



The Purple Press

VOLUME 15, ISSUE 3

PHOENIXVILLE AREA HIGH SCHOOL

"HOME OF THE PHANTOMS"

1200 GAY STREET

DECEMBER, 2018

PHOENIXVILLE, PA 19460

Sleep exploration: A study results in possible change



Written by:

Devon Goryl

All students and teachers have been guilty of complaining about their lack of sleep. So, in April of 2018, Phoenixville Area High School was visited by Dr. Wendy Troxel, a Senior Behavioral and Social Scientist at RAND and Adjunct Professor of Psychiatry and Psychology at the University of Pittsburgh. Dr. Troxel informed our students and staff of her research as to why later start times for school would benefit adolescents. Her proposal of starting school later, and claim that teachers give too much homework, earned cheers from the students. But ironically, Dr. Troxel resonated with the leaders of PASD as well, considering the school district is highly considering changing the district's school day start and end times for the upcoming 2019-2020 school year.

findings of the Sleep Advisory Group and developing a recommended schedule change for the upcoming school year.

You may be wondering, why push back the school's hours? Hasn't the start time and end time for Phoenixville students always been more or less the same? Yes, but the research concerning teen sleep became alarming. Teenagers biologically require between 8.5-9.5 hours of sleep a night. A survey at our high school revealed that only about 22% of students get eight or more hours of sleep per night. This sleep deprivation can lead to behavioral and psychological effects such as extreme mood swings, aggression, and lack of productivity, as well as physical effects like decreased motor coordination, weight gain, and weakened immune system. In order to prevent these negative consequences that a lack of sleep can have on adolescents, PASD committees have begun to take action.

The Sleep Advisory Group has compared our high school's start time with the national average start time. The national average



Senior **Gabe Bernal** (center) is exhausted in school due to lack of sleep, while senior **Ryan Conway** and junior **Henry McManus** are hard at work. Photo: Devon Goryl.

for both high school and middle school students. This translates to more sleep for students, but it increases transportation costs significantly and places all ages of students on the bus at the same time

average for start times (the main goal of the committee), preserves all extracurricular activities, addresses early dismissal concerns for athletes missing instructional time, preserves the busing format, and

The three current committee proposals:

MS/HS	Elementary/MS/HS all at same time:	"Delay for all" MS/HS times:	"Flip start with delay" MS/HS times:
Start Time	8:30 AM	8:10 AM	8:45 AM
End Time	3:34 PM	3:21 PM	3:56 PM
Change	64 minutes later	44 minutes later	81 minutes later

The decision to possibly change the start and end times for the upcoming school year was a culmination of the efforts by two committees created by the PASD Board of School Directors. In order to further research teen sleep, the Sleep Advisory Group and the Steering Committee were constructed. The Sleep Advisory Group consists of school directors, superintendent, PASD transportation representative, some parents, teachers, and members of the business community. They are responsible for presenting the facts concerning teen sleep to the school community, and the effects that an alteration in our schedule could have on our health. The Steering Committee, primarily composed of individuals such as Dr. Fegley, Dr. Parkinson, and Mr. Gionta, are responsible for composing the

start time is 8:03 a.m., while our high school's is 7:24 a.m., making our school in the top 10% for earliest high school daily openings. After reviewing other high schools who have made the change in their schedule, the Sleep Advisory Group noticed positive effects immediately. These school districts recorded that their graduation and attendance rates skyrocketed, and district-related car crashes dramatically decreased.

With all of this research, the Steering Committee has proposed three optional start times for next year. All proposals delay PAHS opening times by the minimum of 44 minutes. The most recommended start time by the Steering Committee is the "Concurrent Start Time," which includes an 8:30 a.m. start time and 3:41 p.m. end time

MS/HS	PAEA proposed "Delay for all" - MS/HS times:
Start Time	8:05 AM
End Time	3:00 PM
Change	41 minutes later

(including elementary students). Some other repercussions with pushed back dismissal times include increased traffic, increased child care cost, and possibly the loss of older sibling primary care.

However, the main consequence with delaying start times is that end times would have to make up for that lost time (aka students are getting out of school later). One main issue with this is the effects it could have on after-school activities, such as sports, music practices/events, and club activities. For example, if the golf team has an away meet and has to be dismissed early, they are missing nearly double the amount of school time than current golfers would have.

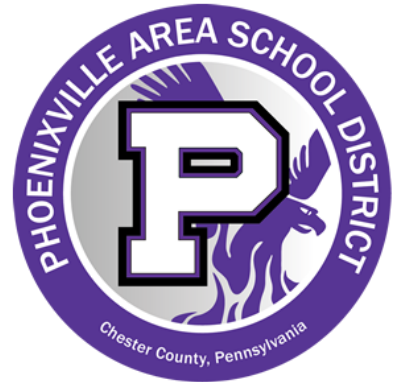
After reviewing some possible issues with the committees' proposals, Phoenixville Area Education Association (PAEA) has proposed a fourth option which incorporates an 8:05 a.m. start time and a 3:00 p.m. end time. This suggestion by the PAEA exceeds the national

minimizes expenses for taxpayers.

The decision as to which of the four proposals, if any, will go into effect next year is still undecided. In order to discuss these proposals and other useful findings, the two committees have hosted forums which are open to the public, but registration is required via PASD's main website.

The final, upcoming forum will be held on Tuesday, January 8th at 6:30 p.m. in the middle school cafeteria. If you have questions or want your voice to be heard about the topic, please attend this forum!

No matter what option is chosen, our school district could be heavily affected. Perhaps this significant action is leading to a trend of change in PASD, since it would be the second major modification in the past two years, following last year's construction project. For better or worse, the school hours could be altered, which will affect you and your family, so don't sleep on this issue.



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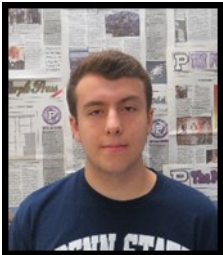
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Summary of the Research ~ 38 articles taken from Journal of School Health, 2016, May.
* 20-30 minute time push proved effective
* Study shows significant performance increase with as little as a 20 minute push:
o Improved sleep patterns and habits
o Improved attentiveness in school
o Improved attendance (including tardiness)
o Improved overall mood
o Fewer motor vehicle crashes
o Reduced depression



Gianna Flora: Presidential artist



Written by:
Brandon Wallace

Senior year can be intimidating. Having to get all your college applications, college essays, and SAT test scores submitted can be overwhelming, not to mention attempting to do well in the current classes you are taking. Often, seniors take a step back from extracurricular activities so they can focus on all that, but that is not the case with senior Gianna Flora. She is involved in a plethora of school activities, yet continues to succeed in all eight of her classes.



Gianna with her older brother **Louis** on his college move in day this past summer.

Gianna is involved in many extracurricular activities including The National Honors Society, Future Business Leaders of America, Art Excellence Club, and Track and Field. In addition, she has taken part in numerous foreign exchanges that take place here at the high school. She has been to Italy, Denmark, and will be going to France this upcoming spring.

Being president of both NHS and the Art Excellence Club are two very big responsibilities, but Gianna enjoys volunteering and giving back to the school and community that gave her so many great opportunities.

"I decided to run [for NHS president] to push myself out of my comfort zone even more, and to gain more life experiences," she said.

Along with being involved in all the clubs and school activities, Gianna is also very into art, especially painting. Chances are if you have seen any sort of artwork around the school, or even on the back page of previous issues of The Purple Press, then one of the pieces was probably done by Gianna.

"I was very young [when I started], I have been making art for as long as I can remember. I even have art in my house from when I was in preschool," she said.

Gianna's mom has been a big influence on her and her artwork: "My mom is very creative and I feel like she passed that down to me," she explained.

Right now Gianna considers art to be one of her hobbies. She is hoping that her creativity when it comes to art and designing will help her with her future career; she would love to go to college in New York, live in the city, and get involved in the fashion industry.

When she isn't finishing up a piece of art work or planning an event for NHS, Gianna enjoys shopping and gives great advice on where to find deals in the King of Prus-

sia Mall.

She also enjoys hanging out with friends and family, especially going to concerts; her first concert was a Taylor Swift show, and her most recent was a Keith Urban concert. Her family consists of her two parents, her grandma, one older brother (Louis), and her two dogs.

Gianna said about her little Yorkie named Daisy, "My dog is my child who I got when I was thirteen; she's my pride and joy."

Right now Gianna is just focusing on finishing out her senior year strong and not looking that deep into the future. She seems to have everything figured out, but she has a back up plans if things don't work in New York City fashion.

She said, "If my path doesn't work out, catch me in the FBI."



Gianna (center) with five students from the French exchange this past October, along with Phoenixville students Kellen Narke and Heather Cirino to the right.

Photos courtesy of Gianna Flora

Gianna created this water color rendition of a photo she took in Copenhagen, Denmark.



Jasper Perry: A jack of all trades



Written by:
Lauren Harper

It is not everyday you come across a freshman who is extremely passionate and expressive about his or her interests, especially about drag and interior design. His interests may not be common for many high school students, but be on the lookout, for you may one day see Jasper on the likes of HGTV, or even on "RuPaul's Drag Race."

Freshman Jasper Perry is a huge fan of drag-related shows like "RuPaul's Drag Race" and "Dragula," especially for the

drama that ensues with each. Jasper participated in his first DragCon in New York City at the Javits Center this past September 28, 29, and 30. He saw famous personalities and drag queens: Michelle Visage Miss Vanjie Mateo, Monét X Change (and more) who were all on the television series, "RuPaul's Drag Race." There are only two main DragCon's that RuPaul's Drag Race participates in: New York and in Los Angeles. Jasper has dreams of going to the DragCon in Los Angeles, California.

Jasper explained that there is so much to do and see at DragCon. The floor is loaded with booths and panels of notable drag queens and companies involved in the drag world, as well as a runway for the drag queens to show off their newest looks. Makeup companies like Sugarpill and Glossy Pops are present for people to try their animal cruelty-free makeup.

