



# The Purple Press

VOLUME 12, ISSUE 1

"HOME OF THE PHANTOMS"

OCTOBER 2015

## School changes 2015: Saved by the silent bell



Written by:  
Kelly Kopera

Did you hear that bell? Of course you didn't, because among the many changes PAHS has experienced this fall, silent bells have been introduced. Although the alterations this school year aren't as drastic as an extra period, these tweaks have already affected day-to-day happenings at the high school.

This year has seen the departure of assistant principals Mrs. Sturdivant and Dr. Alston, and their successors are Mr. Fierras, Mrs. Celotto, and Mr. Sutton. While Mr. Sutton is new to the high school, Mr. Fierras and Mrs. Celotto are familiar faces to Phoenixville students. On his switch from special education teacher to assistant principal, Mr. Fierras said, "As a teacher and coach, I had the ability to directly affect students in one class and on one team. As an AP, I feel as though I can support each student and teacher directly and indirectly." Overall, he hopes to "make PAHS better than it was last year." Mrs. Celotto stated, "I wanted to impact even more students and feel

that being an administrator allows me to do that." This year, she would like to use her new position to "help develop a climate of positivity and learning within our building."

In addition to Mrs. Celotto and Mr. Fierras making the switch, guidance counselor Mrs. Ishler will be joining the Family and Consumer Sciences department following the departure of Mrs. Dugan on October 16. Besides several faculty members moving around, PAHS has welcomed 12 new teachers for the 2015-2016 school year.

With freshman classes growing each year, space is at a premium at the high school. To combat this challenge, new lockers have popped up in previously empty spaces. You've probably spotted them where there used to be a wall of windows in the upstairs hallway, as well as in the science wing.

In addition to these changes, the weight room and auditorium have been revamped. In the past, the back gym had been divided between wrestling and workout space, leaving the weight room with little space for equipment. Over the summer, however, the weight room expanded to accommodate new features, such as monkey bars, boxes, and turf. These additions have proven to be useful to many sports teams, as well as the CrossFit class that has been introduced this year.

Additionally, "the auditorium was completely gutted and renovated in its physical appearance," Mrs. Tavani stated. This process will span both this and next

year. The rigging and floors have been replaced, the walls and ceiling have been painted black, and new curtains and screens were installed. Next year, all the lighting and sound equipment will be replaced and the booth will be moved down to ground level.

Just down the hallway from the new auditorium and weight room, and you'll find the burning question "What's your fooditude?" waiting for you in the

to PAHS's course catalog this year is the Air Force Junior ROTC program. This program provides students with the opportunity to learn leadership skills and flight science in an environment unlike any offered before at the high school, and so far the program has been a success.

In the realm of athletics, Phoenixville went up against Great Valley for the third annual Route 29 series over Labor Day weekend. Both the boys' cross country

and girls' soccer teams had impressive showings, bringing home wins for the Phantoms.

Another notable event was the freshman class's participation in Unity Day on September 29th and 30th. Events throughout the day included games such as the "human knot" to promote teamwork, and the classic "cross the line" to bring classmates closer together. An activity in which students had to use various materials to pro-



At Unity Day, freshmen **Erin Delson**, **MacKenzie Crenshaw**, and **Abigail DelGrosse** build a container to safely hold a Pringle chip. Photo: Chiderah Nwosu

cafeteria. The cafeteria's new décor is designed to promote positive attitudes about food and healthy living. Additionally, you've probably noticed the more organized flow of traffic when it's time to buy your food, thanks to the ropes streamlining the crowd into neater lines. There's a sandwich station off to the side of the cafeteria as well, providing quick and easy access at lunchtime.

The school itself isn't the only place where appearance is changing. If you've logged on to the district website recently, you've probably noticed that it has a whole new look. The layout is much more navigable, and the home page's recognizable Bridge Street backdrop ties the district to the community, giving the site a homey feel.

New electives pop up every now and then, but a notable addition

to protect a Pringle from being crushed by a textbook was a big hit as well. Members of Phantom Ambassadors and the National Honor Society worked hard both days to keep everything running smoothly. On October 14th, the high school's freshmen and seniors participated in a day of service throughout the community: a group cleaned up at the Freedoms Foundation, another helped out at the Green Valleys Association, and more students stayed at PAHS to beautify the school.

Overall, the 2015-2016 school year is off to a great start at Phoenixville Area High School. All of the four-day weeks of September have certainly helped students ease into their routines, and the changes all over the building have gone smoothly thus far. Now that this school year is in full swing, let all the new silent bells ring! (Or not.)



## In This Issue:

### PEOPLE:

- ◆ Enola Hihi
- ◆ Mr. Sutton
- ◆ Kevin Wang
- ◆ Rose Moore
- ◆ New teachers

### NEWS:

- ◆ Farewell Mrs. Dugan
- ◆ German trip
- ◆ Haunted House
- ◆ CrossFit class
- ◆ Purple Press award

### OPINIONS:

- ◆ Route 29 series
- ◆ Ask the Nurse
- ◆ Does GPA matter?
- ◆ Shayne's Love Train

### ENTERTAINMENT:

- ◆ Mad Max
- ◆ The Visit
- ◆ The Flash
- ◆ Go Set a Watchman
- ◆ Cave Story
- ◆ Metal Gear Solid 1
- ◆ Horoscopes
- ◆ Halloween Quiz

### PAHS SPORTS:

- ◆ Girls' tennis
- ◆ Boys' & Girls' Golf



**Mr. Fierras** and **Mrs. Celotto** are excited to be assistant principals this year.

Photo: Kelly Kopera



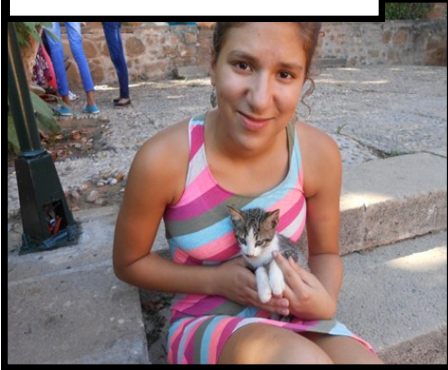
## Enola Hihi: The girl beyond the curls



Written by:  
Alaina DeLeone

Traveling throughout the world, lifeguarding at the local YMCA, speaking fluent French with her relatives, and bouncing with flair through the halls of the high school are just a few of the many activities in junior Enola Hihi's quirky life. Enola's last name, pronounced "he-he", could not suit her more, as she inevi-

**Enola holds a stray cat she found in Morocco.**



tably loves to laugh. Along with Enola's upbeat personality and contagious charisma, Enola diligently focuses on her studies, dreams big, and dares to stand out from the crowd.

Few sixteen year olds can say they have had the opportunity to travel to France, Morocco, Germany, Spain, and Switzerland. However, Enola has done exactly this. Enola comes from an eclectic background, as her mother is from France and her father is from Morocco. This past summer, Enola traveled to France, Morocco, and Spain to visit her relatives. "We traveled to Morocco to visit my grandmother," Enola stated. "After that, we spent five days in Spain and Barcelona, then visited France to catch up with my mom's side of the family."

Enola has two younger siblings, Julia Hihi (9th grade), and Luke Hihi (7th grade), whom she influences each day. She passionately cares for her wide variety of pets that she owns, including her cat, three doves, and two parakeets. "I barely have free time," Enola said, "but if I do I always enjoy spending time with my friends."

Typically, her family visits a handful of museums and castles, and conducts nature walks in scenic locations. To fully grasp the authentic culture while in Morocco, she mainly ate couscous, zucchini, potatoes and tomatoes. As a fluent French speaker, she spoke French the majority of the time while overseas, unless she was just with her two



**Enola smiles with close friend, junior Elizabeth Hussin.**

siblings.

Not only has Enola traveled around Europe and North Africa, but also across the east coast of the United States. "I have a dream of doing a pan-American road trip from Alaska to Chile," said Enola, "but I want to visit [pretty much] everywhere." She enjoys experiencing the different cultures of the world and seeing new faces.

Aside from her past and future travels, Enola also devotes her time to school and the local

YMCA. "I love learning about history," said Enola, "although I am not great at it." She also has an interest in biology and speaking Spanish (becoming trilingual). Previously, she attended the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science and competed regionally.

During the summer, Enola is a lifeguard at the local YMCA and has participated on the swim team since she was in third grade. Along with the YMCA team, she is also a member of the high school swim team, cross country team, and throws shot put for the track team. Normally,

she competes in breaststroke and butterfly during most swim meets.

As for her future plans, Enola is looking further into a science career and continues on making her pan-American road trip one for the books. "I ultimately just want to have fun," said Enola, "and make people happy."

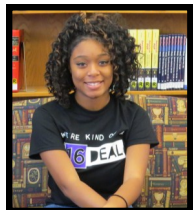
Although Enola is unclear about her future, she is determined to make her dreams a reality. Enola finds laughter and spunk in just about anything, and radiates positivity to all her peers. Whatever she ends up becoming, she is surely destined for greatness and will bring plenty of laughter to the table.

**The Hihi siblings (Julia, Luke, and Enola) pose together aside a friendly dog in Morocco.**

Photos courtesy of Enola Hihi.



## Kevin Wang: A success in the making



Written by:  
Ze'Aira Boggess

Phoenixville seems to be a place where extraordinary individuals blossom. Over the years we have said warm hellos and bitter-sweet goodbyes to some of the most memorable and talented individuals. This year we have been introduced to Kevin Wang, a freshman here at the high school. Although he's new to our high school's Phantom Nation, he is no amateur to success.

**Kevin represented PAMS at the PMEA District 12 7/8 Grade String Fest.**



Many people know Kevin because he is a skilled violin player, but he has many other admirable talents. He has mastered two instruments: the violin, which happens to be his favorite, and piano. He started playing both instruments when he was only in second and third grade. He also plays a number of sports like basketball, baseball, and tennis. Kevin likes to ski and he is on the Phoenixville YMCA Swim Team. Here at Phoenixville Area High School, Kevin is very involved not only in clubs, but academ-

ics as well. His favorite subjects are math and science, so it shouldn't come as a surprise that he is already taking Pre-Calculus, AP Chemistry, and AP Music Theory. He is also a member of our school's Robotics and Physics clubs.

How could one person do this much? What is his inspiration? Kevin's father, a programmer who makes radar systems for airplanes, is the main force. Kevin said his father pushes him to do more and he "brings me along to try

new things." This motivation has led Kevin to win a plethora of awards and competitions like the Kennett Symphony competition with two Honorable Mention awards.

Though he enjoys all these activities above, Kevin has chosen a totally different path for himself. All the sports he participates in and his instruments are just mere hobbies. His main goal for his future is to become a surgeon, engineer, or even a business programmer. Kevin

**Kevin performs Bruch Violin Concerto No. 1 at a church in Malvern**



**Kevin playing "Pirates of the Caribbean" at the Phoenixville Area Middle School's talent show last year.**

Photos courtesy of Kevin Wang

wants to achieve the most he can and he won't stop until he has succeeded and surpassed the expectations.

Kevin Wang is an excellent addition to PAHS, and we look forward to meeting his seven year old brother Ryan Wang, who plays the same instruments and sports. Kevin's advice to everyone is to "Keep studying and go for a dream that you have talent and passion in." He is, without a doubt, going to do great things in the next few years here, and beyond.



## Mr. Sutton joins the PAHS administration



Written by:  
Ben Armstrong

With the departure of Dr. Alston, and Mrs. Sturdivant transferring over to the elementary schools, one question that went through people's minds is who's going to fill in their shoes? Lucky for PAHS, hope came in the form of Mr. Sutton, the new PAHS assistant

principal.

Mr. Sutton graduated from George Washington High School in Philly and went to Ohio State as an undergrad. He has two graduate degrees from St. Joseph's University, and at the moment he is working on his doctorate at Drexel University. Before he became an administrator at PAHS, Mr. Sutton worked as a principal in Philadelphia. For seven years he taught secondary and middle school math, and now is currently in his 5th year as an administrator. In his mind he is still a teacher, but now he's teaching adults as well as students.

When Mr. Sutton came here, one thing he was looking for is an energetic staff who are geared towards bringing the best out of the students, and a diverse population of students in the school. After meeting some of the people here, he felt it was more student-centered than teacher centered. So far he has been adjusting to the different culture here, being from the city.

As an administrator, most of Mr. Sutton's responsibilities include supervising the math and science departments, the 9th grade students, and things like curriculum development and class coverages for teachers. Mr. Sutton said he wants to try to get more into our community, doing



*Mrs. Celotto and Mr. Sutton enjoy a golf outing in the summer.*

Photo courtesy of Mrs. Celotto

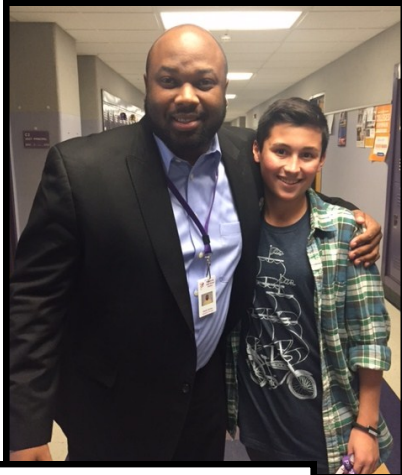
look like a football player, but I love to coach basketball," he said. Mr. Sutton loves to travel, and plans to get back to it soon. Some skills he says he has are being able to connect with people on a personal level, as well as being a good coach, which both help a lot with the position he's in. "I think there's a connection between coaching sports and coaching teachers-putting people in the right position to succeed," Mr. Sutton said.

Some of his favorite TV shows include "Power" and "Scandal," plus sports. He's an avid Eagles, 76ers, Phillies and Flyers fan, and has a soft spot for fish, pizza, and crab cakes. Other interesting notes about him are that he has played on a basketball team down in the Bahamas, and has eaten cooked squirrel before.

A word of advice he has for students here is about "paying it forward." He explained, "You have a responsibility to share with others and help build other people up. That's something I think we're all charged to do." Despite the departure of former assistant principals, it feels like PAHS in good hands with Mr. Sutton here.

ing things like "being in the hallways, at sporting events or activities after school" and connecting more with the students on their level.

During his off time, Mr. Sutton enjoys coaching basketball to young people and spending his time with family and friends. "I



*Mr. Sutton befriends freshman Dan Wielage*

Photo: Mr. Zittel

## Rose Moore: Field hockey star



Written by:  
Jenna Powell

There's always a beauty in seeing someone do what they love. Field hockey runs through the veins of senior Rose Moore. Ever since she was six years old, field hockey has been a part of her busy life. Not only is she enthusiastic about field hockey, she has a great personality filled with humor, energy, and kindness.

