

Author Chris Crutcher to appear during Banned Books Week

JAYME JOHNSON

Writer

Chris Crutcher, a popular teen author, is coming to Bloomington High School to give a presentation on his books in honor of Banned Books Week. Crutcher is the author of many contemporary books that have been banned from schools and public libraries.

The American Library Association created Banned Books Week to celebrate books that have sparked interest on both ends of the spectrum: those who really like the books and those who really detest them. Banned Books Week is also to stress the importance of those books that are unorthodox or of an unpopular viewpoint.

“A book may be banned from a library because it has been challenged somewhere,” said school librarian Ms. Keran Johnson, “It does not necessarily have to be in a school libraries; it can be in a public library as well. The Bible has even been banned in some schools.”

Ms. Johnson said that most banned books are contemporary teen novels that deal with a variety of topics such as physical development, love or hate relationships, and abuse.

“These books deal with events that happen in people’s lives that are often pushed under the table. They deal with topics that make people uncomfortable,” said Ms. Johnson.

For these reasons, someone challenges the book and it is the American Libraries decision to ban the book.

In order to celebrate such books, author Chris Crutcher is giving a presenta-

tion on some of his books sponsored by the Bloomington Public Library. The focal point of his presentation will be his book *Staying Fat Sarah Byrnes*, which was banned from libraries across the nation. Most of his books are influenced by his work as a therapist and child protection advocate. In his presentation, the audience will learn not only about Crutcher’s books, but also about the writing process and character development. Also, the winner and runner up of the Banned Books Week Essay Contest will be given awards during the presentation, and other contest winners will be invited to have dinner with the author.

Ms. Johnson said that Crutcher appeals to all audiences but mostly boys because he writes about sports and teams, but his writing also includes physical and relationship development.

“He writes coming of age novels that sometimes hit a nerve,” said Ms. Johnson.

Crutcher will give his presentation on Sept. 30 at 7pm in the BHS Auditorium.

“It is a fun way to get kids to read books they relate to and a neat way for the school to encourage reading,” said Reading Raiders president Claire Maurer.

“It is really exciting to have Chris come here because it is the first time an author has come to the school,” said Ms. Johnson.

There is a complete list of banned books on the school library’s website and if you have any questions about the event see Ms. Johnson in the library.

President Obama appeals to students

CAMERON MELGOSA

General Assignment Writer

President Barack Obama gave a nationwide speech to students on Aug. 8, encouraging students to do well in regards to education for the upcoming year.

President Obama continued his pattern of appealing to the public through technology, by not only broadcasting his speech on television networks such as CSPAN, but also by making it available through many feeds on the internet, including the one provided through whitehouse.com.

The speech became available on YouTube and other video sharing sites upon its conclusion.

President Obama’s speech created controversy regarding the possibility that it would contain underlying tones of his political agenda. This was proven to be a false idea after the speech was aired.

The speech followed a similar pattern to past student addresses, accompanied by President Obama’s personal stories and unique speaking patterns.

At Bloomington High School, teachers had the option to show the speech in class, and the idea to present it was stressed to social studies teachers.

“We did not watch the speech, but we read the transcripts before it happened,” said senior Alicia Walden.

Student responses to President Obama’s speech were mixed.

“I agreed with him, education is important and is pretty much the foundation of our future,” said junior Samantha Scott.

A number of students expressed how they did not see the need for the President to address students and tell them to do well.

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Walk-Ins	Appointments
Tues-Fri 10:00am-6:00pm	Tues-Wed 6:00pm-8:00pm
Sat 8:00am-3:00pm	