Jasper has always had a fascination with drag and does not recall when he first got involved; he's just had a consistent interest since he was young. Jasper himself rarely wears dresses for drag; however, he can sew, and he does his hair, makeup and nails. In fact, he lent his expertise to the cast of the fall play at PAHS, "The Sea Voyage." Some friends of Jasper's share the same interests; for example, his sophomore friend Dante Armour likes to do makeup as well.

Surprisingly, Jasper is self-taught in the hair, makeup and nail department. However, he does derive some of his favorite looks from people he idolizes. For example, Alyssa Edwards is a well-known American drag queen who Jasper venerates for her softer makeup looks. Jasper prefers a face with a lot of makeup that is not too over-the-top. You may even see Jasper carry around a fan that has various drag queens on it, or one with the notorious term, "SHADE".

Due to his interest in drag, Jasper has certainly received some comments from

classmates. Many girls envy his makeup, calling Jasper's looks "cute" because of how well he has done his makeup.

Nonetheless, Jasper is not only a hair, makeup and nail artist, he also has quite the eye for interior design. He loves decorating and creating art. Despite not taking any art classes this year, Jasper is really good with his hands and making things like props.

Jasper's favorite classes this year so far are Mrs. Wilbert's Computer Application and Programming class, as well as math class. In fact, Jasper displayed his talent for decorating in Mrs. Wilbert's classroom with Halloween decorations. Mrs. Wilbert began to update her room for Halloween by adding lights and hanging things from the ceiling. Once Jasper saw this, he took over and he quickly proved his skills. Jasper expertly secured lights throughout the room, made decorative pom-poms, hung a large pendant light above Mrs. Wilbert's desk, and ran the cords up through the ceiling to conceal them from onlookers. He even used a wireless power switch to control all of it. Jasper impressively put together Mrs. Wilbert's entire room, blowing her away with his undeniable decorating skills.

Jasper plans on attending the Technical College High School (TCHS) next year to take classes in cosmetology.

"I am such a jack of all trades that I think that it would be kind of easy for me to find a job because if I am able to do all of those things [cosmetology and interior design] really well, I have a lot of different skills that [apply] to many different jobs."

Although Jasper has no siblings to share his interests with, his parents and grandmother support his fascination for drag, makeup, and interior design.

Despite Jasper's flamboyant persona, he is actually very soft spoken and loyal. Mrs. Wilbert can attest to this fact, "We've had many conversations while working in the



Hands on! Jasper loves getting crafty. Photos courtesy of Jasper Perry

room and he is undeniably a loyal and trustworthy friend. He believes in being honest (even if it's brutal honesty and something you might not want to hear), but he feels it's better to have someone tell you something than everyone think it and not say anything."

There is more than a character behind Jasper Perry, there is natural talent and a stunning personality.

Jasper practicing a more intense makeup look.



Jasper attending DragCon in New York.

Avila Edmonds-Doberenz: Past, present, and future artist



Written by:
Morgan Bieler

Talent: having a natural aptitude or skill for something. When you hear this word, you might think of an athlete or musician, but you should definitely think of one very special artist at PAHS. You've probably seen her artwork in the glass cases around the high school, or in countless art shows, but do you know

the artist? This very talented and unique artist is senior Avila Edmonds-Doberenz. Avila's art has definitely progressed over the years. Like any young artist, her work started as simple sketches and drawings. Her mediums at the time were colored pencils and paint. As time went by, her work became more mature and realistic. Her best work, she says, are "the [pieces] I do at home [because] I have more time to do it." Along with more time comes less restrictions on what she can and cannot do.

One major influence of Avila's art is the different cultures she has experienced. She's been to many foreign countries including Spain, Germany, Morocco, and India. She's going to France, Germany and Greece next year. She said, "When I come back from any country I definitely see how that particular culture influences my art-mostly in how I apply color, texture, features, etc. It also affects how I imagine- in terms of what I want to paint!" Avila had a chance to use her experiences in her artwork over this past summer, when she spent five weeks with PAFA, Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts. She spent her days practicing and perfecting her artistic abilities. She



Avila poses with a camel in Essaouira, Morocco.
Photos courtesy of AvilaEdmonds-Doberenz

is my first year with [Mrs.] Kabatt and I love it. She's amazing," she said. She has also been in several clubs over the years including Letter by Letter, Feminist club, and, of course, Art club.

Artwork tells a story. You can definitely see Avila's story through her artwork. Having taken almost every art class available at the high school, it's safe to say that Avila is a very talented and prolific artist. She has spent her high school career learning new skills and mastering old ones. Her story at the high school may be ending, but her future artwork will tell many more.

Avila in New Delhi on her twelve day trip through India.



was a little hesitant at first because the idea of commuting to Philadelphia and doing art for eight hours a day was a little daunting, but the experience was very rewarding.

"[I was in] studio all day and I was able to try different mediums that I had never done before. We did clay busts of our head. We had a mirror and we were doing our features by looking back and forth. It was a really great opportunity and I learned a lot from it," she said.

Through this experience Avila got a preview of what art college would be like. Like most high school seniors, Avila has been thinking about college and her future endeavours. She wants to go to Bard University in upstate New York. If this doesn't work out, she's looking for smaller, more liberal schools. She hopes to either major or minor in painting.

Outside of art, Avila enjoys taking history classes, such as AP European History. "History is one of my favorite subjects. This

One of Avila's favorite paintings she created, titled "Red Lady."



Doctor Who?



Written by:
Keelin Cannon

When informed that Phoenixville Area High School has a school psychologist, some students might be surprised, and others confused. In fact, Dr. Minissale has been working for this school district as a school psychologist for 26 years! She's located in the room D-5, right across the middle most staircase, in a relatively large office. Dr. Minissale works with students to stay on track with their studies, and is available to help you man-

age any possible concerns dealing with your well-being in our school environment.

Although she started out as a dance major at Brockport State in New York, she decided to go back to school for a Master's degree and attended Immaculata University where she concentrated in Counselling Psychology. While she was always interested in what made people tick, she said, "...I really had no idea what school psychology was, and I started to take some of the assessment classes and I really liked it." So, her time going back to college for her Master's Degree, followed by a Doctorate in Clinical Psychology from Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, turned into her job for the next 26 years of her life.

So what does a school psychologist do exactly? "I'm responsible for all the psychoeducational and reevaluations for students. So, I'm the person that does assessment to help identify learning-related challenges, learning-related disabilities: ADHD, anxiety, depression, and then I make recommendations for IEPs, or other related services," said Dr. Minissale on her work here. "An IEP is an Individual Education Plan for a student who might need direct instruction because of a disability: like in reading, or math," she ex-

plained further.

The evaluation process itself is a job she tackles daily as she consults with staff on students' needs, while being actively involved with parents throughout process. "I am responsible for initial evaluations and reevaluations, identifying learning needs, challenges and disabilities," she said.

Sometimes students might find themselves in a sudden tight spot, needing help immediately with a problem, and Dr. Minissale understands this. "A student is more than welcome to knock on my door, if there is something bothering them," said Dr. Minissale. "I typically encourage a student to start with their guidance counselor to schedule an appointment." If further support is needed, a student's counselor can make a referral to the mental health specialist, named Mrs. Smith, who is stationed next to A-21, aka the keyboard lab.

In the time she has outside of school, Dr. Minissale is a music lover at heart, supporting local bands when she can, and enjoying Netflix documentaries as a pastime.

Dr. Minissale is not all business. She said, "...I have a good friend who lives in the Stroudsburg area who has a Pink Floyd tribute band called Outside the Wall and they are amazing. So whenever I have an opportunity to see them, I do."

Her family includes three kids: her oldest, Gia, was adopted from Honduras; her second, Dean, works at the Center of Autism in Philadelphia and he's getting his Master's Degree. Her youngest is Philip, who lives in New Orleans with his own business. Dr. Minissale also has two cats named Kasper and Milo.



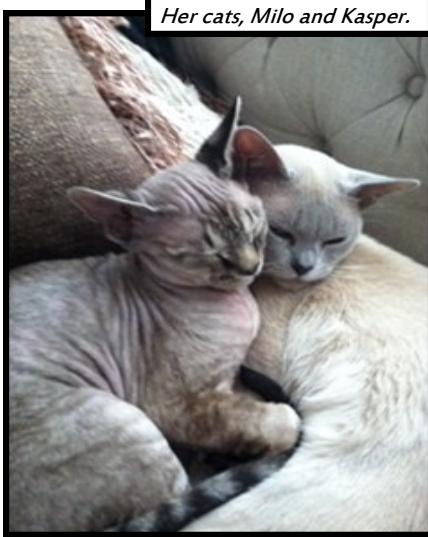
The Minissale kids: Phillip, Gia and Dean.

While Dr. Minissale is a busy person at PAHS, don't be afraid to discuss with your guidance counselor setting up an appointment with her to talk if you are struggling in your classes, or if you need any kind of emotional support or outlet. No matter what you're going through, there is someone here with years of experience, training, and warm heart ready to assist: Her name is Dr. Minissale.

Dr. Minissale in her office.
Photos: Dr. Minissale



Her cats, Milo and Kasper.



Always marching to the beat of their own drums...literally



Written by:
Isabelle Butera

If you aren't entirely sure what the terms "color guard" and "drumline" mean, don't worry, you are not alone. If you've heard people go on endlessly about "pit" or their "drills," that means they are probably a part of marching band. The Phantom Marching band performs before all football games or during halftime, as well as at competitions with local schools. The marching band is a complex ensemble composed of 73 students, in a variety of sections, including drumline, flutes and piccolos, saxophones, low saxes, clarinets, pit or front ensemble, trumpets, mellophones, low brass, and color guard.

Overall, the Phantom marching band did very well this season. They received first place at two local competitions and second place at two others. At the Cavalcade of Bands Championship in Early November,

they earned ninth place out of 24 competing schools in the Liberty Open Division. Along with Mr. McAdams, who has been band director for the last five years, the band was led by the drum majors Madeline Myers and Paige Ritter.