Field hockey is in Rose Moore's blood because her family has all been involved in it. She explains, "I have a field hockey family. I

have four older sisters who have all played field hockey three of which played in college.

And my dad is a field hockey umpire. We're a very big, loud, and fun family." Her field hockey journey started at PMYC when she was six and has continued to grow since then. Rose began playing indoor field hockey in sixth grade and currently she plays for the club Xcalibur. Rose is a



*Seniors Madi Caba, Rose Moore, Katie McErlean, and Brogan Helsey with kids from field hockey camp.*

Photos courtesy of Rose Moore

versatile offensive player because she can play any position on the front line. Currently, she plays an offensive mid position for PAHS.

Her accomplishments at PAHS include a PAC-10 Honorable Mention sophomore year (2014), and All League First Team and All Area Second Team in her junior year (2015). Rose's club team has placed at the National Indoor Tournament for

the past two years.

In August of 2015, Rose verbally committed to Kutztown University to continue field hockey. She plans on majoring in communications and psychology at Kutztown.

Also during the summer, she played a lot of field hockey and ran a kids field hockey camp at PAHS.

Even though Rose is extremely busy with field hockey, she is also involved in Art Club and she is treasurer of Varsity Club. Outside of school she enjoys hanging with friends, watching Netflix, reading, writing, and going for runs. In addition, she keeps herself even more busy because she started working in



*Rose keeps the ball away from her opponent.*



*Rose surrounded by all of the field hockey seniors.*

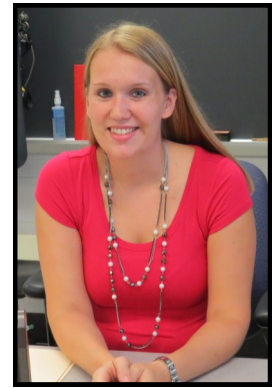
August at Sips, a restaurant in downtown Phoenixville.

Rose has a bright future ahead of her filled with field hockey, friends, and laughter. She is excited for her senior year as she states, "I'm looking forward to having fun with my friends since this will be our last year together before heading off to college." Rose Moore will definitely leave a mark at Phoenixville once she sets off for new adventures at Kutztown and beyond.

*Gone with the old and in with the new. There was a need for several staff replacements. Now it's time to meet the new teachers and counselors at PAHS this school year!*

**MRS. ANTWI-**

Mrs. Antwi previously taught at Westlake High School in Maryland, but after working as a substitute here at Phoenixville last year, she decided to make the switch for good. A graduate of Warwick High School and Millersville University, Mrs. Antwi is teaching Algebra I and Geometry this year. She has two brothers, between whom she has three nieces and three nephews. Her husband Bernard is from Ghana, and she has four sisters-in-law on his side. Furthermore, her dad Terry and his four brothers all have names that rhyme (Larry, Garry, Jerry, Kerry). Mrs. Antwi enjoys hanging out with her family and friends in her free time, and traveled to Canada, Texas, and the beach this past summer. So far in her time at Phoenixville she has been impressed by the friendliness of students and staff.

**MR. BANKES-**

Mr. Bankes graduated from Owen J. Roberts High School. He then received his undergraduate degree from Shippensburg University, and will complete his Masters degree from Neumann University this October. He previously taught at Downingtown East High School and Norristown Area High School, and joined the Phoenixville staff to teach Earth and Space Interactions, Oceanography, Intro to Astronomy, and Environmental Science this year. The high school's integration of technology initially drew Mr. Bankes to Phoenixville, and he has been impressed so far by the warm welcome of the school community and the wide range of resources available to his students. He has a wife named Kim and a one-year-old son named Chase. Additionally, he lives close to his parents and brother, allowing them to be involved with his son. The family went on a few day trips over the summer, which included Chase's first trips to the zoo and the beach. In his free time, he enjoys spending time with his family, as well as watching football, baseball, hockey, and basketball. Although he is a huge supporter of all the Philadelphia sports teams, his favorite football team has always been the Buffalo Bills, despite never having lived there.

**MRS. BHALLA-**

Many upperclassmen have probably noticed a new friendly face in the guidance department, Mrs. Bhalla. Previously, Mrs. Bhalla was the College and Career counselor at Spring-Ford High School for the past nine years, and is now the College and Career counselor at Phoenixville. She earned her undergrad degree from West Virginia, her Masters in education from Alvernia, and School Counseling Certification from Eastern University. Drawn to the class sizes and welcoming atmosphere at PAHS, Mrs. Bhalla is eager to build the college counseling program. When she is not chasing around her eighteen month old daughter, she enjoys running, swimming, and spending time with family. Mrs. Bhalla is a huge athletic supporter of her alma mater, the West Virginia Mountaineers, and is also a big fan of college football and basketball. She is happy to make the switch from a Spring-Ford Ram to a Phoenixville Phantom.

**MS. DREYER-**

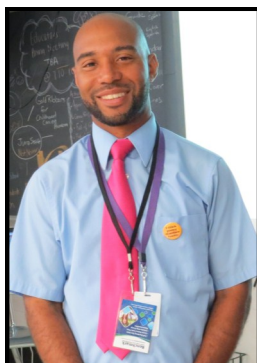
Ms. Dreyer is a new Spanish teacher at PAHS. She attended high school in Coatesville and went to college at West Chester University. She taught for eight years at Upper Darby High School and another three at Plymouth-Whitemarsh High School. Currently she is teaching Spanish 3 Honors and Spanish 1. She wanted to teach here because she lived in Phoenixville and wanted to educate our community. So far she's been impressed by the focus we have on community here. Ms. Dreyer has an older brother, and over the summer worked with Barkley and Schuylkill Elementary at a summer camp. During her free time she enjoys hiking, reading, watching movies, and playing tennis. She's a huge Harry Potter fan, and plans on getting a puppy this spring and naming her after something associated with the series.

**MR. FISCHER-**

Mr. Fischer graduated from North Penn High School and later graduated college from Albright College and Arcadia University. Before coming to Phoenixville he taught at Avon Grove Charter School, Ephrata High School, and Manheim High School. What brought Mr. Fischer to PAHS is Phoenixville's close district and community. This year he'll be teaching Algebra 1 CP, Geometry, English 10, and Resource. Since coming here he's been very impressed by our school spirit and how overall enjoyable the atmosphere here is. In his free time Mr. Fischer likes to spend time with his kids: three year old Clyde and 16 month old Evelyn. He also has a wife, Gabija, who is a teacher too. He enjoys spending time outdoors, especially going hiking, fishing, and camping.

**MR. FLAMER-**

Some may recognize Mr. Flamer from substituting at the high school last year. This year he is a long term substitute in the English department and is teaching Creative Writing, English 11 ACP, English 11 Honors, and Techniques of Writing. He attended high school at West Chester B. Reed Henderson where his classmates referred to him as 'Zeus'. Mr. Flamer attended college at Slippery Rock University. Previously, Mr. Flamer taught in the West Chester Area School District at Fugett Middle School. He is elated to be joining the Phoenixville Area School District and is impressed with the well-behaved students. If Mr. Flamer had any spare time, he would spend it traveling the world. His family is from Coatesville, Pennsylvania as well as West Chester, Pennsylvania. Over the summer Mr. Flamer spent most of his time coaching the West Chester East Boys' soccer team, and a summer camp for FC Continental.





**MRS. GIANGIULIO-**

Mrs. Giangiolio is a new Calculus and Algebra teacher here at PAHS. She went here for high school, attended college at Millersville University, and taught before at Oakton High School in Virginia. She started to teach here again since her husband and her moved back to Phoenixville and she once attended here. The classes she teaches are Algebra 2H, Algebra 2 ACP, Algebra 1CP, AP Calculus AB, and Pre-Calculus Honors. So far she has been impressed by the students since coming back here. She has a brother named Kirtus who is currently attending college in South Dakota for agriculture, and is married to Daniel, an advertiser and graphic designer who works in King of Prussia. She also owns a cat named Victoria and plans on getting a puppy in the near future. In her free time she enjoys watching movies, spending time with her family and friends, and swimming. This past summer she traveled to the Poconos and visited Knoebel's Amusement Park. Also, as a hobby, she enjoys collecting spoons from different places she visits.

**MISS GOODWIN-**

Miss Goodwin is a new business teacher at PAHS. She earned degrees from Old Dominion University and Bloomsburg University, and she has previously taught at Danville High School. She grew up as an only child in New Jersey and has previously lived in four other states since she graduated from Wallkill Valley Regional High School. Miss Goodwin was instantly attracted to the Phoenixville area and its sense of community. This year she is teaching Computer Applications and Programming, and the Co-Op program. Miss Goodwin has been impressed by the well-rounded students at PAHS along with the welcoming atmosphere. Outside of school, she enjoys walking with her dog, playing the piano, as well as traveling and camping around the tristate area with friends and family.

**MR. LALUNA-**

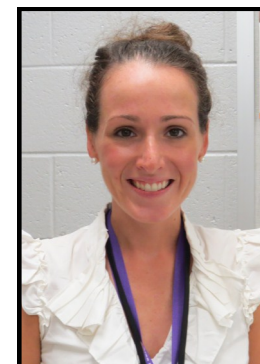
Mr. LaLuna graduated from Whippany Park High School in New Jersey. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Delaware, and attended graduate school at Villanova. His parents and brother still live in northern New Jersey, where he is originally from. Mr. LaLuna has come to Phoenixville for his first teaching job after student teaching at Strath Haven High School last spring. This year he is teaching English 12 ACP, English 10 ACP, and Philosophy, Media, and Literature. So far, Mr. LaLuna has been impressed by the friendliness of the students at Phoenixville. "I've really enjoyed getting to know everyone," he stated. In his free time, Mr. LaLuna enjoys reading, running, going to museums, watching movies, and spending time outdoors. He recently adopted three pet rats: Camembert, Cosette, and Cleopatra.

**MR. MCCORD-**

Mr. McCord is a social studies teacher who taught at Daniel Boone High School for seven years before coming to PAHS. He came to our school because he felt he had outgrown his alma mater at Daniel Boone and liked the progressive mindset here at Phoenixville. This year he will be teaching ACP and CP Global Studies. So far he's been impressed by our school's look, our course offerings, and how respectful the students here can be. Mr. McCord met his future wife in 9th grade. The two married in 2009 and three years later had a daughter together. He enjoys taking trips down to Disney World, having been there over 30 times in the past. Mr. McCord said "[I] proposed to my wife there, and continue to go back every other summer. When I am not in Disney World, my family and I vacation in the Outer Banks." One special memory from his first year at Daniel Boone occurred one night during a school play when one of the students were unable to perform, so the director came to him so ask if he could fill in the part. Mr. McCord now thinks he's been the only person to act in a school play while also a teacher. "As any teacher knows, you don't say no to anything during your first year," he said.

**MS. QUINN-**

Ms. Quinn previously taught at Gwynedd Mercy Academy High School, and joined PASD this year to teach Latin at the middle and high schools. She decided to come to Phoenixville because she enjoys teaching a diverse student body, and has so far been impressed by the school spirit of both the students and staff. Ms. Quinn graduated from Nazareth Academy High School in Philadelphia, and College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, MA. Her mother is a fellow teacher, with whom she enjoys sharing stories of positive experiences in the classroom, and her father is a funeral director. She also has a brother who is an accountant and lives in Narberth. In her free time, Ms. Quinn enjoys running, rowing, needlepoint, cooking, baking, watching Notre Dame football, and listening to live music. Additionally, Ms. Quinn has run two marathons in Philadelphia. Over the past summer, she went to Disney World as a chaperone with her alma mater, Nazareth Academy High School. She was able to meet all her favorite characters, including Winnie the Pooh!

**MS. SMITH-**

Joining the creative team in the Art department this year is Ms. Smith. She is teaching Introduction to Art, Honors Mural Arts, and Painting and Drawing. For the past six years Ms. Smith has taught Art Education in the Norristown Area School District as well as a year in the Public Charter School for discipline students: Helen Thackston School in the urban city of York School District. Before that, she attended Kutztown University and Moore College of Art and Design. As a local resident of the Phoenixville area, Ms. Smith wanted to contribute to the community by becoming a teacher in the district. Aside from teaching art, Ms. Smith is a dancer of twenty five years and received her minor in Dance and Kinesthetics in college. Along with dancing in college, Ms. Smith competed in national and regional competitions throughout her life. She has been a Zumba instructor at LA Fitness for adults, and also coached middle school and high school dance teams.

## Farewell Mrs. Dugan



Written by:  
Alaina DeLeone

**Q: How long have you been teaching at PAHS?**

A: I came in October 2011, and before I was working at CAT Pickering. I was the Teacher Academy Instructor for TCHS until Dr. Parkinson invited me to come over to PAHS to see the Inclusive Preschool Program and collaboration with CCIU. He told me PAHS students are amazing and he was RIGHT...I have loved every student here at PAHS and was delighted to work with both PAHS and CCIU, one of the best Intermediate Units in the country!

**Q: Where did you attend college?**

A: I went to school in Upstate New York, called Monroe Community College, and received my Associate's degree there. My husband and I then moved here, so I did not get my bachelor's until I was forty at West Chester University. Then I got my master's degree at Chestnut Hill College.

**Q: Tell me a little about your family.**

A: They're pretty awesome. They are all living

Since Mrs. Dugan began teaching at the high school four years ago, she has influenced many of her students to follow their dreams. Whether they wanted to become educators or work with children, she has provided them with valuable insight and hands-on experience. Unfortunately, Mrs. Dugan recently left Phoenixville Area High School and is now teaching Family and Consumer Science and other courses at Garnet Valley High School. Although she will be missed, Mrs. Dugan assures us that her heart will remain in Phoenixville.

their dreams and I attribute a lot of that to the great education they obtained at Phoenixville. My son Rick has always wanted to be a pilot and that's what he's doing. He's in Texas right now flying fixed wings, but he is also a helicopter pilot training new pilots in the Navy. Julie always wanted to be a teacher and she teaches eighth grade STEM at a school that is about seven miles off of the border from Mexico in San Diego California. She loves it and she is getting married in April. My other daughter Jenny attended Duquesne University and majored in integrative marketing and communications. A giant engineering company hired her in Dallas, and have transferred over to Austin, Texas. I have a husband of thirty two years and our dog Wiggins who is a small dog with a big personality.

**Q: When did you decide to become a family consumer science teacher, and why?**

A: It wasn't by design, but I taught early education at Norristown Area School District, teaching kindergarten and then first grade. Between kindergarten and first grade, the children in kindergarten felt they could do anything, but then the focus on literacy happened and in first grade the kids needed to learn to read and so many of them were struggling and wanted to give up. That's when I thought we've got to get to these kids earlier, I thought I could inspire high school students to go into the field of teaching or help kids read by participating in Jumpstart or Dr. Seuss day, just to get these children excited about reading. I added my Family Consumer Science Certification to teach K-12.

