  
around.

The autumn time droplets  
of rainwater,

Gives the pond a nourishing  
rebound.

Fish make way to the  
greenish bottom,

Where they stay with no  
emotions.

Not hiding from the cool,  
brisk autumn,

But being weary of the ra-  
ther new potions.

It makes way to the  
bottom with not a care,

For it shall make its way  
into the birds.

As each droplet descends  
into greater share,

And the vision of each ani-  
mal is blurred.

To the end of this life I fol-  
low the condemned,

What could have been pre-  
vented with a bond.

With hurtful and ruthless  
behavior stemmed,

The loss of millions of fish  
in the crystal pond.

## All the News That's Fit to Print... and Jeb Bush

**President Carmen Alvaro**

**Vice-President Tori Csanadi**

**Secretary Bridget Lynch**

**Treasurer Nick Lehman**

**Advisor Mr. Nicholas Sander**

**Writers...**

**Kyle Detweiler**

**Blake Schuck**

**Brianna Schuck**

**Kara Steckel**

### A Special Thanks To...

**Miss Scheckler**

**Mrs. Hoffert**

**Miss Urban**

**Lehigh Carbon Community College**

**Mr. Vlasaty**

**Jeb Bush**