Mr. McAdams described, "They're the students that you see conducting in front of the band. They also do a lot of other behind the scenes work to make sure the band successfully moves from Point A to Point B."

The theme of the show was "April Showers Bring May Flowers." According to Mr. McAdams, "In part, it was inspired by the Justin Timberlake meme: 'It's Gonna Be Me'...but he pronounces me like 'May.' We even used a bit of music from N*Sync in the show." The theme involved not only the music played, but also the colorful costumes worn by the color guard and backdrops portraying rolling hills and blue skies.

Unless you spend a lot of time in the band room or have close friends in the band, you probably have no idea of the time, effort and talent that goes into the Phantom Marching Band. Marching band members have somewhat of an insane schedule. The season starts in the summer and spans until

were involved with sports, theater and other clubs, not to mention their normal schoolwork. But to the band members, participation in the band is worth every minute.

Senior Ethan Tweedie said, "When you step off the field and see people cheering, you get that feeling [that makes it all worth it]"

Some students feel that their crazy schedule forced them to better manage their time. "I apply a lot of what I learned in marching band in everything I do," junior Madeline Myers said. "I try to apply the same level of responsibility and respect that I have in band to my teachers and classes."

Performing in a Marching Band competition is much more complex than a normal band concert. Meyers explained, "It's more intense because in a concert it's more stationary and focused on the music, but in marching band you have to add in the element of movement."

Musicians not only have to perfect the music, but memorize it, plus the choreography and timing. On the flip side, some aspects of marching band are easier to get right.

Band President, senior Noah McCarthy explained, "You prepare the whole year for just one big concert, but when you're in the marching band, not only is it a lot more time and the group is a lot more tight knit, but you just get a lot of chances to get



Color Guard section leader Rosa Gerner showing the spring theme through the costume and flag colors.
Photos: Barry Taglieber

your show right."

The marching band also has the additional ensemble of the color guard which, as sectional leader Rosa Gerner explained, "is to provide the visual interpretation of the music and the show. And we do that through using flags, rifles and dance."

The over 70 students that make up that Phantom Marching Band are dedicated, incredibly talented and frankly underappreciated by the student population. Marching band is a unique intersection between music, movement and athleticism that requires a major time commitment and excellent direction. Students spend hours practicing complex routines and musical pieces, and have achieved some great recognition this year in their competitions. The most impressive and special aspect of the marching band is the incredibly close bond between the students that is the key to their success.

As Meyers explained, "It's not just about the winning, it's more about that we are spending time together and it's just a whole big community of friends having fun and playing band."

Marching band not only involves a mastery of music, but movement and coordination as well.



the end of November. Students practiced for three hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays, performed at football games on Friday nights, rehearsed all of Saturday morning and competed Saturday nights. In addition to this time commitment, the majority of these students

Model UN: Trading Finland's military to Kenya for fifty lions!



Written by:
Keelin Cannon

Model UN is a club at PAHS in which students take field trips to a myriad of universities to act as a delegate of a country or national organization, and debate on real world problems. Sort of like that one episode of "Parks and Recreation" when Knope helps operate a Model UN for the local high school and the rest of the office chips in. Unlike the show, where someone secretly reigns the moon, MUN is a much more organized experience. Students from California to Canada gather for the memorable experience of a political conference. From unemployment rates to starving children, discussion takes place on a 'world wide' scale. PAHS senior

Alex Fey, the Model UN's club president, took home an award for his efforts.

MUN might seem like something you see only debate junkies go to, but in reality it's a place where students gather to try and solve problems that some politicians struggle to fix. You play a role as a delegate from a country and must work together with another person and the entire committee, also known as "blocks," to create resolutions to solve the issues.

Fey explained, "In MUN, you are presented with a set of defined problems that you, as a committee, must solve -- that's the beauty of Model UN. It's an opportunity to work with other politically-engaged students who enjoy debating and want to find solutions to these problems that plague the world."

Fey had a very successful experience, winning an Honorable Mention prize at this year's MUN in Princeton New Jersey from November 15 to the 18th. Over 1,500 students go to MUN and only about 75 can get an award, so an Honorable Mention is the Model UN equivalent of a third



Alex Fey (right) and other committee members at MUN with the Yugoslavian flag.

place trophy. He was working as a member of the Yugoslavia Presidium Crisis Committee, as Vojvodina, an autonomous province of Serbia, working with kids from all over the U.S. and even Canada to maintain political stability in the country.

"There were the other republics of Yugoslavia as well as the other autonomous providence [and] a few outside influencers like news sources and directors of security," Fey said.

The committee was set after the leader of Yugoslavia died, so they were working as the acting body. The students would have to maintain the political stability as well as the economy and ensure the prosperities of Yugoslavia. To get a taste of the different activities of Model UN, The Midnight Crisis Committee is a good example of a challenge you might have to face there.

"My favorite part would be the Midnight

Crisis Committee, which was Friday night and that was when they come to your door at midnight and tell you have to go to committee and go from 12-3:30 in the morning, and it's supposed to simulate a crisis the happened and it's very fast paced and a lot of unexpected twists happen. Although everyone's tired, it's very exciting," Fey explained.

Outside of the committee, he mentioned how spending time with "The Boys", seniors Kyle Flick, Ethan Herring and junior Tyler Pekofsky, was one of his favorite parts of this year's experience.

If you enjoy debating in a structured and realistic way, with a gathering of information and then discussion, MUN is a very good way of doing so. If it sounds interesting to you, see the advisors, Mr. Winters or Ms. Waltz, or club president Alex Fey to see how to get involved.



Ethan Herring, Alex Fey, Tyler Pekofsky, and Kyle Flick, AKA "The Boys," show off Alex's award while at a rest stop on the way home.
Photos courtesy of Alex Fey

Class of 2019: The Impact Awards are coming



Written by:
Mr. Coyne

In the fall of 2015 the Student Government of Phoenixville Area High School established the Impact Awards.

What are the Impact Awards? The Impact Awards are for seniors only to nominate a Phoenixville Area School District employee (past or present) who impacted the senior's life from kindergarten to twelfth grade.

Who can this nominee be? The nominee must be in good standing with the district. This could be a teacher, coach, administrator, bus driver, custodian, etc. The person could be a teacher in Elementary School, an administrator in the middle school, or a bus driver with Wolfington Bus Company.

How can I nominate a person? In the be-

ginning of the school year, Mr. Coyne (advisor to Student Government) spoke about the Impact Awards. Mr. Coyne stated that the nomination process would begin in December for the Impact Awards. On the form for the Impact Awards, the nominating senior is asked to print the name of their nominee, where their nominee is employed, write a response of 50 words or less on how the nominee impacted the senior, and sign the nomination form. Impact Awards forms can be picked up outside Mr. Coyne's room, D-14.

How many nominees can a senior submit? Each senior is allowed to only nominate one person. So consider fully who you would like to nominate.

When is the nomination due? All nomination must be turned into Mr. Coyne in room D-14 by February 1, 2019.

When and where will the Impact Awards be held? The 2019 Impact Awards will be held on Wednesday, April 17, 2019, in the PAHS cafeteria. Reception will be at 5:30 p.m. and the dinner will begin at 6:00 p.m.

Who all are invited to the Impact Awards?

The Impact Awards are for those people nominated, the seniors who nominated a person, and invited guests only.

How should I dress for the Impact Awards? This is a semi-formal awards program. Young men should dress with a shirt, tie, and nice slacks. Young ladies should wear a dress and or nice pants outfit. Hint: dress as if you are going for your first major job interview.

Who should I speak to if I have any further questions? Please see Mr. Coyne in room D-14. He will answer all your questions.

The Phoenixville Area High School Student Government believes that this is a special event that will be an excellent way in which

our seniors can recognize a person who impacted their lives.

Sean O'Neill poses with D Poole at last year's Impact Awards.

Photo: Lorraine Kelly



Cappies review of "The Sea Voyage" at PAHS

Written by:

Lionel McCulloch of PA Leadership Charter School's Center for Performing

Plundered treasures, multiple shipwrecks and an island band of warrior women... Phoenixville Area High School's rare production of "The Sea Voyage" swashbucklers with the best of the pirate comedies. Written for The Globe Theater by Jacobean writers John Fletcher and Philip Massinger, the play flaunts its ties to William Shakespeare's final work, "The Tempest", while taking a more comedic and adventurous path.

In this seldom produced comedy, French pirates have stolen a girl, Aminta, from her brother Raimond, another pirate. Though she is angry, once their Captain Albert saves her life during a storm, she falls instantly in love with him. They shipwreck and encounter a band of ferocious women, the youngest of whom, Clarinda, also falls in love with him. The other warrior women



Cast photo: Mr. Lantzy

decide that they want to have children, and that the pirates will have to do as potential fathers. Sword fighting, romance and hilarity ensues.

The actors in this beautifully lit production take the frivolous rambling plot and squeeze it for every bit of comedy. With nothing but a bare bones set which includes some actual bones, the large ensemble tells the tale entirely through their

stellar character choices, strong articulation and physical investment.

Youngest Amazon Clarinda (played by Morgan Bieler) may think she loves Albert (played by Alek Wasserman) but when she clashes swords with the brother of her rival Aminta (played by Rachel Nolen), it is instantly clear that she is meant for Raimond (played by Noah Bloom). All four actors share instant chemistry, with their sword-

play being just one highlight of many nuanced acting moments.

Every actor, no matter how small the role, is invested in the story. Each character plays well with the smaller ensembles, connecting each small ensemble to the group. In particular the royal fools, played by Brennan Becker, Jack Kramer and Connor Hesse consistently shine. Even the tiniest player, the Ship's Cook played by EJ Soto, has moments to sparkle.

Mark Thompson's lighting design provides the shimmering setting. Whether through dramatic storm effects during the opening ship wreck, or the subtle moving lights used on the island, strong choices bring each location to life.

The cast's enjoyment of their treasure resonates from opening storm to the final bows bringing the rambling story to life with surprising clarity and precision. Bravo to Phoenixville for polishing this hidden gem and creating the real treasure - a great performance.