**Q: What classes did you teach here?**

A: When I first started I was teaching Working with Children, and that has now turned into a dual enrollment course called Teaching Young Children. I also taught Intro to

Foods, Relationships, Intro to Education, Children's Literature, and Strategies for College Success. Of course I consider myself lucky to teach classes about LIFE. I only wish more students here at PAHS had more room in their schedules to take these amazing courses.

**Q: What is your favorite memory from teaching here?**

A: Definitely the day Dylan McCants walked the track at his first track meet. I don't know how to put that into words due to the massive support. The support that happened that day was remarkable and even made it to the #2 spot on Sports Center. Dylan, encouraged by Coach Poole, filled the Washington Field stadium with cheering fans and foes joining together to cheer for one very amazing and brave man. Dylan, who faces life's challenges each and every day, mustered the strength and courage, one step at a time, to reach the finish line...the power of the human spirit on that day was etched into my heart forever.

**Q: What's your reason for leaving the high school?**

A: To be honest, I didn't plan on leaving the high school, because I love what I do and all with whom I do it with each day. But the opportunity to teach block periods will allow for many rich, real and relevant experiences that I am not able to do due to time and space constraints here. Hopefully all the traditions we started will carry on!

**Q: What does your new position entail?**

A: I have accepted a position with a school district that runs their high school program on a block scheduling. This will allow me to cultivate a Little Jags Preschool Program led by high school students and in the spring and I will teach a Home Design Course much like HGTV! These are popular courses at Garnet Valley High School. Already Miss Asha and I



Phoenixville Area High School students **Rachel Carney, Sabrina Hennessy, Julia Altemus, Kaylie Burnett, Katie Carney**, along with **Mrs. Dugan** supporting Dylan McCants' and his family at the March of Dimes fundraiser.

Photos courtesy of Mrs. Dugan

have planned to google chat with both our preschool programs and plan on continuing with being a virtual mentor for Educators Rising with hopes that PAHS and GVHS will help more EdRising clubs form in Pennsylvania.

**Q: What will you miss about PAHS?**

A: Definitely the students. Phoenixville is a diamond in the rough. It's small enough for your name to be known, provides big opportunities, and has a rich sense of community. I'm not moving from Phoenixville. My heart will always be here.

**Q: Anything else you want to add?**

A: The message I want to leave with everyone is that anything and everything is possible if you put your heart and mind to it, and along the way "be the change you want to see in the world." You can and will make a difference!

I would like to add a list of movies that have inspired my teaching here at PAHS:

"Gifted Hands" – Message: You can be anything you want to be!

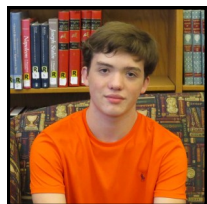
"Freedom Writers" – Message: Celebrate our diversity. Learning styles and Gifts.

"Polar Express" – Magic in the simplest things.



**Mrs. Dugan** posing with her husband, **Brian**, and children **Rick, Julie and Jenny**, along with their Puggle, **Wiggins**, during a family visit in **San Diego, California**.

## CROSSover into a world of FITness



Written by:  
Ben Armstrong

Tired of being slow or weak? Or are you just looking for a good workout? New equipment added to

the weight room makes doing CrossFit at PAHS an absolute joy.

Having a CrossFit gym at a school is pretty unique, as our school is only one of five in the US to have a CrossFit program in it, and the only school east of the Mississippi with one. As physical education teacher Mr. Youngblood explained, CrossFit is "constantly varied high intensity functional movements." It

**Sophia Kopko, Vince Melli, and Michael Stokes** on rowing machines while Danish student **Rasmus Rasmussen** jumps behind them.

focuses more on actions in everyday life rather than a traditional workout. Instead of coming in and having an arm day and just curling weights, you'd do pull ups or climb a rope: tasks that utilize other muscles in the workout. It lets your movements become a little more realistic in a sense.

Some of the equipment that has been added to the gym includes kettlebells, medicine



**Junior Sophia Kopko** doing a handstand pushup.

Photos: Mr. Youngblood

balls, ab mats, a new 30 foot long rig complete with monkey bars and spaces for up to six people to bench press weights and squat, along with plenty of other options. The workout area is also getting climbing ropes, gymnastic rings, boxes, jump ropes, and new flooring for the entire area, including a small section with turf.

Mr. Youngblood is very passionate about CrossFit, wanting to share the same positive experience he had with the students here. "One thing about CrossFit that I like, that drew me to CrossFit from being in a traditional gym setting,



was that CrossFit specializes in not specializing in any one thing," he said. CrossFit is an always changing and evolving way of working out. From pushing sleds, to jumping on boxes, to climbing ropes, nearly anything can be programmed into a workout.

"The workouts are never the same. They are always changing. One day we could be climbing ropes and then the next day we could be doing squats," said senior Paige Oustrich. "It's a great way to get in shape," added Jordan Knight, a junior.

If you're looking for a good workout, you may want to give the CrossFit class a chance.



## Bridging the "GAPP" between America and Germany



Written by:  
Kelly Kopera

You probably remember some German students spending time at Phoenixville last year.

They were here as a part of the German American Partnership Program (GAPP), and over the summer, the same program gave nine Phoenixville students the opportunity to travel to Germany, along with chaperones Mrs. Tavani and Mrs. Ballantine.

GAPP is sanctioned by the Goethe Institute, a non-profit association that encourages the study of German language and culture. Through these organizations, as well as Germany's cultural attaché and America's department of state, high school

students can experience new cultures through exchange programs.

The group went on many excursions throughout their time abroad, which stretched from June 18th to July 3rd. In the town of Kaufbeuren, where they spent most of their time with their host families, the students took a tour and were honored with a reception with the mayor at the town's city hall. They also experienced Kaufbeuren's town museum, as well as a theatrical performance on the town's history. Additionally, they toured the city of Augsburg, where the ecumenical movement (an attempt to reconcile the differences between Catholics and Protestants) began,

and took a trip to a rock climbing club. As if all that wasn't enough, the group visited Füssen's Neuschwanstein Castle, the model for Disney's Magic Kingdom.

While living with German families, the Phoenixville students learned a lot of German, both language and culture, from being immersed in their day-to-day routines. Senior Susanna Shier was impressed by the freedom that

German teenagers have in getting places, compared to Americans. "You can walk or bike, or you just hop on the bus that stops like five minutes from your house," she stated.



Seniors **Rebecca LaPera** and **Susanna Shier** try on traditional German dirndls and lederhosen.

Photos courtesy of Susanna Shier

The school and meal schedules each day were much different from America as well: "We would go to school at about the same time, but then depending on the day of the week, we would either come home around 1 o'clock or 12 and we would have this huge lunch, like our dinner," Susanna said.

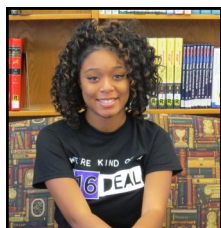
The cultural experience was supplemented by a beautiful environment; Kaufbeuren's location just north of the Alps made the sights unforgettable. "It was the prettiest thing I've ever seen," said junior Kathryn Bland.

Overall, the GAPP trip was a fantastic cultural experience for several PAHS students. "I learned a lot about communication, and just the way they do things really differently," Bland stated. "You get to be immersed in the culture."



Phoenixville sophomore **Jane Shier** and seniors **Rebecca LaPera** and **Susanna Shier** pose in front of the BMW Museum in Munich.

## The Phantom House beckons...



Written by:  
Ze'Aira Boggess

As the weather cools and October slowly creeps to an end, we find ourselves just weeks away from one of the best holidays of the year, Halloween! This year Phoenixville Area High School's Youth and Philanthropy class is giving back to the brave veterans in our community. This class is geared toward doing good will projects, and according to Mr. Smiley, "Every year the class picks a group that we are going to try and impact."

This year the class's focus revolves around the elderly, but focuses on veterans. Mr. Smiley said, "Veterans are a group that are underserved in our area, and an important group to take care of."

This motivation to give back has led the students of the Youth and Philanthropy class and our school's Theater Guild to organize and opening a haunted house right here in Phoenixville... a haunted house that is sure to spook. People who attend should expect to see terrifying decorations, blood, and horrifying skits performed by the Theater Guild. There might even be "a chainsaw somewhere along the way," said Mr. Smiley. The haunted house will be located at the clubhouse on the site of the new Early Learning Center, formerly known as Meadow-

brook. This particular building is over two hundred and fifty years old, and it served as a campground for President Washington himself during the Civil War. Starting out as a small cottage in the 1700's, the generations of people that have lived there took it upon themselves to add on to the house, leaving behind history and possibly a ghost or two.

Admission is five dollars per person and will start at 7:00 pm. The dates to attend are October 22, 23, 24, 29, and 30th. The first hour between seven and eight will be set up for the kids who enjoy a little scare. The real fun begins at 8:00 pm for the high school students and adults who are brave enough to take on the challenge.



## The Purple Press strikes Gold



Written by:  
Matt LoPolito,  
Correspondent

Each summer, the Pennsylvania School Press Association evaluates high school newspapers from all across the state, and assigns to each a designation of Bronze, Silver, or Gold. This year, for the second time in its eleven years of publication, Phoenixville Area High School's Purple Press earned a Gold Rating. According to the PSPA, a Gold level newspaper "consistently demonstrates mastery of journalistic standards in terms of content, writing, design, and photography and must exemplify ideals of scholastic journalism."

The Purple Press is a monthly newspaper produced by Mr. Zittel and his Journalism class. Each edition is painstakingly assembled by a team of staff writers who receive and volunteer for article assignments. The newspaper covers school news, sports, and people; the paper also features opinion articles, entertainment reviews, student art work, and a monthly quiz. The writing team works

throughout the week, doing interviews, taking photos, and writing articles, all under a tight deadline to ensure the news stays relevant.

The Pennsylvania School Press critiqued the writing team in over eighty different categories, including maintaining a balance of in depth coverage, standard stories, and



Sophomore **Ben Armstrong**, senior **Ze'Aria Boggess**, juniors **Alaina DeLeone** and **Kelly Kopera**, and senior **Jenna Powell** show off editions of last year's Purple Press. A proud newspaper advisor, **Mr. Zittel**, gives these students a thumbs-up for their amazing work last year.

Photo: Ms. Loraine Kelly

briefs, demonstrating thorough interviewing and research, avoiding editorializing, and

employing clean, concise syntax and diction. The team earned "Gold" ratings in seventy-one of the writing categories, earning an overall Gold level for writing.

As all articles and photos come in the layout editor goes to work, assembling each issue's layout in Microsoft Publisher and working tirelessly to fill anywhere from 16-24 pages with appealing and well-

presented text, headlines, images, and other media. The Purple Press layout was critiqued on twenty-three separate categories including using effective folio lines, using space effectively on double page layouts, and even using "innovative and trendsetting designs that respect basic concepts of visual presentation." All but three of the criteria were given deemed to be Gold level, earning the layout an overall designation of Gold. Last year's layout editor was Amanda Hozyash, and this year the job is headed by senior Jenna Powell.

In the "special considerations" section, the judge called the Purple Press "One of the best [newspapers] this go around," likely a good omen for the next round of judging. After the initial critique, publications with a Gold rating are reviewed by an out-of-state judge who selects the top publication for All-State honors.

This year's Gold award was a much-deserved victory for Mr. Zittel and his Journalism class. It is safe to say that the laudatory critique from the PSPA is only the beginning of a new golden age of journalism at Phoenixville Area High School.



On Thursday September 17th Phoenixville Area High School held an Activity Fair in the Gymnasium during the afternoon. The fair was put together to give students a glimpse at the amazing clubs offered at the high school. If you have not already joined a club, check out these amazing options and get involved!

#### Academic Team

The Academic Team competes in fast-paced knowledge tournaments in local matches against teams in the Chester County league. During competitions, teams answer questions in categories including American and world history, science, literature, current events, geography, fine arts, and more. The top team from Chester County advances to the state championships, held every spring on the floor of the Pennsylvania Senate and broadcast statewide. Phoenixville Area High School will field both JV and varsity teams in this year's competition and expects to distinguish itself in this prestigious competition.

The Pennsylvania Academic Competition annually awards thousands of dollars in scholarships to championship teams. Students who wish to learn more about the team should see Ms. Ballantine in room J-4.

#### Amnesty International

Amnesty International is a club for students interested in advocating human rights. As a club we work to raise awareness of human rights violations, fundraise for human rights organizations and write letters to government officials requesting that they ensure the safety and well-being of their citizens. Amnesty International meets in D-8 (Mrs. Tell's room) on Thursdays (alternating between before and after school). The club president is Bethany Light.

#### Anime Club

Anime Club focuses upon Japanese culture, especially the Japanese art style also known as Anime or Manga when in book form. Some of the club activities are giving lessons on Japanese culture, watching anime films, and overall getting a better understanding of Japan. Anime Club meetings are held on Thursdays after school in Mr. LaLuna's room (F-3). For more information see Ryan Meise or Sarah Schmidt.

#### Art Club

Art Club is an opportunity for students to create 2D & 3D artwork and participate in art contests, community art projects, and school art show. This club is designed to strengthen pre-existing and further develop students' artistic talent. This is a great opportunity for students to learn more about the art department offerings or to remain involved in art even if they are not currently enrolled in an art class. Art Club meets on select days 1 and 3 in room G-5 at 7:15. Art Club meeting topics, projects, and dates will be announced in advance on the morning announcements. Please see art club president, Kaleigh Quinnan, with any questions.

#### Best Buddies

Best Buddies is a nonprofit organization dedicated to establishing volunteers that creates one-to-one friendships and leadership development for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (DD). This program helps students with disabilities by pairing a special education student with a regular education student. The goal is to help make lifelong friendships, have some fun with people your own age, and to help others. Friendship meetings with your buddies can take place during school or after school hours. The advisor is Ms. Lamb. Sophia Kopko is the president and the club meets every Wednesday at 7:15 a.m. in room D-4.

#### Bible Club

The Bible Club focuses on the development of the spiritual and social life of students. The club provides opportunities for discussion and fellowship through the sharing of the Bible. The club is evangelistic, service-oriented and strives to develop a community of support and encouragement for each other. The club's advisor is Mr. Gionta and the club meets Tuesdays after school in room D-6.

