

# What Are You Reading?

BY MELODY MCCOY

There's a great blend of students on the Bartow High campus - BHS, IB and Summerlin, who all have different interests. But one many have in common is reading. You see students reading in class, the lunchroom, on benches and anywhere they find a comfortable spot. When you walk past somebody with a book, do you sometimes wonder what they are reading? Do they like fiction or non-fiction, action or romance?

"I'll go for fantasy; it takes you in and creates another world," says Junior Nadia boyd, who you can find in the media center every morning. Most students prefer fiction and fantasy to non-fiction.

Ever bought a book and found out that it wasn't as good as you thought it would be? Maybe the cover looked really awesome and you just had to have it, only to find out that it wasn't really that interesting?

Junior Anjali Nair makes sure that she doesn't encounter such a problem.

"I research the book beforehand, because I want to know if it will keep my interest," she stated.

This is a great way to find out if you like a certain book and it'll save a few bucks in the long run. Popular books are often made into movies, which can either be a student's dream come true, or a complete nightmare.

For Nadia, it's a nightmare. "The book will always be better because some parts in the movie

they miss out of the book," she says.

"If you ask someone what their favorite book is, 95% of those surveyed this spring will say Twilight by Stephanie Meyer. The vampire love story seems to be a favorite among teens. The series consists of four books: Twilight, New Moon, Eclipse, and Breaking Dawn.

"My best friend told me about it," says Junior Sherin George. "Breaking Dawn was my favorite because it was an awesome end to a perfect story."

Twilight even made it to the big screen and it did quite well, having the honor of making it into the top five movie list.

"Twilight is a good series," states Anjali. "It keeps your interest from the beginning of the story to the end."

Keeping track of your favorite authors is a good idea when looking for a certain book that you may like.

"If one of the books written was interesting, the others may be as well," states Anjali.

If you've read the Twilight series and enjoyed them, then The Host, also written by Stephanie Meyer, may be of interest to you.

There are all types of genres, and all types of students. The next time you happen to come across someone reading a book, be sure not just to think, but to ask, "What are you reading?" You just might find your next good read in the hands of a fellow BHS student.

# Alumni Information Gathered

BY MEGAN KNOX

BHS Alumni? In less than 40 days and 40 nights, that's what the class of 2009. What is an alumni? Just a forgotten face in your senior yearbook, or something else - a person who changed your world, made a difference and influenced others. The alumnus of Summerlin Institute, Union Academy and Bartow's current high school programs have and are making their mark on the world at large and the world around us.

Recently one alumnus, Spencer Duhm, 2007 IB graduate appeared on Survivor, though he didn't survive the elimination, he survived the greater task of IB. Other alumni have left different types of marks, not only on the history of BHS, but also on our community, state and the United States.

The 1991 Junior Editor of The Echo, for example, made his own mark on BHS and the world around him. "I was in training to become the yearbook advisor with Carole Dimmesdale when I first met Adam Putnam," recalls former ECHO yearbook advisor Elaine Kay, "he was the polite, likeable, dependable, fun editor of the yearbook. Even as a high school student, Adam had a smooth and winning way of getting the rest of the staff to see things his way, and he was incredibly dedicated to his book 'Continuing the Tradition.' I remember thinking that someday Adam would be president of the United States." Kay teaches junior English at BHS.

Other BHS alumnus stand out for Mr. Ron Pritchard, BHS Principal, who is a Summerlin

Institute alumni himself. "AJ Hackel, SL Frisbie, Spessard Holland, the late Clint Wright, Senator Bob Crawford, his wife Nancy Caswell, and many BHS past and present staff," Pritchard notes, "are Bartow graduates." More than 25 current staff members once sat in the same rooms a new generation now occupies.

For IB, Dr. Ed Vetter, notes newer accomplishments. IB graduates dot the map, not only with their presence in top programs nationally, but also in their service to others. Priyanka Surio is a college recruiter for the University of Miami, while Katie Carlson is completing her MA in Sports Management and Courtney Sela is working on her undergraduate degree at Columbia in the journalism program and does volunteer work with literacy and Big Sisters, Big Brothers.

This school year BHS is tracking alumnus of Summerlin Institute, Union High School, Bartow High School, International Baccalaureate and Summerlin Academy, gathering mailing and email information to create a database of former graduates.

Newspapers help to spread

the word to alumnus who live in the area, but with the shrinking space available, all print media under ever tightening restrictions, and graduates far spread BHS is looking for new ways to get information out to alumnus.

"The world," says Pritchard, "is moving forward." While we'd like to stay in touch with our alumnus and be in contact, "ease of informing at a lower cost" has to be a consideration. Pritchard believes that "We need to count on our past alumni. Those \$5 and \$10 contributions add up."

Whether it's getting information, or giving to support academics for the next generation, BHS would like to hear from all past graduates. An active Alumni Association is in the planning stages, a plan that will serve BHS and future students for years to come.

Those wishing to add their names to the growing data base of Summerlin Institute, Union, BHS, IB, and Summerlin Academy alumnus, please contact the school at 863-534-7400 or mail information to: Alumni Association, BHS, 1270 S. Broadway, Bartow, FL 33830.

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