Farewell Ms. Spina



Christian Schaaaf, Mrs. Spina, and Jenny Govea celebrate at the Impact Awards, 2018.
Photos courtesy of Mrs. Spina

In her eight years here Ms. Spina has invigorated the art programs here at PAHS. It's sad to see her leave, but before she left, she granted the Purple Press this interview.

Q: Where did you attend high school and college?

A: Penncrest High School, Penn State University for my undergraduate degree in Integrative Arts, Temple University's Tyler School of Art for my Master of Education in Art, and Holy Family University for my Master of Education in Educational Leadership

Q: Were you working anywhere prior to PAHS?

A: I taught in community arts schools and began my school teaching career in a Philadelphia High School. I also taught middle school at Norristown Area School District before coming to PAHS.

Q: How long have you been working at PAHS? Describe the classes you taught over the years.

A: This is my eighth year at PAHS. I have taught Intro to Art, Art II, Art III, Art Major, AP Studio Art, Drawing & Painting, Mixed Media, 3D Art, Art History, Digital Photog-

raphy I and II, Graphics I and II, and Contemporary Arts Workshop.

Q: What are your favorite memories from working at PAHS?

A: Art Shows-- Displaying my students' work and seeing their sense of pride and excitement makes me so proud of them. Art History also has a special place in my heart and I loved the class and my students—especially the labs!

Q: Why have you chosen to leave PAHS?

A: I have accepted a position at a school much closer to my home (I currently live about an hour from PAHS) and I will be moving into a new role as an assistant principal.

Q: What are your thoughts about switching from teacher to administrator?

A: I am excited to make this transition and I am hopeful that I will use everything I have learned as a teacher here at PAHS to help me to support teachers and students in my new role.

Q: Tell us about your family.

A: My husband is a fifth grade teacher at Aldan Elementary School and I have two sons—Cole who is four, and Miles who is two.

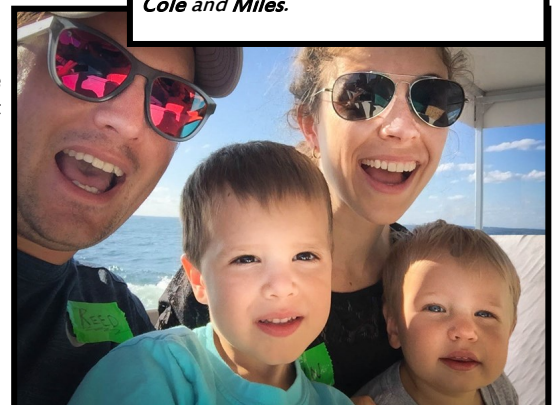
Q: What will you miss the most about PAHS?

A: I will miss my colleagues and my students. I have been very privileged to work with PAHS's exceptional teachers who routinely go above and beyond for their students. I am also fortunate to have been a teacher here because our students are amazing. They are uncommonly kind and bring such positivity to my day. They are the reason that I enjoy being a teacher.

Q: Any departing words for us at PAHS?

A: I want to thank all of my colleagues for mentoring me and collaborating with me over the last eight years. Each day, many of my students thank me at the end of class—I want them to know that I sincerely thank them for being so incredible and for giving me eight rewarding years at PAHS.

Mrs. Spina enjoying a boat ride in Maine with her husband, Reed, and two boys: Cole and Miles.



The Purple Press is written, edited, produced and distributed monthly by the Phoenixville Area High School Journalism class (Period 2).

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The Purple Press is affiliated with the Pennsylvania School Press Association. The paper is printed by schoolpaperexpress.com out of Wappingers Falls, New York

The tragedy of the fake Christmas tree



Written by:
Rachel Nolen

Every year millions of families around the country go out and look for their perfect Christmas tree. Once the perfect one is found, they get to cut it down and load it up onto the top of the car to drive home and decorate it. Meanwhile, families like mine decide to instead lug a giant box out of the basement full of the disappointment that is a fake Christmas tree.

The smell of rotten mildew fills the air as dust and sadness spreads around the living room. My brother and I sigh as we lug the bottom section out of the box and heave the middle section up on top. The third section is always too tall to reach and we have to get a good boost to get that thing on straight. After that struggle is over I realize that the "prestrung lights" that came with

the tree don't even work and I have to restring the whole thing. Since that fake tree has been stuffed in a box for nearly a year we have to go through the pain of fluffing it just to make it look mildly normal.

My opinion is clear: fake Christmas trees need to become a thing of the past. Believe me, I'm not naive, I

understand that there are definitely benefits to having a fake Christmas tree. But nothing brings the holiday season together like the smell of a fresh tree and the pine aroma that fills homes with the joy of Christmas. I feel so at home and cozy in my friends' homes during the holiday season, but less so in my own home. Why? Because my tree is fake, and theirs fills the air with happiness and joy.

The real reason we have always had a fake Christmas tree is because we have a cat, and she will leave a fake tree alone because it has no scent. We wouldn't want to worry about broken ornaments or anything, would we? However, what's the point, because all that's happened is my dumb rabbit chewed up the wire to those "prestrung lights" and now the thing is just a useless, unlit tree.

I understand that fake Christmas trees are great for families with

pets. There is also no need to water a fake tree, or worry about the falling pine needles getting everywhere. Fake trees, although sometimes expensive, are a one time purchase. As long as you don't mind the lights sometimes going out, they can last for years instead of having to buy a new tree every year.

However, a real Christmas tree brings the holiday season together. The whole process of getting a real tree is a great time for the family to spend time with each other. Whether the whole family goes out and cuts a tree down, or you pick out a pre-cut one at a farm, the adventure is still the same. Real Christmas trees show true individuality and creativity. Fake Christmas trees are constant repeats of the same look.

This issue and debate will toil on for years, but the answer is clear to me. Fake Christmas trees, although sometimes convenient, don't provide the full experience and joy of the Christmas season.



The beautiful real Norway Spruce displayed at Rockefeller center.



A family experiences the joy of searching for a real Christmas tree.



Some trees are so ugly it's offensive.

Happy Birthmas and Merry Christday!



Written by:
Makinzie Ackroyd

December is one of the few months that we get to enjoy the possibility of snow, ice skating, and feeling protected by the cold by a mug of hot chocolate. Plus, who doesn't enjoy a good holiday song every now and then? Everyone loves December for various reasons, but if your birthday was in December you might have a different perspective. December birthdays are a nightmare, and no, not like the "Nightmare Before Christmas!"

In my family, we have two December birthdays. My brother Justin and I were both born in this snow-dusted, Santa-crazed and cookie-baking month. Luckily,

our birthdays are roughly two weeks apart, mine being a couple weeks before Christmas and his being a couple days after. Overall, it is crazy in the Ackroyd household in December. My dad complains, "I am broke until January due to all the gifts I have to give in the month."

Most December-birthday people can relate that we get cheated. Whether it is combined with Christmas, Hanukkah, or Kwanza, your should-have-been-two-presents becomes one, celebrated at the same time as your holiday and birthday party. We even hear a nice little phrase that goes along these lines: "Here is your birthday and [Christmas] present. Merry Birthdai!"

Junior Kendall Gordon, a December birthday, said, "I often get my my birthday gifts wrapped up in 'Merry Christmas' wrapping paper." When people wrap in 'Merry Christmas' paper, it shows they didn't go out of their way for this person but saved time by using the paper they

Five ways to annoy someone with a Christmas birthday

1. Wrap their presents in holiday paper
2. Talk about Christmas at their birthday party
3. Give them combined 'birthmas' gift
4. Tell them what a bummer it must be to have a birthday around the holidays
5. Write "Happy Birthday" in their Christmas card.

were already wrapping with.

It's annoying to get one gift for two different celebrations, but my complaint isn't about the gifts. Parents are so focused with the main holiday that they occasionally dismiss our official day of being one year older. We know that this is not because they don't love us. However, the dirty little secret is that we all want to have a special day just about us once a year. We want to be noticed and recognized as being older without another holiday sharing the spotlight. Kendall Gordon added, "I would love my birthday, if the holidays weren't around it."

Honestly, any birthdays near a holiday can be overlooked. If someone were to have birthday at the end of October, they may get looked over due to Halloween. Other holidays such as St. Patrick's Day, July 4th, Valentines Day, Easter, Thanksgiving, or even on Leap Year may make other people's birthdays overlooked too!

A friend of mine born on Leap Year said, "When celebrating my birthday, we never know to celebrate the day 'before' or 'after', since my birthday only happens once every four years to celebrate."

I will admit that summer birthdays are hard too, for different reasons. People with birthdays during the school year can easily be celebrated by friends who make you cupcakes and give you balloons to parade, while people with summer birthdays never get the recognition they deserve. They got lost inside the summer fun and vacations.

"They can be fun if you have friends, but for the most part you get ice cream cake and the summer heat," said an anonymous student with a June birthday.

Everyone wants to have a special day about them, at least once a year, but sometimes people's birthdays get lost in the craze of the holidays. Remember to treat your friends and family to their special days, and don't combine birthdays with other holidays. It may be convenient for the person wrapping, but makes a special day less special.