#### Cappies

The Cappies, "Critics and Awards Program," is a program for students who like theatre and like to write. Through this program high school theater and journalism students are trained as critics, attend and write reviews for at least five shows at other schools, and publish those reviews in regional newspapers like The Philadelphia Inquirer. At the end of the year, the student critics vote for awards that are presented at a formal Cappies Gala. In return, our school can participate in the competition for the awards. Aditi Biswas is currently our lead critic, and Mrs. Tavani and Ms. Ballantine are the teacher mentors. Besides the designated Cappies dates, the club meets on the first Friday of the month at 7 a.m. in room D-12.

#### Class Council

Class Council is comprised of elected class council members and homeroom representatives for each grade (9-12). These students along with any other students who are interested in participating are responsible for encouraging and promoting class participation in fundraising events. The council's goal is to raise money and organize upperclassmen activities such as the prom and the senior banquet. The Council fundraises and organizes all class activities, including Homecoming events, the Senior Yearbook Banquet and the senior trip. To get involved, see Mr. Winters or Mrs. Cordingley (freshmen), Mrs. Frost or Mr. Hughes (sophomores), Ms. Black or Mrs. Trivel (juniors), Mr. Rutchauskas or Mr. Smiley (seniors).

#### Clean-Up Club

The Clean-Up Club is a service-oriented club that has been in motion for the past seven years. We were awarded with a road sign on Spring City Road this past spring that recognizes the "litter control" that Clean-Up Crew has provided. We have also been recognized by the State Representatives in Harrisburg with a formal meeting and framed certificate. In the past, Clean-Up Crew was a small group of students who gathered together during one day of spring break to clean up Spring City Road in East Pikeland Township. This year, we are looking for a fresh, new club ready for new members. We intend on cleaning up the parking lots/areas around local business in Phoenixville as well as the East Pikeland, Schuylkill, and Barkley Townships. The goal of the Clean-Up Club is to make a difference in our local environment. By the spring, one goal is to have made a noticeable impact on the surrounding areas in our town. With your help, we can make an even bigger difference in our town. Clean-Up Club meets every Tuesday at 7:10 in room E-4, with president Amanda Monachelli and advisor Mr. Winters.

#### Dance Team

The Phoenixville Dance Team is a new group this year for interested 7th-12th graders. The team will be performing at school pep rallies, sports games, competitions, parades, and Hersheypark. The PDT meets on Thursday's from 3-5 in the PAMS auxiliary gym. The president/captain is Krista Grammerstorf. Please contact Krista if interested in joining. Krista Weiss and Judi Grammerstorf are the advisors.

#### Destinations with Direction

DWD is a program designed to increase awareness and motivate high potential, economically disadvantaged students to pursue opportunities in higher education. The 30 students selected for DWD annually receive additional supports including extended school days, counseling, college mentors, tutors, weekly workshops and college tours. Additionally, school personnel establish relationships with the appropriate college level officials to help match student needs with resources and services available to assist them on this journey. By giving the students these additional supports, they will become empowered to pursue a college education. This effort will make our students believe in the

importance of a college education and give them the confidence to know they have a realistic chance at becoming college graduates. DWD is advised by Ms. Black and the club meets Thursday nights at 6 p.m. in room F-3.

#### Educators Rising

The mission of Educators Rising is to foster the recruitment and development of prospective educators worldwide through the dissemination of innovative programming and relevant research. By elevating the image of teaching, Educators Rising will attract dynamic and diverse students who will become tomorrow's great educators. At PAHS, the students are involved in internships in classrooms from pre-K-high school. In addition to these school-based programs, we help students and teachers connect and deepen their learning through the EdRising Virtual Campus, a cutting-edge online community that offers rigorous resources to support the development of great teachers. Students also participate in State and National level competitions, and have many scholarship opportunities. Educators Rising meetings take place every first and third Thursday of the school year in room D-10 at 7:10 a.m. Emily Holmberger is president. The advisor is Mrs. Ishler.

#### FBIA

FBIA is an acronym for Future Business Leaders of America. The goal of the group is to prepare students for careers in business and to educate them about the free enterprise system. The club has students engage in business enterprises, direct group affairs, and compete in business related events in order to make students better employees and citizens. FBIA meets every Thursday at 7:00 a.m. in Mrs. Wilbert's room (F-14). The club president is Julie Graham.

#### Feminist Club

Founded last year, the Feminist Club is one of the newer clubs at PAHS. The goal of the Feminist Club is to educate Phoenixville's students, staff and faculty on the ideas of feminism. Another goal is to debunk the many myths that surround feminism. The Feminist Club meets day 3 in Mrs. Spina's room (G-5) at 7:15 a.m. Everybody is welcome, and the group looks forward to a great year. The club president is Emily Lolli.

#### French Club

The French Club meets once a month in room D-3 and is open to students who are currently learning French (in school or outside of school). Some of our discussions include promotion of the French Program, trips to French-speaking countries, and fundraising. The purpose of French Club is to explore and learn about the Francophone cultures through cooking lessons, outings to restaurants, trips to museums (Philadelphia Art Museum, Rodin Museum, Barnes Foundation), French films (Colonial Theatre, Ursinus College French Film Festival), and more. French Club is run by students, and depends on the ideas and active participation of its members to make it interesting and fun! The faculty advisor is Mrs. Gasbara. Kaleigh Quinnan and Enola Hihi are co-presidents.

#### Gender and Sexuality Alliance

The PAHS Gender and Sexuality Alliance is a club devoted to ending the mistreatment of students based on sexual orientation. Each year the club undertakes projects designed to educate the student body and improve the culture of PAHS. Anyone interested in promoting the acceptance of all PAHS students can join the GSA. The GSA meets weekly after school in room D-8. See the advisor, Mrs. Tell, for more information.

#### Gazebo Literary Magazine

Gazebo is a student-run organization to showcase the various writing and artistic work of students among the high school. It focuses upon publishing a variety of styles and genres in attempts to produce both a diverse and high-quality publication. The club meets and conducts a writing circle on Wednesdays in room F-10. See Mr. Curley (F-8) or Ms. Speckhals (F-10) for more information.

#### German Club

Deutschklub exists to further the knowledge and education for students who wish to pursue German outside the classroom and beyond the scope of school instruction; to meet other German speakers with whom a student may not have class; as forum for students who are not currently enrolled in a German class to keep up and develop their German skills; as a forum to which to invite native speakers; to plan exchanges, visits, trips; for German cultural experiences, such as food, movies and conversation; to support the German program at the high school. It is open to all current and past German students at PAHS. Meetings are as posted. See Frau Tavani (D-12) for more information.

#### HOSA-Future Health Care Professionals

HOSA is a student led organization for future health professionals. Its purpose is to promote career opportunities in health care and to prepare students to successfully pursue a health career. It provides a unique program of leadership development, motivation, and recognition for students pursuing a career in the health care field. HOSA is 100% health care! As the organization grows, students will be able to compete in area, state, and national leadership conferences. This provides students with a sense of accomplishment as well as recognition. HOSA provides opportunities for students to make well-informed career choices among the many health occupations. Other advantages of membership include eligibility for scholarship opportunities, meeting leaders in the health professions, attending seminars, learning basic survival skills such as time management and working with a group/team, building self-esteem, and improving communication skills. Check out the website for more details: [www.hosa.org](http://www.hosa.org). Advisor: Mrs. Manley, MEEd, RD, RN, CSN. Meetings take place the first and third Friday morning of each month at 7 a.m. in the Choir Room.

#### Junior Classical League

Also known as the Latin Club, this organization focuses on teaching and understanding the ancient Latin language and Greco-Roman culture to anyone interested in the Classics. One doesn't have to be a Latin student to join the group. The club holds many Roman-style activities, including the celebration of the winter holiday of Saturnalia, the screening of classically-inspired films, a Roman banquet, and Rome's birthday in April. The club also strives each year to involve students in the Philadelphia Classical Society Latin Week Competition at the Baldwin School. Meetings are held once a week and will be announced via email and morning announcements. The advisor is Magistra Quinn and the acting president is Asya (Sempronia) Massenburg.

#### Key Club

Key Club is an international student led organization which provides its members with opportunities to provide service, build character, and develop leadership. Being the oldest club at the high school, the goals of the club are to build leadership, character, care, and inclusiveness. Members participate in a wide range of events such as CROP Walk, raking leaves for the elderly, food collections, collections for Mom's House, Community Day, Kiwanis events such as "Cereal with Santa," the Holiday Parade, and a Halloween Party. The club meets selected Tuesday mornings in Mr. Hughes's room (I-10). Marley Battista is the club president.

#### Krobo Club

Krobo Club is a new club at PAHS. The club's goal is to fundraise for a small village called Krobo in Ghana, Africa. Over the summer, President Abbi Rubino and Treasurer Brenna Daugherty traveled to this village on a service trip. Emily Hrynko is secretary and Julie Graham is vice-president. We will be initiating fundraisers in all PASD schools and encourage everyone to join! Meetings are Tuesday mornings at 7:10 in Mrs. Santry's room, J-14.



Emily Lolli and Catherine Arranz from Feminist Club. Photos: Mr. Zittel



Diana Nemceff, Maddy Winkler, and Callin Robinson from Gazebo Club.



Katie Sullivan, Madi Caba, Marley Battista, and Nina Shafer from Key Club.



**The Library Club/Purple Perk**

The purpose of the club is to operate the Purple Perk before school and during all three lunches and to assist in the library on an as needed basis. The profits from the Purple Perk provide a scholarship for a graduating senior interested in pursuing a career in library science and/or who has a love of literature. The club meets the first Wednesday of each month after school in the library. The club president is Riley Kevra. For more information see Mrs. Krenicky in the library.

**Mini-THON**

The students at Phoenixville Area High School spend 12 hours on their feet through the night to benefit the Four Diamonds Fund at Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital, Hershey, PA. The PHX "Mini-THON" is based on the Penn State Dance Marathon---the largest student-run philanthropy in the nation where dancers spend 46 hours awake and on their feet to raise money for pediatric cancer patients. The mission of the Four Diamonds Fund is to conquer childhood cancer by assisting children treated at Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital and their families, through superior care, comprehensive support, and innovative research. Phoenixville students organize, run, and fundraise for this event throughout the year. This year's Mini-THON is February 26-27th. PHX Mini-THON is looking for committee members to serve and welcomes all to join us to dance the night F.T.K.--For The Kids. Advisors are Mr. Rutchauskas, Mrs. Howard, and Ms. Sims (at Barkley). Mini-THON meets every first and third Thursday morning of each month from 6:45-7:15 a.m. in room 1-3. Jen Weber is the Overall Chair.

**Mock Trial**

Have you ever found yourself watching a Law & Order marathon only to discover that you forgot to eat, sleep, and use the bathroom for hours? Do you often try to reason with family and friends with evidence to support your claims? If you answered, "yes" to either of these questions, then Mock Trial is for you! Not only will you learn the fundamentals of law, but have the opportunity to play the roles of lawyers and witnesses in a statewide competition sponsored by the PA Bar association. In addition to an improvement on public speaking, teamwork, and problem solving, you'll learn how to convince your peers that you are more than a marathon watcher: you're a pro. Competition is typically in February or March. Meetings are on Monday's in Mr. Joy's room, D-6, after school

**Model U.N.**

Model United Nations is a club dedicated to expanding students' minds beyond the community. Students meet once a week to discuss, debate and resolve world issues ranging from Europe's increase in Muslim immigrants as a result of the Arab Spring, to ways to eliminate racism from the English Premier League soccer organization. The club is modeled after the real world United Nations and gives students the opportunity to see the world through the eyes of a delegate. Throughout the year, we will travel across the country to compete, debate and grow with some of the most talented minds from across the world. See Mr. Winters in E-4 or Ms. Waltz in J-1 for more information. We meet every Wednesday in Mr. Winters' room from 7:10-7:50 a.m. Allie Little is the club president.

**National Honor Society**

The National Honor Society serves to honor those students who demonstrate scholarship, leadership, service, and character in both the school and community. Students in good standing with at least a 3.5 GPA are invited to submit their credentials for membership. NHS meets every Monday in Mrs. Weinstein's room (D-2).

**Phantom Ambassadors**

Phantom Ambassadors are a group of students in grades 9-12 who have attended trainings and offer themselves as a support to the students of Phoenixville Area High School. The Phantom Ambassadors have also been paired up with National Honor Society members and will be meeting with small groups of the freshman class to help them better transition from the middle to the high school. The Phantom Ambassadors are also in the process of developing a program that will become an integral part of the transitioning from middle to high school. See Ms. Davies in room E-10 for more information. Phantom Ambassadors are a club that chooses to build on leadership and character values of others through setting a positive example. The goal of this leadership club is to minimize bullying of any form, create a safe and caring learning environment for others, all the while showing respect for our building, keeping it clean, and having each student show pride in their "home."

**Phantom TV**

The club's purpose is to generate content for Phantom TV and the morning news show, utilizing studio cameras and video editing systems. The club meets weekly at varying times. Stop by the TV Studio to find out more. Mr. Motzer and Mr. Carucci are the advisors.

**Phoenixville Platform for Service**

There is a new club in town! Beginning Monday October 26 at 7 am, Phoenixville Platform for Service will begin weekly meetings in room F-12. This club is dedicated to local community service and is a great way to build up your resume -- especially for National Honor Society, if you choose to apply. We will be participating in a number of activities including visiting a local nursing home to introduce them to today's technology and sending care packages to local veterans -- just to name a few! If you have any questions, please see presidents Summer Cirino and Ashley Brown, or advisor Miss Goodwin.

**Physics Olympics**

The PAHS Physics Olympics team will be competing against other schools from the southeast PA and NJ in engineering, design and physics challenges. These include projects such as mousetrap cars that go in circles, egg drop devices, marshmallow towers and others. No experience in physics is necessary. We're also going to be competing in the USAYPPT, an international competition held in Virginia. This is physics-research intensive, so physics knowledge is required. Mr. Jennings (E-15) is the advisor. This year's president is Mike Shaw.

**Photography Club**

The goal of the photography club is to teach aspiring photographers about the camera and picture taking. The focus will be on digital photography and not film. Meetings are every other Wednesday from 2:45 to 4 p.m. in Mrs. Tavani's room, D-12, and will be posted. Mr. Mike Lantzy, who has been the photographer for our performing arts productions for many years, as well as several sports teams, is the advisor for this club. Meetings will contain a mix of learning time and hands-on photography. We attend school rehearsals, shows and sporting events to take action pictures as well as still pictures of people, animals and objects. Any other interests will be considered and incorporated upon request. Co-presidents are Annika Phillips and Katherine Feindt.

**Robotics Club**

Robotics Club is a fun club that centers on the construction of functioning robots to fulfill different actions and compete in state and nationwide competitions. This club is recognized by both the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. For more information visit Mr. Leinhausner in room (J-15) or see

club president Aris Poloway.