Why you NEED to start thrifting

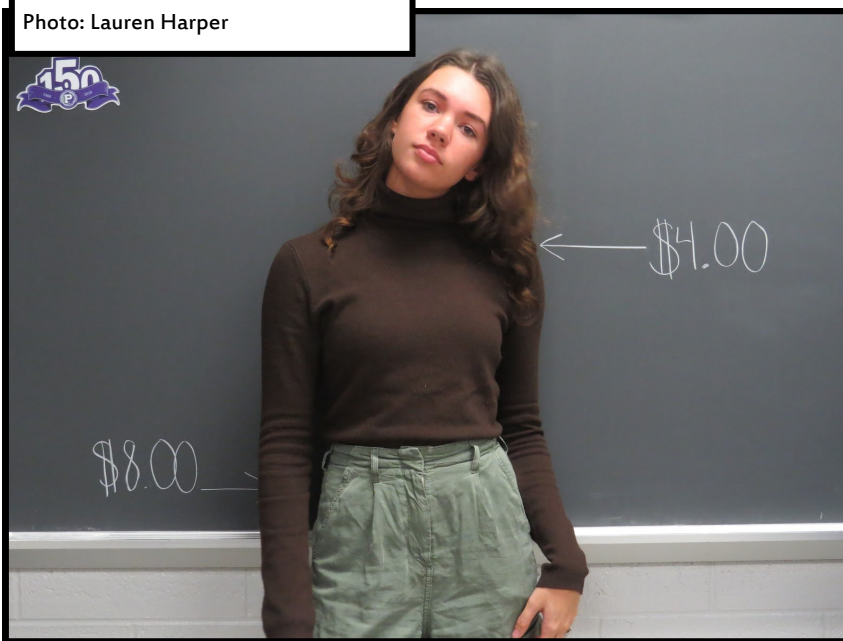


Written by:
Alex Rieg

You've all heard the saying, "One man's trash is another man's treasure." Although this motto kind of sounds like dumpster diving, it's more based on the idea that items can lose value to one person, whether economical or sentimental, but be the one treasure someone else is looking for. Thrifting is the process of shopping to find exactly what you're looking for while having a positive impact on both society and your wallet.

Alex's Fully thrifted outfit at incredibly low prices.

Photo: Lauren Harper



You, along with everyone else in today's society, should be thrifting to reduce your environmental impact. Mass-produced clothes from brands such as Forever 21, H&M, and PacSun are often of poor quality and are either worn out too fast, or the trend dies too quickly. Most of these clothes are thrown out when they should be donated to thrift stores for resale. This donation and resale process prolongs the span of time before old clothes end up in landfills. Thrifting is an eco-friendly way to lessen the impact of our tendency to discard, rather than reuse and recycle.

Thrift stores typically offer clothing at reduced prices, which makes it accessible to low-income households. Both the store and the consumers benefit in this aspect. To benefit the community, some thrift store proceeds benefit local organizations such as hospitals and other charities.

Some of my favorite clothes have come from thrift stores, including original styles you don't really see anywhere else. A lot of



A lot of thrift stores such as Shreveport Bossier donate proceeds to charity groups.

Photo: <http://www.sbrescuemission.com/mission/enterprise-operations/>

the best finds are older, and in turn are made of higher quality material, like thick cotton T-shirts and sweatshirts. The clothing is also a lot more broken in and comfortable. My favorite jean jacket, my favorite t-shirts, and the coolest Nikes I have been able to find have all come from thrift stores.

Now that you know why you should thrift, the real questions are how and where? Although it is a lot easier to score in areas closer to Philadelphia, there are some great local shops you can check out. The most obvious and accessible option for Phoenixville residents is Goodwill. Goodwill can be a gamble depending on which one you decide to go to. The closer you get to the city, the more diverse the selection will become, and you'll have better luck. Goodwill's prices are some of the lowest as the intention is to appeal to lower-income households by selling donated clothes.

Another familiar name is the thrift chain Salvation Army. Once again, it all depends

on your location. If you're on a mild budget and looking to ensure success on your hunt, Plato's Closet, in either Paoli or Exton, always has some great finds. In addition to their reasonable prices and diverse selection, you can actually sell your clothes to Plato's Closet and make a straight profit on the clothing you no longer want.

Finally, if you're searching for unique brand names or vintage clothing, Greene Street in the Gateway Shopping Centre is ideal. They intercept some of the best hard to find pieces, as most of their donations come from the Main Line.

Thrifting is a great way to save money while gaining a better grasp on your responsibility to the environment and how to budget. Next time you're tempted to drop your paycheck on a piece at the mall that will be overdone by next month, think about how much money you could save by getting the same or a similar one. Doing so will also benefit your community and the environment.

Christmas time, movie time



Written by:
Camryn Miller

The best way to hide from the winter cold is putting on your comfiest pajamas, best fuzzy socks, grabbing the biggest, softest blanket you can find, and watching a holiday movie. Some people may find holiday movies to be cheesy, but they are also filled with joy, and make you believe the best in everyone and everything. To help you enjoy the season, and escape the cold, here are my top five Christmas-themed movies for you to enjoy.

Number five is a movie adored around the world, "Love Actually" (2003). This movie is funny, dramatic, and emphasizes the spirit of Christmas and the love that is spread through the season. It follows the daily lives of many different people in England. One of my favorite scenes is when Juliet (Keira Knightley) gets married to her fiancé Peter, (Chiwetel Ejiofor). The wedding is a short scene, but it includes a band that plays the song "All You Need is Love"



by the Beatles. I have rewatched this movie multiple times, even if it's not my number one.

Ranked at number four is "Eloise at Christmastime," which is based off the book, and became the basis of my childhood. This movie stars Sofia Vassilieva as Eloise, Julie Andrews as Nanny, Gavin Creel as Bill, and Sara Topham as Rachel Peabody. My favorite part of this movie is the scene where Bill and Rachel see each other again after being far apart for a very long time. Slowly through the film, they realize they still love each other, despite the fact that Rachel is planning a wedding to her evil fiancé. Eventually, Rachel and Bill fall back in love and have a very happy ending.

The third movie on my list is the iconic "The Polar Express." The movie is an animation film starring Tom Hanks in many roles, about a young boy who takes a Christmas Eve train ride to the North Pole. On this train ride there are many complications: a stranger on the roof of the train, a lost ticket, the frozen lake breaking, and the struggle of whether or not to believe in the magic of Christmas. It's a rollercoaster of a movie, but one that will never lose your attention. One of the best scenes in the movie is the hot chocolate scene.

Walters perform a song and dance, they rearrange the train cart and serve what looks to be the best hot chocolate ever. It's a movie I will watch forever, even when I'm super old.

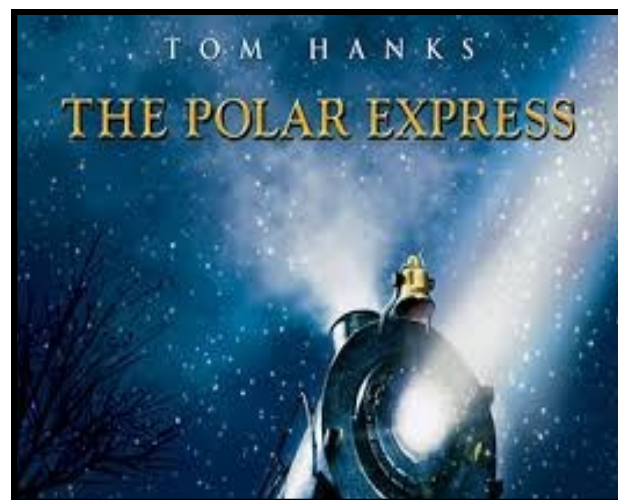
Ranked at number two is "The Santa Clause," a hilarious and heartwarming film starring Tim Allen. He plays Scott Calvin, a recently divorced husband who shares custody of his son with his ex-wife. On Christmas Eve Scott and his son Charlie, (Eric Lloyd)

hear a strange noise and believe someone is breaking into their home. When they go outside to see what is happening they see Santa on the roof, which scares him and makes him fall off the roof and die. Scott then slowly takes over his job. At first Scott is very skeptical, but eventually begins to love being Santa. This movie is a new way to see Christmas, and gives children hope that Santa is actually real.

Finally, my number one is "Elf." Everyone who has seen this movie loves it. It's funny and quirky, but brings the lesson of Christmas spirit and family into it. Buddy, played by Will Ferrell, is an orphan who crawls into Santa's sack of toys on Christmas Eve. He ends up being raised by Papa Elf and somehow never realizes he's different. Once he finds out he's not an elf and that he is adopted, Buddy sets out on an adventure to New York City to meet his real father, Walter. He finds his father, (James Caan) and his half-brother Michael, (Daniel Tay).

My favorite thing that Buddy says is "I'm a cotton-headed ninny-muggins" which is equivalent to a curse word.

As you can see, Christmas movies are some of my favorite movies to watch. They bring so much magic and happiness to the cold winter season. These films have shaped my childhood and have made Christmas time so happy. So go get ready, and settle in the for the best holiday movie marathon.



Can't think of gift ideas for a friend? Believe me, we've all been there. Everyone has different preferences for gifts, but we have come up with several great presents to give away this holiday season, no matter how picky your pals are.

(Unisex) Snickers: Has your friend been a little on edge lately? Well, if so, give him or her a Snickers bar! The holidays can be stressful and draining for everyone, but remember, you're not you when you're hungry. Available at most convenience stores for like a dollar.

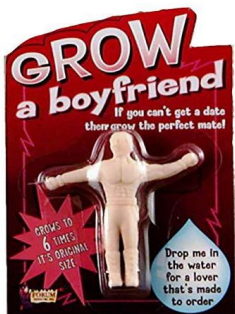


(For him) Urban Outfitters gift card: Trust us, if he's in high school, chances are his style game isn't too "on point." Urban Outfitters goes out of the sports shorts and basketball hoodie zone, and into the "cool" category. Available online or in stores for prices of your choice.

(For her) Apple Music: High school girls are known to be pretty emotional, so help her out and get her (the best) listening platform to stream her favorite sob songs. Available for \$9.99 a month on iTunes.



(For her) Rolex ladies watch- Do you have that special someone in your life? If yes, consider buying this beautiful, new Rolex watch for her! This golden gift will put that smile on her face that you just love to see. It's just \$11,100 on rolex.com.



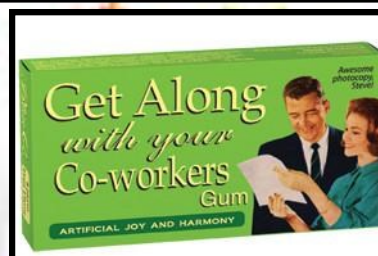
(For her) Grow A Boyfriend- Are you having trouble finding a date? Do you want a boyfriend who won't talk back or be rude to you? This guy makes a perfect date. Just drop him in water and watch him grow; this is your instant boyfriend! Good for any age and just \$2.99 on offthewagonshop.com.



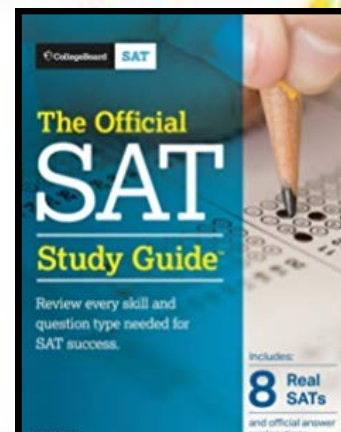
(Unisex) Amazon Echo- This is the gift that keeps on giving every day. Tell Alexa to set your alarm, turn on your favorite playlist, or turn off all your lights. You can purchase this on amazon.com for just \$69.99 for a limited time, so act fast before missing out on the deal.



(For her) A fuzzy blanket: As Cardi B once said, "A [girl] never gets cold," but every female knows deep down that a blanket is the key to her heart. Even if you're ballin' on a budget, Walmart has fuzzy throw blankets for nine dollars.



(Unisex) "Get along with your coworkers gum": If you live on Earth, you'd know that EVERYONE can be pretty annoying sometimes, especially in high school, or at your job. A pack of this gum will keep your dearest friends from losing their mind in this 8 hour day. Available at offthewagonshop.com for \$1.79.



(For him) SAT prep book: If your bro isn't doing too hot in school, help a dude out and get him his study supplies. Us bros stick together, and doing well in school is sick, fam. Available on Amazon for \$18.99.



(Unisex) Crocs with fur: These are a must on any Christmas list! From white to pink, these comfortable shoes can match any outfit you desire. For \$44.99 on crocs.com, order these shoes online and throw a Jibbit into your cart for a small accessory.

(For him) 76ers tickets- 'Tis the season for winter sports, like basketball! Give the gift of tickets for a night out in the city. From as cheap as \$21.00 on stubhub.com, purchase as many as you need to get the whole squad out for a guys night, or a date night with the girl.

FORTNITE



(For him) Fortnite V-Bucks - For the big video game guys out there, a gift of Fortnite V-Bucks will make anyone ready to play more and buy new skins. From \$9.99 on microsoft.com, buy 1,000 V-Bucks, 2,500 for \$24.99, or 10,000 for \$99.99. The more the merrier for a better Battle Royale.

By: Morgan Morris and Violet Noecker

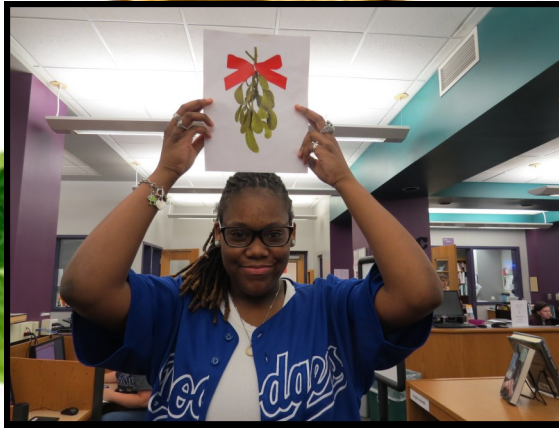
SPEAK OUT

P

If you could kiss anyone under the mistletoe, who would it be?



Mrs. Lees (art department)- "JJ Redick"



Semaj Patrick (sophomore)- "Tom Holland"



Travis Panella (senior) - "Probably Ariana Grande"



Nathan Raichle (freshman) - "Violet Noecker"



Mrs. Clay (The sweet lady in the attendance office) - "Johnny Depp"



Mr. Sutton (assistant principal) - "Halle Berry"



Drew Krause (junior) - "Mila Kunis"
AJ Stamato (junior) - "Linda Sullivan"



Alana Lathan (sophomore) - "JFK"



Dan Hickey (senior) - "Xxxtentacion"

“Creed II”: Fighting for more than a title



Written by:
Bobby Batten

Adonis throws a right hook and connects, blocks a hard jab, throws a left hook and Danny Wheeler goes down. The champ is down!

At the end of 2015’s “Creed” we were left not knowing what Adonis Creed, better known as Donnie, would do next after making a name for himself in a close loss to the World Heavyweight Champion. The sequel to 2015’s “Creed” recently hit theaters in December. The movie opens up to Donnie (Michael B. Jordan) fighting for the

world heavyweight championship belt and winning, though Creed constantly tells his family that he doesn’t feel like a champion. Not long after his fight for the championship he is challenged by Viktor Drago. Viktor is the son of Ivan Drago, the man who killed Donnie’s father Apollo in the ring, as seen in “Rocky IV.” This challenge creates the rematch of the century between the Russians and Americans that is long overdue. Adonis Creed has just started his reign as a champion, as well as a family after marrying his girlfriend, Bianca (Tessa Thompson). Being challenged to a fight by Viktor Drago (Florian Munteanu) puts a lot of pressure on him as to how he will respond. Donnie feels like he must avenge his father, but he must think about his family. The build up to the fight focuses on how Donnie makes his decision to take the fight or not.



Bianca (Tessa Thompson) motivating Donnie (Michael B. Jordan) before the first title fight.

to see. “Creed 2” is very entertaining with all of the fights and training montages leading up to the end fight. It includes an outstanding soundtrack that sets the tone for every intense scene and has you at the edge of your seat for most of the movie. However, I believe it is pretty obvious as to what will happen in the movie. If you have seen the trailer before watching the movie you don’t have much else to look forward to as the film goes on. Every big scene seems like you are rewatching it for a second time because it was already covered in the trailer. It does not exceed my expectations for making me curious as to what will come next. Being a pretty predictable movie, only a few scenes truly caught me off guard. In the three fights portrayed in the movie, I could tell who was going to win in the first few seconds of the fight. Creed fights Drago two times in the movie, so you can probably guess what’s going to happen in the first and the second fight. Although “Creed 2” is not the greatest boxing movie, it is still worth seeing, as it is still enjoyable to see the rematch of the Russians and Americans. I also thought it was great to see what it was like for Adonis outside of the ring, and what he was going through. If you are a big fan of drama and sports, then you will enjoy “Creed 2.”

Grade: B-
Director: Steven Caple Jr
Rating: PG-13
Starring: Sylvester Stallone, Irwin Winkler, David Winkler, William Chartoff, Charles Winkler, Kevin King Templeton, Michael B. Jordan, Florian “Big Nasty” Munteanu.
Runtime: 2 hours 10 minutes
DVD release date: February 2019



Donnie being trained by Rocky (Sylvester Stallone) outside of the gym.
Photos: IMDB

Everyone he talks to tells him the fight is not worth it, and he has too much to lose. Even Rocky (Sylvester Stallone) refuses to help Adonis train for the fight because he doesn’t want Adonis to end up dead like Apollo. He says he should have thrown in the towel and saved Apollo Creed. Adonis and Bianca travel eventually decide to take the fight, based on him having to defend his title, and to make or break his boxing career. Adonis begins his training with the son of the man that trained his father, along with an old friend. Training for the fight of his life requires a very intense training montage, and that’s what we get

“A Star is Born”: The remake of all remakes



Written by:
Morgan Bieler

It’s not every day a movie gets remade, let alone three times. “A Star is Born” is the fourth movie of its name. The original movie came out in 1937 starring Janet Gaynor and Fredric March. The two following movies came out in 1954, starring Judy Garland and James Mason, and 1976, starring Barbra Streisand and Kris Kristofferson. The 2018 version of “A Star is Born” follows Ally (Lady Gaga), and her soul-stirring relationship with country superstar Jackson Maine (Bradley Cooper). The newest installation carries the same inspirational message as its predecessors, while relating to younger generations and having a more modern twist. Ally is waitress with a beautiful voice that most people can only dream of. She has always dreamed of becoming a singer, but she doesn’t have the face of a performer to do it. Her whole life people have told her that she isn’t pretty enough to be a singer. She has her first interaction with Jackson at a drag bar where she performs, and he is truly taken with her the moment she opens her mouth to sing. Jackson Maine is a drunken country superstar who struggles with many conflicts throughout the movie. His unhealthy rela-

Grade: A-
Director: Bradley Cooper
Rating: R
Runtime: 2h 14m
Starring: Bradley Cooper, Lady Gaga, Sam Elliott, Dave Chappelle



Jackson (Bradley Cooper) singing “I’ll Never Love Again” to Ally (Lady Gaga).
Photos: IMDB

tionship with his father led him into a life of alcoholism and substance abuse. His relationship with Ally sheds a glimmer of hope in his life and leads audiences to believe that his inner demons might be suppressed by the love these two characters share. Ally and Jackson’s relationship is one for the history books. All of the trials and tribulations of true love are displayed in the film. At first, Ally is hesitant to go through with the budding romance she starts with Jackson because of his alcohol and substance abuse problems. However, she can’t deny true love and their budding flame turns into a raging fire. Jackson brings Ally on tour with him. She performs her own songs, and creates a name for herself. Her talent is noticed by a manager (Rafi Gavron) who wants her to sign with a record label. Tensions grow high between the two song birds. Ally’s dreams slowly begin to come true and Jackson feels that because of her fame, he is being put on the backburner. Unlike most musical movies, the two main characters don’t break out into song every chance they get. However, the music in the movie is truly compelling. One of the songs

from the movie, “Shallow,” even hit the Billboard Hot 100 chart at spot No. 28 in the second week of October. “Shallow” is first introduced in the parking lot of a grocery store, after Jackson pulls Ally away from a physical altercation with one of his fans. The chorus portrays the rocky paths Jackson has taken and foreshadows, in a sense, certain parts of his relationship with Ally: “I’m off the deep

end/ Watch as I dive in/ I’ll never meet the ground/ Crash through the surface/ Where they can’t hurt us/ We’re far from the shallow now.” When I sat down to watch this film, I did not expect to see the incredible performances that these two actors gave. Lady Gaga gave the performance of a lifetime. She is a phenomenal actress and I can’t imagine anyone else playing the role of Ally the way she did. When Bradley Cooper opened his mouth to sing, my jaw dropped. I never would have guessed that he could sing. Together, these two stars gave an Oscar-worthy performance that everyone should see. Emotions really run high in his film. If you are an emotional person, you might want to have tissues handy. The plot can be a little slow at times, but it picks up. Also, there is a moment in the film where you will feel major second-hand embarrassment. The movie’s ending will leave you absolutely speechless. Overall, if you’re looking for a romantic or musical movie, “A Star is Born” is the movie for you. The 2018 version that is.