**Science Club**

The goal of the Science Club is to bring together people that have a passion for science, inquiry and different ways of thinking! More of a social experience, the club meets to discuss science, make friends, watch movies/shows related to scientific phenomenon, and engage in activities that increase their "nerd cred." The club provides hands-on experiences to enhance scientific thinking and skills on a regular basis as well as the opportunity to compete against other like-minded individuals for scholarship, recognition and academic opportunities. All are welcome and encouraged to take part. The club meets biweekly on Thursdays in room E-4 with advisor Mr. Winters.

**Sewing Club**

The focus of this club is to create student selected projects and explore the uses of a sewing machine. The club will participate in the completion of various forms of crafts/sewing projects that involve the art of sewing. Community based projects will be completed and presented locally to people in need. All students and ideas are welcome for club projects. The advisor is Ms. Rock. The club meets every other Monday in room G-4. Sarah Schmidt is club president.

**Ski and Snowboarding Club**

The Ski and Snowboarding Club promotes outdoor winter activities. Participants range from beginners to experts. We try to provide field trips and events for students to enjoy. Meetings take place on Day 6 in room H-9. Mr. Smiley is the club advisor, and Alyssa Neppach is president.

**Spanish Club**

The goal of this club is to further the understanding of the language and customs of the Hispanic world. The club does a variety of events including fundraisers for cultural-based field trips, organizing Hispanic cultural celebrations, and using the Spanish language in their meetings. The members also serve as tutors for students who need extra help in Spanish class. The club meets Thursdays at 7:00 a.m. in D-13. Mr. Acosta is the advisor, and Jarod Vickers is club president.

**Spartan Club**

The Spartan Club's mission is to get you up, active and fit plain and simple. The club trains year round to run an actual Spartan Race in the Poconos every July. The club meets two times per week (Tuesdays and Thursdays) before school from 6-7 a.m. to train at PAMS. Training ranges from some running, body weight exercises, kettlebells, tire flips, partner carries, stairs, and whatever else we can think of to challenge you both mentally and physically. If you enjoy physical challenges, working with a group to achieve a task, competition, or just looking for a workout, then the Spartan Club is for you. Keep in mind, by joining you are preparing for glory! AROO! For more information see Mr. Youngblood or Mrs. Krueger.

**Student Government**

The purpose of PAHS Student Government is to foster communication among students, administration, staff, and the community. Student Government will also be used to stimulate the student body, recognize outstanding achievement, promote, organize and execute activities that encourage student pride and school spirit. Student Government will also install democratic ideals, and a forum for aiding in the solution of school problems. The president for this year is Veronica Perez. Student Government meets the first Wednesday of each month in Mr. Coyne's room (D-14).

**Table Top Games Club**

The Table Top Games Club is a club created to share and play classic table top games. It focuses on the social side of the gaming and having fun. We want to bring back the buried treasures of Magic the Gathering, Dungeon and Dragons, Munchkin, Warhammer 40k/Fantasy, Warmachine, and more. The experts are willing to teach and show the entertainment and strategy of these games to the upcoming generations so they can learn how to play, and try something new. This club sponsors school wide FNM (Friday Night Magic) tournaments from time to time, so look for announcements! We play well, play fair, and have fun. President of The Club is Andrew Dunacusk. We meet in I-14, Ms. Shaw's room, after school on the first Monday of each month, sometimes continuing game play off site.

**Teens Against Tobacco Use**

The T.A.T.U. program was developed by the American Cancer Society, American Heart Association and American Lung Association as a youth empowerment vehicle. T.A.T.U. teens provide tobacco education to younger students through peer-to-peer activities -- such as skits, role-playing, videos and discussions, as well as being advocates for clean air by attending Advocacy Day at our state Capitol in Harrisburg. The club meets every other Thursday in PAMS room 116 from 2:40-3:40 p.m. The club president is Christina Miller and the advisor is Mr. Corcoran.

**Theatre Guild Players**

The Theatre Guild exists for the promotion of all facets of the performing arts of PAHS, including, but not limited to the Fall Play and Spring Musical. It explores all areas of Theatre, including direction, scriptwriting, producing, lighting, advertising, critiquing, singing, dancing, and of course, acting. It provides a forum where individuals can learn more about participating in any area of theater that interests them. The student organization, Theatre Guild Players, meets in the Auditorium after school on Fridays and also sponsors additional activities such as an all-student "3rd Production", a 24-hour play, and an evening of one-act plays. Jake Gould and Mary Zeleski are presidents, with Frau Tavani and Ms. Ballantine as teacher advisors.

**Technology Student Association**

The Technology Student Association (TSA) fosters Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Education through personal growth, leadership and opportunities in Technology, Innovation, Design and Engineering (TIDE). Middle and high school members apply and integrate science, technology, engineering and mathematics concepts for the challenges of a dynamic world through co-curricular activities, problem solving, competitive events and related programs resulting in academic development and endless possibilities in our global society. The club meets every other Tuesday in PAMS room 116 from 2:40-3:40 p.m. The club president is Bryan Toman and the advisor is Mr. Corcoran.

**Ultimate Frisbee**

The Ultimate Frisbee Club is for any student that has a common interest in playing the game of competitive Ultimate Frisbee. Ultimate is a rapidly growing sport that combines elements of soccer, basketball and football, with the beauty and magic of a flying disc, into one action-packed game. Ultimate is hugely popular in colleges and universities around the country, is quickly becoming popular as a competitive high school sport, and recently saw the creation of two professional ultimate leagues. The club meets every Sunday at 10 a.m. at the high school to practice and play. In the fall and spring we will compete against other high schools in weekend tournaments. All students are welcome, even if you already play a sport. If you are interested in joining, contact Tessa Lochetto, Brooke Chiappetta, or Mr. Gould in D-16 or check out the club's Facebook page at Phoenixville Ultimate Frisbee.

**Varsity Club**

The Varsity Club promotes school spirit and encourages good play and sportsmanship. Any boy or girl who has earned a varsity letter in athletics is eligible for membership. We meet once a week throughout the year to plan various activities. Activities include American Red Cross blood drives, field days and Dr. Seuss days at the elementary schools, and other activities to raise school spirit.

The club also provides seniors with awards and scholarships as symbols of sportsmanship, spirit, initiative, and self-sacrifice that must be embodied in those who earn a varsity letter. See Mr. Acosta or Mrs. Foresta, or come to a meeting Friday morning at 7:10 a.m. in the gym for more information. Jacy Sterritt and Cory Bird lead the club.

**Winter Guard**

The Winter Color Guard is as performing ensemble that combines dance, athleticism, theatrics, and equipment work, all set to music, that is performed in competition with other local schools through the winter & spring months, culminating in a four-day championship performance trip at the All-Chapter Championships in Wildwood, NJ. Rehearsals start in November, and are held two nights a week plus Saturdays. New members are always welcome to join this outstanding organization, and no experience is necessary. If you like performing, there is a spot for you! For more information, stop by the band room and speak to Mr. McAdams.



*Mackenzie Bowes, Luke Deni, Jen Weber, and Sarah Weston from Mini-thon Club.*



*Nick Degen and Shayne Gasser from Theatre Guild.*



*Danny Jackson, Brooke Chiappetta, Danny Heyman, Brian Deyo, and Tessa Lochetto from Ultimate Frisbee Club.*



# WHAT'S THE BEST ABOUT BEING



Best: We have a built-in friend.

Worst: Sharing clothes

Seniors Chloe and Paige Oustrich

Best: We always have someone to hangout with

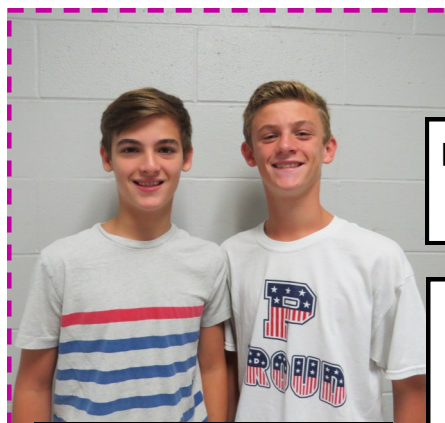
Worst: We never have any privacy from each other



Sophomores Sam and Logan Perrone

Best: Being able to help each other with homework

Worst: Being confused for each other a lot... and we don't even look the same!



Freshmen Ryan and Sean Conway

Best: Switching classes to fool our teachers

Worst: Having a crush on the same girl



Sophomores Gabriel and Angel Velasco



Juniors John, Megan, and Dan Murphy

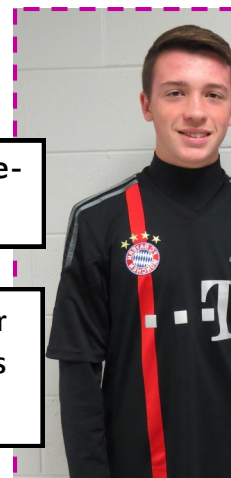
Best: ot

Worst (ter is n

Worst (the o someone

Best: We always have someone, a friend, to talk to

Worst: It's hard to be your own person. We're always paired up together.



Sophomores Jack and Ben Armstrong

Best: When we have the same homework we can share answers

Worst: Having to share a birthday



Freshmen E Cameron K



# P AND WORST THING ING A TWIN?

## \*SPEAK OUT!\*

We can copy each  
her's homework

(Dan & John): Our sis-  
nean and annoying  
(JK!)

(Megan): Because I'm  
only girl I don't have  
e to hang out with all  
the time.

Best: Having the same  
homework.

Worst: People thinking we  
are the same person



Juniors Truc and Maria  
Dinh



Juniors Hayley and Nicole  
Wilson

Best: We get to copy home-  
work and answers for tests.

Worst: We have to share a  
room.



Best: Going off to college  
together

Worst: Answering a question  
at the same time



Seniors Hope and Diana  
Nemceff



Best: Always having a partner  
in crime.

Worst: We battle for every-  
thing, especially the phone  
charger.

Juniors Julia and Sarah  
Jones



Emma and  
Erstetter

Best: We help each other with  
homework and are always there for  
each other

Worst: We take each other's  
clothes



Seniors Brianna and  
Bridget Gibbons



## Does GPA Matter?



Written by:  
Paige Oustrich

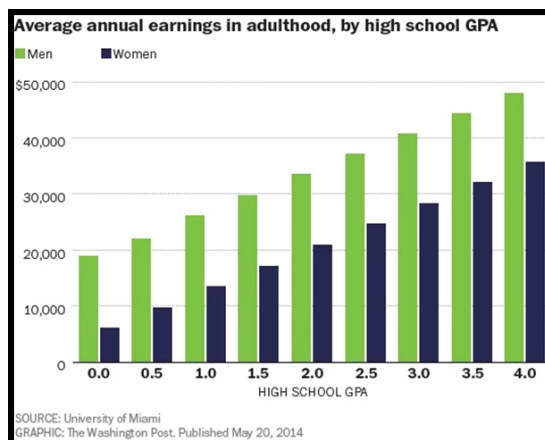
It's a question that plagues high school students everywhere. Does my GPA determine my future? Teachers, principals, and guidance counselors are constantly reminding students that how well they do in school will determine their future success, but are they right? How much of an emphasis do colleges place on your GPA? How important are my SAT and ACT scores? Should I even care about my GPA?

A GPA, or grade point average, is the average of the letter grades you have earned in school. The scale ranges from a 0 to a 4.0, or a 5.0, depending on the school. At Phoenixville Area High School, our guidance department uses a 4.0 weighted scale to calculate GPA. Sometimes your GPA can be weighted or unweighted. In a weighted GPA scale, guidance counselors will take into account the difficulty of the classes you may take, such as AP and Honors classes. An unweighted GPA scale is solely based your grades that you have earned for your classes.

PAHS College Career Counselor Mrs. Bhalla said, "The student's GPA starts freshmen year and it's extremely important that they work hard in all of their classes, not just in their major classes because lower grades can drastically affect their GPA as the years go on; it's difficult to raise the GPA."

A simple and easy way to determine your GPA is to ask your guidance counselor for a copy of your transcripts. This will include your cumulative GPA—your GPA for all of your high school classes—or your GPA for a specific semester.

Why does your GPA matter in the future? It comes down to a variety of reasons. First, a 2014 study by Bates College has found that high school GPA is a better indicator of success in college than standardized SAT or ACT test scores. This study looked at 123,000 students from 33 test-optional colleges and universities in the United States over a three year period. At the conclusion of this study, researchers found that there was no considerable difference in college GPA and graduation rates among students who submitted test scores and those who applied test-optional. In fact, colleges will place a greater emphasis on GPA over standardized test scores during the application process. Jonathan Webb, an admissions counselor at Washington College, told me that "As a college administrator at a liberal arts institution, we emphasize the GPA component of a student's transcript and place a stronger evaluation on a student's GPA as



A graph depicting average annual earnings and high school GPA ten years after high school graduation

opposed to a standardized test."

Likewise, your GPA plays an important role in the scholarship process. One of the many scholarships a prospective college student could pursue is a merit scholarship. A merit scholarship is usually awarded to students on the basis of academic achievement. In order to receive a merit scholarship, colleges require students to have a certain GPA or higher. The higher your GPA, the more money you will receive in merit scholarships. Merit scholarships are especially useful when it comes to financial aid. Merit scholarships help offset the cost of college tuition, which means less students loans you will

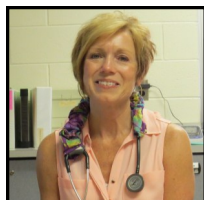
have to take out and pay off later.

Finally, your high school GPA could be an indicator of how well you will perform after college, and how much money you may make in the future. In 2014, a report that was published from researchers at the University of Miami found that for a one point increase in your high school GPA, the average annual earnings for men after college increased by twelve percent. For women, that figure was at fourteen percent. The study also found that students with better grades in high school are more likely to attend graduate school.

Does my GPA matter? Yes. While it may just be a number, it may have lasting impact on your future. Your GPA can determine your success in college, how much scholarships you can qualify for, and how much money you will make in the future. If you have been slacking in school, now is a great time to buckle down and bring that GPA up.

Grade	GPA
A	4.0
B	3.0
C	2.0
D	1.0
F	0.0

## Ask the Nurse



Written by:  
Nurse Manley

**Dear Nurse Manley:** I recently met a blind man who told me a story of how he lost his sight. He was in a high school chemistry class lab learning how to work with acids and bases. Safety goggles were available but he wanted to be cool and impress his other classmates by showing how much more skilled he was, not needing to use "safety equipment." While holding a beaker of the solution, he lost his footing and fell backwards, the liquid splashing all over his face

and into his eyes. In spite of copious flushing his eyesight became permanently damaged, and he has been blind ever since. I am very nervous now as I take chemistry and also play sports and don't want to risk losing my eyesight. What recommendations do you have? Signed, *Insightful Iris*.

**Dear Iris:** You are right to be concerned about protecting your eyesight. Protecting your eyes from injury is one of the most basic things you can do to keep your vision healthy throughout your life. The easiest step of all to prevent 90 percent of injuries is to wear the proper protective eyewear. In a national survey, only 35 percent said they always wear protective eyewear when performing risky tasks or sports. According to the National Eye Institute, every 13 minutes, an emergency room in the United States treats a sports-related eye injury. Eye injuries from sports may include infection, corneal abrasions, blunt



trauma, inflamed iris, fracture of the eye socket, swollen or detached retinas or a traumatic cataract. In the worst cases, some injuries may result in permanent vision loss. October is Eye Injury Prevention Month sponsored by the American Acad-

related to sports or recreational activities.

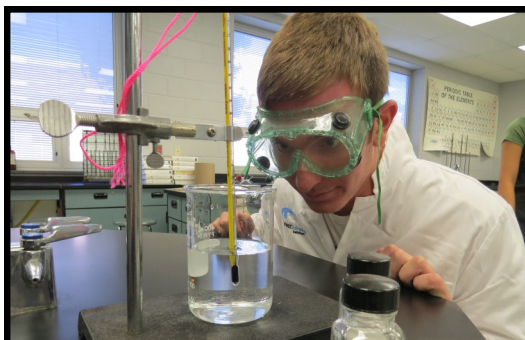
- ◆ In addition to chemicals, dust, or objects, eyes can be damaged by sun exposure.

When an eye injury does occur, have an ophthalmologist or other medical doctor examine the eye as soon as possible. Delaying medical attention could cause the damage to worsen or even result in permanent vision loss/blindness. For additional information on protective eyewear and how to treat an eye injury, visit [www.geteyesmart.org/eyesmart/injuries/index.cfm](http://www.geteyesmart.org/eyesmart/injuries/index.cfm).

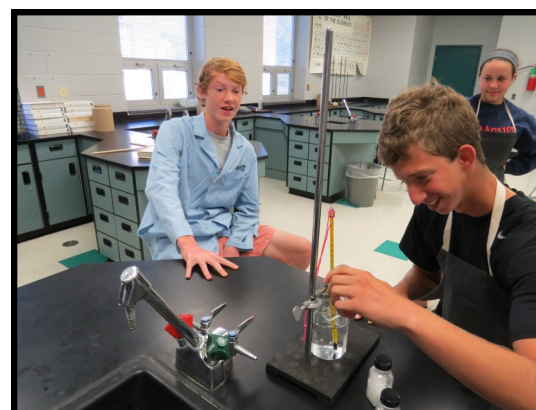
my of Ophthalmologists.

Here are some common eye injury facts and myths:

- ◆ Men sustain eye injuries more often than women
- ◆ Most people think that eye injuries happen most often on the job like construction sites and factories. However, most occur in the home.
- ◆ Home injuries were a result of home repairs, yard work, cleaning and cooking.
- ◆ Greater than 40% of eye injuries each year are



Sophomore **Tim Kopera** demonstrates proper use of safety goggles in a chemistry lab



**Sean O'Neill** looks on in fright as **Josh Pfender** performs chemistry experiments without the use of safety goggles



## Come aboard Shayne's Love Train, for love advice



Written by:  
Shayne Gasser

When you need advice, you tend to go to someone who you know has experience. When it comes to advice about love, there's only one place you need go... The Shayne Love Train. I get relationship questions all the time, so I thought I'd share some of the questions I've received with you, along with my advice- like this letter I received over fax from Filbert M:

"Dear Shayne, I'm not sure how to ask my girlfriend out in a cute and memorable way.



change while screaming "GO OUT WITH ME FAM" at them. Don't be discouraged if they run away screaming. Never give up!

This next question was sent to me via carrier raven from regular contributor Edna B. Q., who asks:

"Mr. Love Train, I'm in dire need of your assistance. My boyfriend Edward has some mighty putrid breath, like hotdogs, and I can't rightly bring myself to telling him that he needs to do something about it. Please assist me in as few moon cycles as possible Mr. Love Train."

Well, I suggest the best thing to do in a situation like this is to duct tape your partner's mouth closed, leave the room to grab an entire pack of breath mints, untape his mouth just long enough to stick the pack to the section of the duct tape over the mouth and proceed to tape it closed again. Let sit overnight, and in the morning he'll be ready to talk!

*Love Train helping Edward with his bad breath.*

Photo: Mike Vargo

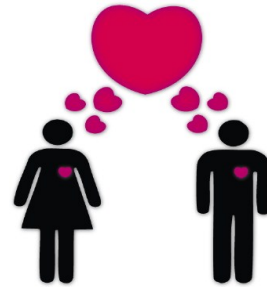


Now I received this next question by walking onto my front lawn at 3 AM to see a jet black tablet surrounded by a pentagram of red flame. Upon reading the text I received this question from Brock L.

"Mr. Love Train, I really really really like this girl, and she's going to be at a Halloween party I'll be attending. I'm not sure how to dress to attract her attention. Do you have any suggestions?"

Well Brock, there are many Halloween costumes that will definitely grab her attention. My suggestion would be the Hulk, and if you see anyone talking to her, suplex them to assert dominance and win the approval of that "fine specimen." As for you women out there, to stand out and be unique I would suggest dressing up as a carrot. All the vegetarian men will not be able to restrain themselves.

Well, the Love Train has to leave the station. I hope all my advice has helped, and don't forget to send in your questions to [lovetrain-choochoofam@gmail.com](mailto:lovetrain-choochoofam@gmail.com) Until I pull into the station next, choo choo!



The Purple Press is written, edited, and produced by the Phoenixville Area High School Journalism class (Period 3).

Advisor: Mr. Zittel

Layout editor: Jenna Powell  
Staff: Benjamin Armstrong, Ze'Aria Boggess, Julia Boyle, David D'Ardenne, Liam Darcy, Gabrielle Dato, Alaina DeLeone, Lindsey Fitting, Shayne Gasser, Carly Goldberg, Kerry Halloran, Kelly Kopera, Sophia Kopko, Sean McGinnis, Bailey Meyer, Erin Morris, Paige Oustrich, Cailin Robinson, Juan Sanchez, Michael Vargo, Brandon Wassmer, Julia Yancik

The opinions expressed in this paper are those of the writers and don't necessarily reflect those of school administration and/or faculty members.

If you have a comment, question, or concern about the paper or you wish to submit an article to The Purple Press please e-mail Mr. Zittel at [zittelj@pasd.com](mailto:zittelj@pasd.com).

## Does the Route 29 Series need to change?



Written by:  
Liam Darcy

Every year, the Phoenixville Area High School fall sports teams begin their official seasons, looking forward to competition. After showing up to early morning practices and working out in the heat all summer, Phoenixville teams all want to show their stuff on the field, the court, or the course. But we at Phoenixville have a strange season opener.

Every year, at the end of the first week of school, we compete in the Route 29 Series. For the past three years, all of our fall sports squads have competed against Great Valley High School, a tournament beginning on a Friday afternoon and culminating on Saturday night when both football teams engage in combat. This idea was conceived in 2013. The rules: both schools compete over two days, each victory scoring a point for one side, with ten competitions in all. The stakes: Whoever wins gets to hold the Route 29 Cup for a year. And so it goes.

The first year, Great Valley took home the cup by a score of 9-1. Field Hockey was the

lone Phoenixville victor. The next year, the result was the same; Phoenixville was demolished by a host of strong Great Valley teams, including a football team that would go on to win a highly competitive District 1 AAA crown and a boys' soccer team that would fight its way to the state final.

This past September, our brave teams in purple and white were once again defeated, though the series included a strong showing by our football team, who lost to Great Valley by a mere nine points, and a victory by the boys' cross country team, who took first and second place individually in the race. The Phantom Girls' Soccer team also triumphed.

I believe that the concept of a series like this is a good idea. It is a great occasion to build not only school spirit, but momentum into the coming season. However, my issue with the current Series is that our school's athletics and Great Valley's athletics are on different levels. While I personally know that our sports teams are very determined and hardworking, it is difficult to deny the fact that we cannot compete evenly with Great Valley.

I mean, look at the numbers. We haven't gotten more than two wins in the Series in any given year. Even though it is clear that our teams have made major improvements, at this rate we'll be losing the Series for the next decade if we continue competing against Great Valley. Instead, what about competing against a school we can really

compete with? There are plenty of schools that are closer to us in size and skill level that would make for a highly competitive weekend.

Phoenixville High School athletic director Mr. Gionta was kind enough to give me the other side of the argument, saying, "We have the Series against Great Valley because they're right up the road. It's good for us to compete against our neighbors, and against a team we may not see again for the rest of the season. I also believe that our sports teams are up and coming. Girls tennis, both soccer teams, field hockey, and both cross country squads are looking to be very competitive next fall. We should be in contention in the coming years."

The obvious reason for competing against Great Valley is not similarity, but proximity. Great Valley is our closest neighbor not in the PAC-10, so it makes, from that perspective, the most sense to select them for the event. Our next nearest neighbor is Conestoga, who with an enrollment that is nearly twice ours, would not be a suitable rival either. Upper Merion would be an option, but as they will be joining the PAC-10 next year, they cannot be chosen. But I would be willing to travel a little further up the road, say, to Twin Valley, which has a similar enroll-

ment size to us. Spending a little bit more time on the bus is a small price to pay to go against an equal rival.

I believe it isn't worth it to continue trying to compete against Great Valley as long as we will continue to lose. I believe in good competition as a way to build school spirit. However, the best way to build this spirit is to make the competition close, so more students will be motivated to come watch a weekend of fine sports events that doesn't always end in a loss.

*The Girls' Soccer Team (featuring Sophia Kopko and Kelli Olsson) defend against a tough Great Valley squad*

Photo courtesy of Mr. Gionta





# "Mad Max: Fury Road" is madly entertaining



Written by:  
Cailin Robinson

All is dust. Plants wither and die under the ever-oppressive sun. In this land of dust and dirt there exists a dying race of dying men, decaying

like the particles in the air which swirls.

Rulers oppress their people; peasants beg for water; and so it goes. There is hope here, but it is buried in the hearts of the world weary, the kidnapped, the ones with nothing left to lose.

Also, there are explosions. So many explosions.

The world of "Mad Max: Fury Road" is bleak but beautiful. It is the fourth movie in a series of post-apocalyptic thrillers centered around the adventures of lone wanderer, Max Rockatansky (Tom Hardy), although you don't have to have seen the other movies to understand this one.

The movie begins with Max in the middle of the Australian wasteland. He ends up captured by a group of crazed men and brought to a place called the Citadel. In the Citadel,

the people are governed by a tyrannical ruler named Immortan Joe (Hugh Keays-Byrne) and a group of car-worshipping young men and children called War Boys.

On the day that Max is kidnapped, Immortan Joe's commander Imperator Furiosa (Charlize Theron) leaves the Citadel to obtain more water and gasoline. Or, that's what she claims - in reality, she has the five wives of Immortan Joe hidden in her vehicle, and she's escaping the Citadel to bring them some-

place safer. The rest of the movie is a giant chase sequence, as Immortan Joe and various other characters try to capture Furiosa and the five women. As is typical of the series, Max gets roped into the chaos, and ends up playing an important role in helping the women get to the safety.

Like Max, the viewer is thrown into the movie and expected to figure it out for themselves.

Almost no exposition is given by the characters, but the movie doesn't really need them to; the plot lends itself well to the "show, don't tell" kind of story-

telling. The characters also have very little dialogue, but their actions, combined with the stunning actors who play them, manage to portray very complex personalities in few

*Furiosa not-so-politely greets Max during their first meeting.*

words.

The cinematography and action sequences are where this movie truly stands out. The art direction is astounding; "Fury Road" has one of the most beautiful post-apocalyptic wastelands I've ever seen. Even drab colors of the Namibian and Australian deserts seem vibrant and lively on screen. The action sequences are also some of the best in recent years. They're shot well - the action is always occurring on the center of the screen, and is thus very easy to follow. Also worth mentioning is the way in which the movie primarily uses practical effects. The use of computer generated effects is very common nowadays, to the point of almost replacing special effects; in "Fury



Road," however, CGI is only really used to remove wires or enhance the effects. When a person jumps onto a moving car in the movie, or when a truck is knocked sideways and explodes in the desert sand - all of that is real.

Overall, the movie was extremely enjoyable to watch. Those that prefer movies with more in-depth plots and character development may not like this one, but if you enjoy action movies, you will. The world it builds is interesting, and the actors feel like they belong. The action scenes are memorable and thrilling to watch; the designs of the various cars and costumes are all amazing. I would consider "Mad Max: Fury Road" to be one of the best action movies of the year.



**Grade:** A-

**Rated:** R

**Genre:** Action/Adventure

**Starring:** Tom Hardy, Charlize Theron, Nicholas Hoult, Hugh Keays-Byrne

**Director:** George Miller

# "Go Set A Watchman": Harper Lee comes out of hiding



Written by:  
Julia Boyle

It's not a prequel, it's not a sequel, so what is it exactly?

After 55 years of no interviews or talking to the press, Harper Lee brings us "Go Set A Watchman," a different take on her 1960 novel, "To Kill a Mockingbird." But what is this take exactly? Reviewers and researchers of this novel say that this is actually Lee's first draft of "To Kill a Mockingbird." "Go Set A Watchman" was rejected from publishers when Lee tried to publish it the first time, so she reformulated the text and wrote "To Kill a Mockingbird."

This novel, unlike "To Kill a Mockingbird," is set in the mid-1950's. Jean Louise (Scout)

Finch, now 26, returns to visit her father Atticus Finch back in Maycomb, Alabama. Aligning with the time period, the novel is centralized around the Civil Rights Movement and depicts the prejudices between the North and the South.

**Grade:** C

**Author:** Harper Lee

**Genre:** Adult Fiction

**Pages:** 278

Throughout the novel, Jean Louise is definitely forced to take a new look at many people, including her father. She is a heavy activist of civil rights, so when she returns to visit her father, she's conflicted with him. Unlike the character we all know and love in "To Kill a Mockingbird," Atticus Finch is portrayed as a racist; he attends Ku Klux Klan meetings and holds negative views of African Americans. Jean Louise is deeply disturbed by this revelation and doesn't know how to handle it. She finds herself going to her Uncle Jack, Atticus's younger brother, for advice. She also starts debates with her father, giving arguments to support her position on civil rights. Along with this, Jean Louise also finds somewhat of a love interest back in her hometown, adding to the list of stresses she is experiencing throughout the plot. Old characters are also featured in a new twist. Both Jem, Jean Louise's old

brother, and Dill, her neighborhood best friend, appear in flashbacks. The novel features many dreams where she refers back to her life in her childhood years. Altogether, this book brings both new characters to the scene as well as new takes on characters from "To Kill a Mockingbird."