Ally (Lady Gaga) and Jackson Maine (Bradley Cooper) performing together on stage.



Eminem's "Kamikaze": Is the real Slim Shady back?



Written by:
Brandon Wallace

Eminem, Slim Shady, Marshall Mathers, whatever you call him, I think we can all agree he is one of the greatest rappers of all time. Born in St. Joseph, Missouri in 1972, Marshall Bruce Mathers III came up from pretty much nothing, being a loner as a child in a dysfunctional family, and being bullied in school. At first glance he looks like the farthest thing from a rapper: a 5'8 white guy (now with black hair). With a total of ten studio albums in his legendary career, he has returned after nine months from what many people say is his worst album of his career, "Revival," followed with his surprise album, "Kamikaze."



Eminem performing in the U.K. in July.

Eminem's style of rap is different than a lot of other rappers, being very abrasive, along with cracking some offensive jokes in his songs, and on his new album you can tell he means business and he wants to prove he is still the best. His lyrical style and tempo of rap inspired a lot of other rappers, and he is well aware of it by saying in his new song "Fall," "I inspired the Hopsin's, the Logics, the Coles, the Seans, the K-Dots, the 5'9's." He seems to take credit for starting the lyrical genre of rap and helping all these other artists take off.

Though Eminem is inspirational and well-respected, he has been under some fire for "Kamikaze" because he criticizes rappers such as Lil Yachty, Migos, Lil Pump, Lil Xan, Machine Gun Kelly, Tyler The Creator, Drake, and expresses his overall disappointment with today's hip-hop. He stresses on the song "Lucky You" (ft. Joyner Lucas) that rappers today can not stick to a subject and they just mumble and rap about nothing. He also raps about how today's artists use ghostwriters and do not write their own

songs. Eminem takes a lot of pride in his hard work and writes everything he raps. Eminem was not happy with how his 2017 album "Revival" sold and was disappointed with the response from the rap community, but in my opinion "Revival" was the worst album of his career and just did not remind me of classic Eminem. However, his new album definitely reminds me of the old Slim Shady. His flow, lyrics, and overall persona on every song on "Kamikaze" gives you a taste of Eminem from a decade ago when he was putting out his best music.

One of my favorite songs is "Lucky You" (ft. Joyner Lucas). On this track, two of the most lyrical rappers in hip hop got together and kill it. They mock "mumble rappers" and rap about how they don't want an award or Grammy, they just want respect for what they have accomplished.

Another great song on the album is "Fall," where Eminem

gives the media and press a piece of his mind as payback for what they said about him and his last album. I think one of the main reasons he dropped the new album so fast is to show that he is still one of the best and nothing that any other rappers say matters.

Overall, "Kamikaze" is a great listen and if you're an Eminem fan then you should enjoy this album. Do not go into this album saying, "This one is going to stink because his last one was bad." Comparing the two is like comparing dogs and cats; they are two completely different projects. This new album has an old, classic Eminem sound and I definitely recommend you check it out. I feel like we definitely got a taste of the old Slim Shady, and I believe 2018 is a bounce back year for him.

Grade: A-
Artist: Eminem
Album: "Kamikaze"
Genre: Hip-Hop/Rap
Featured Songs: "Lucky You" (ft. Joyner Lucas), "The Ringer," "Not Alike" (ft. Royce Da 5'9.)

Eminem in 2018 with his new black hair and beard.



The Ancient Magus Bride: Life in the world of magic



Written by:
Maggie Schoolik

All her life, Chise has been plagued with monstrous creatures all around her that only she can see, making her life unbearable. Ever since she was little, she has been treated unfairly because she had been terrified of the frightful creatures. Due to the stress these creatures inflict upon Chise's family, it soon drives them far apart, leaving Chise all alone, abandoned by everyone she loved. But a very extraordinary encounter with a man, or rather a beast in men's attire, is

about to make Chise's life take a magical turn towards happiness.

"The Ancient Magus Bride," written by Kore Yamazaki, is a thrilling tale of magic, mystery, comedy, and romance. The manga follows Chise Hatori, a fifteen year old girl from Japan, who has lost everything she has ever loved and is now being sold into slavery. Her memories are repressed, her heart is shattered, and the pounding self-hatred she bears takes its toll, making her wish for her own demise.

Luckily, she is purchased by a powerful mage named Elias Ainsworth, who wants her to become his apprentice and possibly his future wife. He informs her that she is something called a "Sleigh Beggy," a type of magus that can both generate and absorb magic, which also draws fae (fairy) beings to her. Sleigh Beggy are extremely rare, especially ones with the power of "the Sight," the ability to see fae creatures. This explains why the monsters Chise saw when she was little always went after her.

Elias Ainsworth is a strange being, since he is neither fae nor human, but something in between. His head is of a wolf skull and goat antlers, and his skin is a dark purple with some scales. He has fiery red glowing eyes that seem to change in brightness depending on his mood. He is able to shapeshift into a shadow form, or a few different forms of his beastly self. Elias lives in a beautiful old house in the countryside near London in England, where many fae creatures roam.

Over the course of the chapters, the bond between Chise and Elias blossoms delightfully. We get a better understanding of the two by their actions and opinions they side with. Chise is reckless when it comes to helping others, as she would always put her life on the line to save another. Elias is clueless when it comes to human emotions. He understands why humans act a certain way, but doesn't



Elias Ainsworth freeing Chise from her restraints as well as freeing her from her old miserable life.

feel it for himself. The two help one another in learning who they are and what they will become. Yet Elias still hides many things from Chise, such as his past and the fate of a Sleigh Beggy, which is dying at a young age.

Besides the fate of the Sleigh Beggy, there are many horrid creatures that linger within their world, such as beings that wish to harm both the fae and human world. Will Chise be able to stop them? Will she die by the curse of being a Sleigh Beggy? Will Elias learn how to feel emotions? Only by reading the series will you be able to learn what happens next.

I absolutely love this manga, and I have been following it for years. As of now, there are nine volumes of the series out now, in bookstores and on Amazon. The story immediately draws in the reader and throws them into an insane roller coaster ride of emotions and curiosity. Both Chise and Elias grow up enormously over the first

few books and grow closer to one another.

The characters are compelling, as is the story telling. Reading about how Chise grows and learns to love the world is extraordinarily beautiful. Elias' childish behavior changes the atmosphere from serious to a bit childish, which flows well with the story.

I loved the series up until book eight and nine. They felt a bit off, as the characters did a 180 with how they acted and it gets confusing. I'm still trying to wrap my head around the chaos that happens. Even if I wasn't too pleased with books eight and nine, I'm still excited to see what happens next.

Grade: Books 1-7: B+, Books 8-9: B-
Rated: Teen
Genre: Dark Fantasy, Mystery, Comedy, and Romance.
Author: Kore Yamazaki



Star hunting...achieved: A 76ers story



Written by:
Kyle C. Lewis

In 2017-18 the Philadelphia 76ers organization had its first winning season and playoff berth for the first time since 2012 with a record of 52-30. However, last season left the fan base wanting more from their team as the 76ers got smacked by the Boston Celtics in the Eastern Conference Semifinals, losing the series 4-1. However, with the addition of Jimmy Butler, and Joel Embiid putting up MVP numbers, the 76ers with a current record of 20-12 are poised to play in the Eastern Conference Finals or perhaps even the NBA Finals.

Clearly, the duo of point guard Ben Simmons (2018 Rookie of the Year) and center Joel Embiid could not do it all for the 76ers last year, so as the team entered free agency the goal was to land a big time free agent. Brett Brown, the head coach and interim General Manager of the 76ers, said, "We're going star hunting." However, LeBron James, Paul George and Kawhi Leonard did not sign with the 76ers, so the aggravated fan base prepared for another average season. Then Elton Brand, a former player for Philadelphia, was hired as the 76ers



Ben Simmons, Joel Embiid, and Jimmy Butler...the new Big Three in the East.

Jimmy Butler pulls up to hit the game winning shot in Charlotte



General Manager and immediately left his mark on the team.

Mr. Brand's first move was a real shot in the arm for the morale of the fanbase as the 76ers traded the standard bearers of "The Process" Robert Covington and Dario Saric as well as Jerryd Bayless and a 2022 second round pick to the Minnesota Timberwolves for small forward Jimmy Butler and center Justin Patton. This trade was a work of art by the new General Manager, as Jimmy Butler is everything this team needed. Butler, a two way player who is also a four time All Star, averages 20.4 points, 5.0 rebounds, and 3.5 assists per game and vaults the 76ers into contention with the Raptors, Celtics, and Bucks for the lead in the East.

As the NBA season continues

to wear on, the 76ers have clearly established themselves as a top three team in the Eastern Conference and a top ten team in the whole league. The team owes much of their success to Embiid averaging 26.9 points, 13.4 rebounds, and 2 blocks per game. These are MVP numbers, folks. Shooters JJ Redick and rookie Landry Shamet have been instrumental from three point range, with Redick averaging 18.2 points per game while shooting 35.0% from downtown. While rookie Shamet is shooting 41.0% from three and is top three in this rookie class in three point makes.