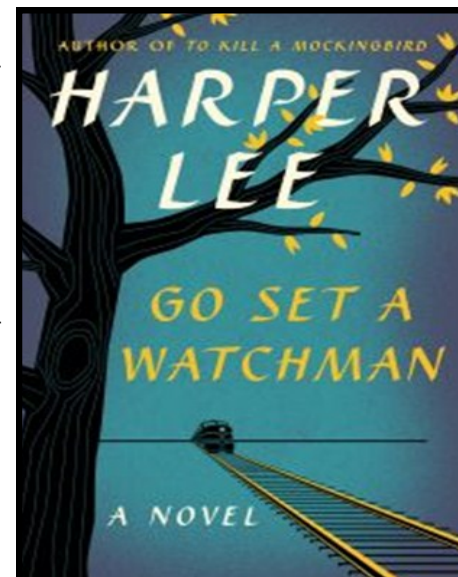
As a beloved fan of "To Kill a Mockingbird," I was excited to see more of Lee's writing, even if it was written before her first novel. I'm sad to say that Lee's "new" book did not make me want to keep turning the pages and it was quite a letdown seeing some of my favorite characters in a negative light. Between Atticus's negative view on African Americans and Jean Louise not having the same innocence as she did in her younger years, I was disappointed.

I can say though that the characters still have some passion that existed in Lee's first novel. Although their opinions have changed, Atticus still has the drive to never give up on his beliefs. Jean Louise is still determined as ever with trying to do the right thing. She sees the problem of her father's discrimination and wants to do everything in her power to change him. Also, I found it interesting to see how Lee went from "Go Set A Watchman" to "To Kill a Mockingbird." The writing styles were completely different.

This book has both its ups and downs throughout the plot. While the change in characters and premature writing style is disappointing to see, the strength of the characters is still there. If one were to not compare the novel with "To Kill a Mockingbird," they might see it in a stronger light. Despite this, I advise all of you "TKAM" fans to go out and read "Go Set A Watchman" for a different take on a beloved classic.

"Every man's island, Jean Louise, every man's watchman, is his conscience."

— Uncle Jack





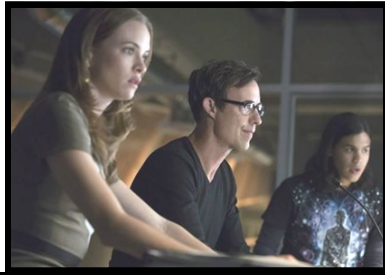
## "The Flash" speeds past expectations



Written by:  
David D'Ardenne

A blur of red speeds into the sewer, darting through the underground tunnels. It reaches a large catacomb where a large hulking figure waits on the other side. Suddenly the hulking body moves towards the blur, fists curled and ready to rumble. It's- A TELEPATHIC GORILLA?

No, you did not read that wrong. "The Flash", which aired on CW last year, features many kooky villains with cheesy names like Captain Cold (Wentworth Miller) and the



Caitlin Snow (Danielle Panabaker), Dr. Harrison Wells (Tom Cavanagh), and Cisco Ramon (Carlos Valdes), aka "Team Flash", assist Barry in his superheroics.

Trickster (Mark Hamill). Embracing its comic book source material, this light-hearted approach contrasts it from most dark superhero movies today (cough cough "Man of Steel") and is a whole lot of fun.

Grant Gustin plays Barry Allen, a youthful, awkward, nerdy forensic scientist who works with the Central City Police. Grant's performance is stellar, creating a character we can all identify with. But like any superhero, Barry has his own issues which are conveyed very well throughout the show through Grant's acting and interaction with the supporting cast.

The main plot of the show is triggered by an accident in Central City's "mad scientist" laboratory, S.T.A.R Labs. The scientists there have created a futuristic machine dubbed "The Particle Accelerator." When it explodes, it gives many residents in Central

City superhuman powers. Barry Allen gains the powers of super speed and decides to use his powers for justice. Barry (The Flash) thus dons the superhero suit given to him by S.T.A.R Labs to capture villains, and tries to solve the mystery surrounding his mom's death.

I know, the plot seems pretty cut-and paste from other media in the superhero genre. However, as the show develops, the plot of the series becomes much more than the "villain of the week." Throughout the story arc, "The Flash" incorporates many sci-fi elements such as time travel, parallel universes, and more. These different plot elements add new wrinkles in the overall story and create interesting effects on the characters' lives.

The best part of "The Flash" though, is its humor. Unlike most superheroes who are often brooding over their dead parents, this is a show that doesn't take itself too



seriously. It treats its goofy comic book source material as a joke, rather than excluding it completely. For example, Barry makes up cheesy excuses for why he's late to social events, such as "jogging." Cisco Ramon, the geeky tech expert at S.T.A.R Labs, fanboys out at the super villains' powers and gives them cheesy names like "Weather Wizard" and "Multiplex."

"The Flash" remains one of my favorites to watch. It's entertaining to watch and is great for non-comic fans and comic book fans alike. Although the villains can sometimes be underdeveloped, the show makes up for it in its stellar main cast, plot and sense of humor. Catch up with Season One and then start watching Season Two which began on October 6!

**Grade:** A

**Stars:** Grant Gustin, Jessie L. Martin, Danielle Panabaker, Carlos Valdes

**Genre:** Action, Comedy

**Network:** CW

**Season One:** 23 episodes, 45 minutes each

**Season Two Release Date:** October 6, 2015



Heat Wave (Dominic Purcell) and Captain Cold (Wentworth Miller) are just two of the many villains the Flash must defeat to save Central City.

## "The Blob," "The Happening," and now "The Visit"



Written by:  
Erin Morris

We've blobbed, we've happened, and now we've visited - our area has seemingly become a hotspot for horror films over the past few decades. There must be something chilling and eerie about the suburban towns of the greater Philadelphia area that you just can't find in Hollywood, since we seemed to have appeared yet again in another scary movie. Director M. Night Shyamalan chose Royersford to portray the small town of Masonville in his most recent film, "The Visit."

The storyline follows two children documenting their trip to see their estranged grandparents. For many of us, visiting the

grandparents is the cheapest and most accessible 5-star vacation. Where else can you get an endless buffet of hard candies, that glass of iced tea that never seems to go empty, a complimentary gift bag of knick-knacks, and a small elderly fanbase that never seems to tire of that one accomplishment in your life from the 6th grade? Life doesn't get much better than that. However, for Becca and Tyler, things take a turn for the worst. While we all can agree our grandparents seem to lose it as they get older, these two kids get to experience firsthand the extremes of living with someone who suffers from sundown syndrome. Their biggest fear comes to life when their mother reveals a bit of information via webcam that becomes the turning point in their trip.

The mock-documentary appears to be filmed from two handheld cameras, so if you don't have the patience for an unsteady camera and abstract angles, you may find this movie frustrating. Personally, I found the amateur filming skills dis-



Nana (Deanna Dunagan) shouts, "Yahtzee!" during the intense board game.

tracting at first, but later it pulled me into the movie and made it seem more real.

Although the movie consists of just five major roles, each actor did a fair job of playing their parts. Olivia DeJonge and Ed Oxenbould were a perfect sibling pair, and flawlessly executed the dynamics of a love-hate relationship between a brother and sister. Oxenbould has a very young voice and physique which made him suitable for the role of a younger brother. Peter McRobbie and Deanna Dunagan were a good choice as the psychotic grandparents; they nailed the average elderly couple look all while maintaining a mysterious and eerie vibe.

The movie takes place in the fictional town of Masonville, or what we all know as Royersford. Shyamalan filmed the movie in various

Pennsylvania locations, including Chester Springs, Chestnut Hill, and Royersford. The property that the majority of the film takes place is just a few minutes away from Kimberton. Recognizable spots include downtown Royersford and even Spring-Ford High

School.

Gore fans will be slightly disappointed with "The Visit," but you should still prepare for a few gross scenes. Shyamalan's jump scares are successful but nearly predictable towards the end of the movie. The final horror scenes seem dragged out and are just too long. The first half of the movie had me constantly jumping in my seat, whereas the second half I felt like I was just waiting for the movie to wrap up. On the contrary, the resolution and last moments felt rushed. I was left with many unanswered questions, which made the movie difficult to understand and extremely unrealistic.

Overall, I thought "The Visit" was moderately entertaining. The small bits of humor mixed with mediocre scare tactics left me unimpressed, but it was definitely interesting to see familiar locations throughout the film.



Tyler (Ed Oxenbould) goofing off with the camera.



# "Metal Gear Solid" - The Legend Comes Back to Life!



Written by:  
Bailey Meyer

Eighteen hours. Eighteen hours is what Solid Snake (voiced by David Hayter) has to infiltrate the overtaken Shadow Moses island, stop the six members of elite special forces unit and old flame Fox Hound, and most importantly, put an end to Metal Gear. The covertly developed war machine is not only a walking battle tank designed to launch nuclear weapons, but also a top secret project that the government wants to erase from history, but maybe not in the same way Snake does. This is "Metal Gear Solid," the stealth game that redefined more genres than just its own.

With the highly anticipated sequel, "Metal Gear Solid V: The Phantom Pain" recently

released, what better time to take a look at the humble beginnings of this acclaimed franchise? Well, maybe humble isn't the right

word. Creator Hideo Kojima's vision of the game's world was so expansive that the game has a massive scale, not necessarily in the sheer size of the game world, but rather the detail in every part of it. The gameplay is a fair mix of stealth and puzzles, and the game is actually similar to "The Legend of Zelda" series, which is a pleasant surprise.

"MGS" is certainly an ambitious game (especially for 1997), and is one of the first ever to discuss social issues such as the privatization of the military, the morality of nuclear weapons, and the United States' place as the world's leading superpower. Despite this, this game has quite a sense of humor to it. Among some humorous moments in the story, the codec system allows your allies to call you at

any time during the game and talk to you, or vice versa. This combined with the incredible amount of secrets and Easter eggs make the ways you can get your comrades to yell at you nearly endless.

The first thirty minutes of the game or so establishes what is clearly an environment of realism just so it can deliberately break it and subvert the players' story expectations. This also makes the player truly relate to the protagonist Solid Snake by having so many "comedic" moments.

For example, there is a point in the game where you may catch a cold and Snake has to get medicine for it, or have to use ketchup as fake blood to execute an escape. The hero is always advertised as being a cool boy who does not dawdle in lowly civilian affairs, but

since Snake actually goes through these odd situations, we as the player can relate to him better, and not to mention that the voice talents of David Hayter sell the character nicely.

Speaking of voice acting, the game is full of great performances from a variety of actors.



Like in the wild, Snake waits for his prey

Grade: A-

Available For: PS1, PS3, PSP, PSN, PC, GameCube

Genre: Stealth / Adventure

Rating: M for Mature



Solid Snake plans his next move in the tank hangar.

## "Cave Story": It begins in a cave...



Written by:  
Juan Sanchez

You wake up in a cave, without any memory of the past. Since you are already lost, you might as well explore and find a way out. You come across a village of cute rabbit-like creatures, called Mimiga. Soon enough, you find out you are the one who will save them, and the world, from a power-crazed doctor and his demonic crown. You decide the fate of the world: to save it, or to let it be conquered.

Sounds a little bit intense, does it not? "Doukutsu Monogatari," better known as "Cave Story," is a single player side-scrolling platformer created by Daisuke Amaya, also known as Studio Pixel. This game was first released as freeware on PC, then was ported to the Wii and DSi, with an updated version on Mac, Linux,



The protagonist firing away at the first boss, Balrog. He is encountered a lot throughout the game.

Steam, and 3DS. The freeware is hosted on a tribute site, called CaveStory.org. The story is about a lost soldier of a war long past who finds himself helping Mimigas from being captured and killed by an evil doctor, Date, who plans on taking over the world with the Demon Crown that started the war years before.

This game is not like the standards of today's games, in terms of graphics. Today, all games are trying to look the most realistic.

However, "Cave Story" looks like a game that could run on the SNES. Do not let that lower your expectations, however. This game has a thorough plot, with unexpected twists and multiple endings. The story goes through a fair amount of stages, each with great atmosphere, different enemy types, and unique bosses that require you to form a strategy in order to defeat them. Some bosses require uses of specific weapons, and some require timing and countering attacks.



To spice up the gameplay, Studio Pixel included a fair amount of weapons, some which are traded for, forged from old artillery, or hidden from sight. The soldier's upgradable arsenal can range from old pistols and rocket launchers, to rubber duck blasters and bubble guns. There is useful equipment to assist you in your troubles such as a jetpack, air tank, and tow rope. Some of these items can determine the fate of the world.

In my opinion, "Cave Story" is one of the most incredible games I have ever played. I loved how weapons level up with energy crystals, and down with damage, so players need to stay vigilant.

The variety of enemies and bosses will really test your patience and strategy, but the feeling at the end is worth it when you dealt the final blow to the Doctor. This game is a little bit more unknown than many other indie games, but it is definitely a hidden gem of 2004 worth discovering.

Grade: A

Publisher: Nicalis, Inc.

Developer: Studio Pixel

Platforms: PC, Mac, Linux, Wii, DSi, 3DS

Rating: E+10

Leader King arguing with young Toroko for the key to her brother's house, where a visitor, Sue, is staying.





## Girls' Tennis aces another season



Written by:  
Kelly Kopera

The Phoenixville's Girls' Tennis team has begun a rise to the top this year. With a 6-3 record in the PAC-10, 7-4 record overall, and enormous potential of the team's underclassmen, the team has gotten stronger over the course of the fall season, and will continue to improve in the years to come.

The Phantoms are led by second-year coaches Mr. Curley, an English teacher at PAHS, and Ms. Landis, an art teacher at Schuylkill. The varsity lineup consisted of first singles Julia Gumeniak (freshman), second

singles Mackenzie Bowes (senior), third singles Gina Brown (freshman), first doubles Susanna Shier and Keri Marini (seniors), second doubles Jessica Eldridge and Elyse Langan (juniors), third doubles Ashlyn Duda (sophomore) and Megan O'Neill (freshman), and fourth doubles Madison Denson (senior) and Alex Reig (freshman). The captains were seniors Mackenzie Bowes, Susanna Shier, and Julia Boyle.

Throughout the offseason, the team had worked hard to improve for this fall. Many of the returning members played tennis together all winter, and several of the freshmen had past experience. "I knew the team was going to be really strong this year, because we had a lot of new players coming in and old players who were improving their skills," said captain Julia Boyle.

As a result, the team this year performed particularly well, with freshmen Julia Gumeniak and Gina Brown each only having two losses in singles. "I thought that it was really nice playing first singles, and it was a great experience playing these great players from other teams," Gumeniak said.

Senior Mackenzie Bowes' second year playing singles was successful as well, earning a winning record throughout the season. The



Freshman **Julia Gumeniak** smashes a forehand.

Photos: Lifetouch

singles players were not the only ones who thrived this season; third doubles team Ashlyn Duda and Megan O'Neill only lost once throughout the year.

A key victory for the team this season came against Perkiomen Valley, who have always proven to be a tough competitor for the Phantoms. After the 4-3 win, "We dubbed it the tennis skirt match

because the stipulation was if the girls won that match, I would wear the tennis outfit that the girls wear," said Coach Curley. The team also triumphed over Avon Grove, Villa Maria, and Gwynedd Mercy for first place in its annual Invitational Tournament, which doubled as a fundraiser for the Phoenixville Hospital Cancer Center.

The girls were hard at work fundraising for the Cancer Center all season beyond the tournament. Historically, the tennis team has been the biggest contributor to this fund, covering food, transportation, and other costs that cancer patients in the Phoenixville community are unable to pay for because of

medical bills. Headed by Susanna Shier and Julia Boyle, other events including a car wash, dinner, and raffles all helped the team come close to their goal of \$5,000.

The girls' positive involvement in the community gave the team some good karma heading into the postseason. At the PAC-10 singles tournament, senior Mackenzie Bowes secured a win in the first round, and freshman Julia Gumeniak finished fourth overall and advanced to districts. In the PAC-10 doubles tournament, Julia Gumeniak and Mackenzie Bowes finished in sixth place with a record of 2-2.

Although they're graduating seniors Mackenzie Bowes, Susanna Shier, Julia Boyle, Keri Marini, Karlie Marino, Claire Maguire, Madison Denson, Taylor Melchior, and Ruth Doberenz this year, the future of the Phoenixville Girls' Tennis team is extremely bright. A close-knit group, the team has been a supportive environment for the up-and-coming underclassmen. "We make sure everyone feels comfortable," said captain Mackenzie Bowes. She added, "This year, I think we really opened ourselves up more [to the younger players]." Since first and third singles players Julia Gumeniak and Gina Brown performed so well this year as freshmen, the team's singles especially has the capacity to improve and dominate the rest of the league. "All of our strength is in our potential," Coach Curley stated. "Good things are happening on the tennis team, and we're excited about our young players."

Freshman **Gina Brown** smacks a backhand.



## Phoenixville Golf: Progressing one stroke at a time



Written by:  
Alaina DeLeone

Phoenixville's golf teams concluded another season with drastic improve-

ments, as well as various successes. The girls' team, led by Ms. Waltz, concluded their season with a PAC-10 record of 8-5, while the boys' team, coached by Mr. Winnick, finished with a record of 2-6. Although the teams faced several struggles throughout the season, they managed to further develop their skills.

PAHS history teacher Mr. Winnick, in his fourteenth year coaching the boys' team, stated, "Every year the team's goal is to be competitive." This season, the varsity team consisted of all underclassmen including juniors Max Farbstein, Tyler Skomsky, and Mike Ellis. "The players came in we knew a few of them had really prepared," said Farbstein. He was one of the top varsity golfers

for the team and played well throughout the season.

Although the team never moved on to the PAC-10 playoffs, they had a peak match at the Honey Brook Invitational, where all the boys competed to the best of their abilities. "Overall, we didn't see as much improvement as we would have liked, but the players are great kids," said Mr. Winnick. Upcoming underclassmen include Drew LoPolito, PJ Sullivan, and Mitchell Schwartz. The young team plans on returning next season with a greater competitive attitude and evident improvement.

On the other hand, the girls' team rapidly improved throughout the season. PAHS English teacher Ms. Waltz has been coaching the "young but driven team" for a year and a half, alongside first year junior varsity assistant coach, special education teacher Mrs. Sterling. The team will be losing four seniors: Maddie Davis, Olivia McGinnis, Alyssa Neppach, and Carlee Horgan. Sophomore Grace Simenson was the team's standout golfer, and completed most matches with low scores. "There were matches



Sophomore **Grace Simenson** prepares a drive.



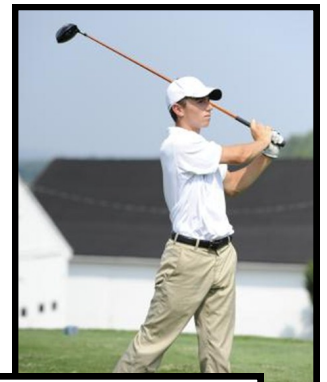
Junior **Tyler Skomsky** intently focuses on his putting.

Photos: Lifetouch

where mostly everyone had really low scores and that was really good for the team," said Simenson. Her sister, junior Hope Simenson, was another key player to the team, along with senior Carlee Horgan (aka Double Par Princess). Ms. Waltz stated, "We actually surpassed our expectations by finishing in a three-way tie with two other teams in the PAC-10 and three girls moved on to districts: Maddie Davis, Grace Simenson and Allison Bradley."

Defeating Hatboro-Horsham at Turtle Creek along with the win against Perkiomen Valley were two of the season's exciting highlights. "Hatboro-Horsham is THE best golf team in the league," said Ms. Waltz, "and we beat them by a handful of strokes." Despite the team losing four seniors, the girls have a bright outlook full of potential and success. "The seniors were a great group. It's sad that we have to lose them," stated Grace Simenson. With the girls' record of 8-5, the budding team is proving they should not be taken lightly.

The golf teams at Phoenixville have improved a lot since they began the season. In future seasons, they will grow stronger and develop more skills and finesse. The teams will definitely be up to par next fall.



Junior **Max Farbstein**, watches his shot.



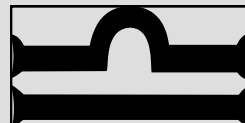
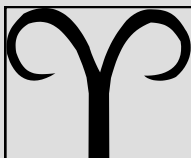
# Horoscopes

BY: CARLY GOLDBERG & JULIA YANCIK

## ARIES: (March 21 - April 20)

Fortune is in your favor this month. Strange coincidences are likely to happen. Watch out, you may run into a teacher outside of school! Saturn's rings are moving into your star chart, so beware of losing rings or any other jewelry.

This month: Eat only black and orange foods for breakfast.



## LIBRA: (September 24 - October 22)

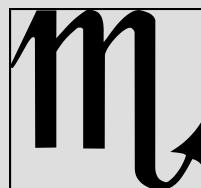
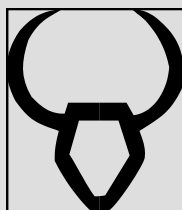
Watch out this month. As Mars moves into your star chart, bad luck may be coming your way. One of your closest friends may betray you. Join a new friend group, for you have a good chance at making a new friend!

This month: Wear candy corn leggings every Tuesday.

## TAURUS: (April 21 - May 21)

You may be feeling down lately, as Pluto has moved into your chart. Turn that frown upside down by doing cartwheels down the hallway at exactly 11:37. With Jupiter and Venus soon aligning, your balance should be restored.

This month: Learn how to play a Halloween song on the tuba.



## SCORPIO: (October 23 - November 21)

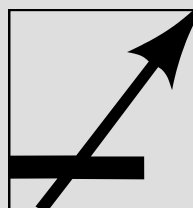
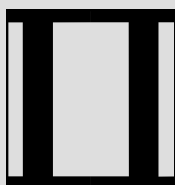
This month your love life will take a new turn. As Venus moves towards your sign, a new love interest will enter your life. Be daring and make the first move. The stars show that love will be in your favor.

This month: Carve a pumpkin with your pet lizard.

## GEMINI: (May 22 - June 21)

Wealth is in your future! Invest money in your favorite company, especially one that begins with the letter R. Mars is moving out of your star chart, so avoid wearing the color red at all costs.

This month: Pretend to be a ghost while walking to study hall.



## SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 - December 21)

As Mercury moves towards the sun, your career is moving in the right direction. If you have a job, you will get a promotion or a raise. If not, try applying for a job soon.

Opportunities are coming your way!

This month: Watch Halloweentown every Saturday at 3am.

## CANCER: (June 22 - July 23)

Despite Neptune being in the center of your star chart, you are destined to have a romantic month! Maybe now is the time to tell him or her how you feel. What better way to say it than to hire an airplane to fly a banner with that special someone's name on it!

This month: Draw a detailed map of a corn maze on a bar of soap.



## CAPRICORN: (December 22 - January 19)

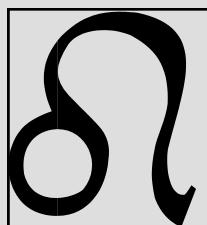
As Mercury, Venus, and Earth align for the first time in 200 years, you will face some difficult choices in life. Try asking the magic conch for some advice. It will pay off in the long run. All hail the magic conch!

This month: Wear a Donald Trump costume and tell teachers they are fired.

## LEO: (July 24 - August 23)

The location of Earth in relation to Jupiter means that you must make a lot of puns this month. Your friends will get sick of it, but they will forgive you.

This month: Wear an astronaut costume to Target. You'll be glad you did.



## AQUARIUS: (January 20 - February 18)

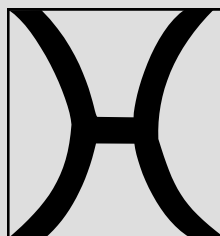
Neptune is moving into your star chart this month. One of your family members may come down with the plague. Make sure to quarantine your house and stay away from them.

This month: Walk like Frankenstein's monster in gym class.

## VIRGO: (August 24 - September 23)

Saturn enters your star chart this month, so be prepared for a pleasant surprise to come your way! There will be plenty of opportunities for fun this month, so seize the day and enjoy them. They may not last for long, but Venus's motion will keep your luck in balance.

This month: Celebrate Halloween a day early.



## PISCES: (February 19 - March 20)

This month the stars will align for your sign. You will meet the love of your life. He/she will then move to Canada and you will meet again in 30 years on your trip to Quebec. Make sure not to marry before then. He/she is still waiting for you!

This month: Watch every episode of Sabrina the Teenage Witch.

**FOR ENTERTAINMENT ONLY**



## \*Halloween quiz\*



Halloween is fast approaching, and whether you are going to a party, trick or treating, or just watching scary movies at home, you need a Halloween costume. Believe it, or not, the disguises you wear Halloween night say a lot about yourself. We are here to give you expert advice to pick a costume that best suits your personality. Take this quiz to find out which Halloween costume embodies your true character.



- 1) You have a test tomorrow. You....
- A. Study a little, but, like, whatever
  - B. Summon a demon to take the test for you
  - C. Don't study at all. You always get 100%
  - D. Write the answers on your hand to cheat



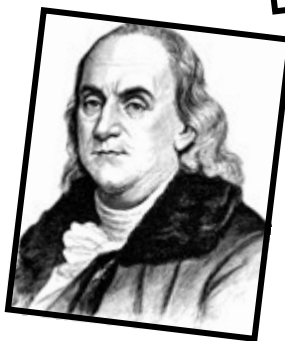
- 6) Halloween night you want to look...
- A. Effortlessly cool
  - B. Extremely scary
  - C. As long as I put in effort anything is OK
  - D. Pretty hot

- 2) Your friends would describe you as...
- A. Bodacious
  - B. Blood-curdling
  - C. Shrewd
  - D. Sly



- 7) Your favorite place to go is...
- A. The local disco
  - B. The hospital - you love to see people in pain
  - C. The library
  - D. Wherever your crush is

- 3) Your favorite 80s movie is...
- A. Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure
  - B. Poltergeist
  - C. Rain Man
  - D. Sixteen Candles



- 8) You go shopping for a new fall jacket. You pick...
- A. A brightly patterned oversized rain jacket
  - B. Anything from Hot Topic
  - C. The warmest jacket you can find
  - D. A tight sleek black jacket

- 4) Your favorite candy is....
- A. Double Bubble
  - B. Snickers
  - C. Smarties
  - D. Reese's

- 9) Your favorite Halloween drink is...
- A. A cold pouch of Capri Sun
  - B. O negative blood
  - C. An organic veggie smoothie
  - D. A Starbucks pumpkin spice coffee

- 5) What is your dream job?
- A. DJ
  - B. Ruling the world
  - C. Professional kite flyer
  - D. Thief



- 10) Who is your idol?
- A. Marty McFly
  - B. Donald Trump
  - C. Steve Jobs
  - D. Robin Hood

Written by: Gabrielle Dato & Sophia Kopko

**Scoring:** Add up the number of times you choose each letter, then check your results below.

**Mostly A's:** You should dress up as a 80s hipster. You go with the flow and keep the good times rolling. You enjoy standing out from the crowd and aren't afraid to be different. Pick up some bright colored clothes and a boom box from your local thrift shop this Halloween. Your friends will be totally bummed they didn't think of this.

**Mostly B's:** This Halloween dress up as the devil. Halloween is your absolute favorite holiday and you look forward to it all year. You love the color black and summoning demons. This Halloween, pick up some red clothes, face paint, and horns to transform yourself into the devil.

**Mostly C's:** You should dress up as Benjamin Franklin for Halloween. You are smart, diplomatic, and not to mention a hottie. Although you probably won't go trick or treating this Halloween (you have more important things to do), try encompassing Ben into your everyday life to bring you closer to his spirit and soul. Try taking a harder science class, or joining Model UN. Who knows, you might be his reincarnation?

**Mostly D's:** This Halloween dress up as a cat. You are cunning, sly, and flirtatious, and will do everything to get ahead of your peers and fellow students. This Halloween paint a cat nose and some cute whiskers to encompass your true cat self. Your look will be original, and express you purrfectly.





Pastel and Pencil  
(The Moment)



Ink and Sharpie  
(Sketchbook Portrait)



Charcoal figure  
drawing (Exhaustion)



Charcoal self portrait  
(A Mirror of Me)



Embroidered Portrait  
(All Strung Up)



Graphic Design  
(Glass Animals)

# Anne Moses

Anne Moses is a senior here at PAHS. She loves art and music and participates in marching band, color guard, and the strings program. She enjoys ideas involving fantasy and abstract realities and she tries to represent these ideas in her art. She has taken classes in graphic design and figure drawing at the Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA). Anne is looking to pursue a career in art and music; she is enrolled in Contemporary Art Workshop, Ceramics, Drawing and Painting, Art History, and AP Studio Art along with AP Music Theory and Music Recording & Technology during her senior year. Much of Anne's art explores how thoughts and emotions are processed. She really wants her artwork to change the way people think. Anne's dream job would be to create posters and album covers for bands and music groups.