With all this talent including Jimmy Butler, Joel Embiid, and Ben Simmons, the 76ers look poised to make another postseason run. With Simmons creating matchup nightmares with his size and skill set, he demands two defenders which allows Butler and Embiid to score almost at will. In addition, new additions Mike Muscala and Wilson Chandler are playing excellent defense and have been shooting the three extremely well. An interesting stat that shows how much Jimmy Butler has made an impact on the 76ers is that the

team is 11-6 since he arrived. The 76ers also boast a 14-3 home record, which ranks as one of the best in NBA.

Assuming everyone stays healthy and the 76ers make a trade for a veteran three point shooter and defender like Trevor Ariza from the Phoenix Suns, I predict that the 76ers go the Eastern Conference Finals. Here, I believe they will lose to the Milwaukee Bucks in a seven game series, but nevertheless this season will be looked at as a major stepping stone in the building process towards a championship.

Head Coach Brett Brown coaches the fourth place 76ers with a record of 20-11.



Phantoms on the rise: Improvements in 2018



Written by:
Madison Muller

Phoenixville may not be known for having an all-star football team, but in the 2018 season, steady improvements were made. The overall record of the team was 4-6, and compared to last year's 2-8, it's a respectable improvement.

New Head Coach Donald Grinstead took over the team in the 2018 season and although Coach Grinstead may be new to Phoenixville, he has 16 years of coaching experience. He was the head coach at Pottstown from 2013-2015, the defensive coordinator at Great Valley from 2009-2013, and coached in Ohio before coming to Pennsylvania.

"He is a great role model, a great leader. He has taught me a lot of lessons, like football has taught me a lot of life lessons," said senior Tyler Hine, a captain of the

football team.

It seems to be a general consensus among the players that Coach Grinstead has helped to improve the Phantom football team, and has positively impacted players both on and off the field.

Six seniors also took on the responsibility

ers with a combination of seniors, juniors, and sophomores. The captains all had starting positions with Patania as quarterback, Panella and Washington as the two running backs, Crawford as the left guard, Hine as the center, and Nicholas as the left tackle. Other starters included Anthony



Senior Alex Washington runs the ball down the field in a game against Martin Luther King High School.

Photos: Barry Taglieber



Senior quarterback Connor Patania throwing a pass down the field.

Senior Connor Patania said, "We put up our most wins over the past four years and then we made the playoffs," which shows the pride the team has with the progress they made this season.

Although the seniors took the lead of the football team, some prominent underclassmen were recognized by Coach Grinstead as key players and possible leaders for next year's season, including junior Jack Pizor, sophomore Aiden Foley, and freshman Tre Davis. Coach Grinstead believes that they will take the reins of the graduating seniors and positively impact the team next season.

This football season was a large improvement and the Phantoms were proud of their accomplishments. They believe Coach Grinstead had a very positive impact on the team and helped them become better players.

Senior Alex Washington summed up the season, saying: "We fought hard, everyone had a good time, so it was a good, productive season."



Coach Grinstead leads the Phantoms in his first season as their head coach.

of leading the team and helping to qualify for Districts for the first time in six years. The captains were seniors Travis Panella, Alex Washington, Connor Patania, Xander Crawford, Tyler Hine, and David Nicholas.

"I think it was a completely different environment than what they've been used to the past few years... I think we had some rough patches, but overall they did a good job," said Coach Grinstead about the captains.

The team had a great group of start-

Stevenson (junior), Jack Pizor (junior), and Lance Harris (senior) as the three starting wide receivers. Dan Gray (sophomore) took the position of right guard, and Jordan Ford (senior) started as the right tackle. Finally, the starting kicker for the team was Sean Clark (junior).

The Phantoms doubled their wins from last year, with one of their biggest wins being against Methacton. The other teams that Phoenixville beat were Martin Luther King High School, Kennett High School, and Upper Perkiomen High School.

Men's Cross Country: A pleasant surprise



Written by:
Kyle Kopera

Through recent years, Phoenixville Men's Cross Country has been a powerhouse of the PAC. The team has won multiple Frontier Division championships, sent several runners to states, and created a great culture. Passion and competition run through the veins of the team. Despite the team's 5-0 PAC record last year, the team didn't seem to reach its full potential. Could the Men bounce back to run their best?

Led by Coach Winters in his ninth year as

head coach, along with assistant Matt Chiappetta, the Phantoms ended up 3-2 in the PAC this fall, and posted strong performances in invitationals.

Coach Winters was very impressed with the team this season, saying, "The goal was to do the best we could with what we had, and see where it went from there. I was pleasantly surprised."

Following the loss of many senior runners such as Christian Schaaf, Zach Kleppe, Jack Armstrong, and Aaron Hin, the new captains did well to keep up a competitive environment and integrate new members to the team. The captains included seniors Connor McShane, Pat Darcy, Connor Wilchusky and junior Nick Gatcha. Their leadership helped a new generation of runners become accustomed to the team and set them sprinting on a path for success in the future.

Coach Winters praised the captains' abilities, saying, "I think they took

a team that was really young and made it a cohesive unit. I think they taught them what it means to be on the team in a very quick way." This quality was able to propel the team to unexpected, yet very welcome, success.

Star junior Gabe Puleo was able to qualify for the state meet after performing well at Districts. The rest of the team did well at the meet as well and finished in 33rd overall. Senior Pat Darcy ran a sub-17, and sophomore Carson Kleppe gained valuable experience in the race. Varsity runners Puleo, McShane, Wilchusky, Darcy, Gatcha, Kleppe, and Ethan Herring were able to set a high standard for the rest of the team, leading all to improve.

Wilchusky stated, "We saw some great success this year as a team, and that teamwork was what really defined our season, running and pushing each other harder to reach things we did not originally think possible."

Most of all, Coach Winters was impressed by the team's effort, saying, "There was something missing team chemistry-wise last year. Something just didn't quite click with the team, and this year, even though we were less senior-heavy and a little less talented at times, the team was so much closer and thus willing to run harder."

Whether it was trips out to eat at Hog Island or just simply running together, the runners worked hard to create a tight-knit group of friends, not just teammates. Running with someone considered as a friend gives that extra drive, putting friendly competition into play as well. The Phantoms know this all too well.

Overall, the Phantoms had a great cross country season. They were able to bounce back from losing an immense amount of seniors, and sent another runner to States. The hard work and team chemistry



Junior **Gabe Puleo** finishes strong and points to his jersey in victory.

Seniors **Connor Wilchusky** and **Pat Darcy** pass an Upper Perk opponent.

Photos: Barry Taglieber



resulted in strong performances, personal bests, and friendships for all on the team, and Coach Winters couldn't be more proud of them.

He displayed his happiness with the future of the team, saying, "We have this massive influx of talent, and this year was kind like a pivot year, where we were going from one generation of kids to a new generation of kids, and now I think we're ready to hopefully be really good year in and year out."

With endless potential at their disposal, the Men are looking great for the future.

Field Hockey: PAC Frontier champions



Written by:
Bobby Batten

The Phantoms Field Hockey team completed another outstanding year. Led by Coaches Claire Emplit, Jess Ferguson, Lisa Cole, and Jenn Tavenner, along with senior captains Gabby Herschell, Kyra Trafford, and Sydney Schramm, the Lady Phantoms completed their season after a loss to Radnor High School in the second round of Districts.

With a final record of 10-2-1 in the PAC, and 15-5-1 overall, the Girls' Varsity Field Hockey team made winning a routine in the Frontier division, finishing with an outstanding record. The team was sad to see the season end, but they are very proud of what they have accomplished and

Senior **Gabby Herschell** battles for possession of the ball.



what is to come.

The season began in late August when the girls began to train for the upcoming season. With a few new players, the team was excited to see what they could achieve this year. Captains Schramm, Trafford and Herschell organized pre-season workouts and team bonding activities like movie night to assure a close-knit team. After grueling days of running and hard practices, they were ready to get the year under way. Coach Emplit was extremely excited going into the season with the mindset of winning.

"The team had many strengths as the season progressed. They learned to trust each other, which was their biggest strength," stated Coach Emplit. "They also improved their ball handling and passing skills. I would also say that their determination to win was a strength." She added, "There were many times that they fell behind and were able to fight through and pull out a win. They just didn't give up."

The Lady Phantoms had the goal of winning on their mind as well. "I had high expectations going into the season," said Herschell after making it to the Final Four last year.

Goaltender Abby DelGrosso had the same feeling: "We were all close and learned to trust each other and play as teammates, rather than individually."

Forwards Katie Baker (junior), Cassidy Stevens (junior), and Ameerah Green (senior) led the charge on offense. Midfielders Gabby Herschell (senior), Aubrey Breisblatt (sophomore), Lucy O'Donnell (sophomore), and Nicole Thompson (freshman) showed their

dominance on both ends of the field. Cora Brown (senior), Kyra Trafford (senior), and Hannah Syrek (senior) held the opposing team with impenetrable defense, with sweeper Eloise Woodall (sophomore) and goaltender Abby DelGrosso (senior) in the back field to back up the defense.

Many of the girls agreed that their favorite game was against Upper Perk, where they beat the Indians 4-3.

Coach Emplit was very proud of the Lady Phantoms, saying, "Upper Perk is our league rival and historically they are known for dominating the PAC Frontier division."

Not this year.

With a championship in the PAC Frontier division, Phoenixville was seeded second in the PAC playoffs, but fell to the Owen J. Roberts Wildcats who went on to win the both the PAC playoffs and AAA District One title.

Going into Districts, the Lady Phantoms were ranked in fifth place and faced Upper Dublin in the first round. They defeated the Cardinals 4-1 and proceeded to play Great Valley in the next round. They fought hard, but fell by a final score of 7-0 and would play powerhouse Radnor next. The Lady Phantoms did not fear Radnor and put up three goals against them, but lost in the end by a final score of 7-3, concluding their exceptional season.



The seniors pose for a picture they will never forget.
Photos: Barry Taglieber

After another successful year in the books, coach Emplit said it best: "I am honored to be part of the Phoenixville Field Hockey program. Their success in a 15-5-1 season is a testament to their hard work and dedication to each other and the sport."

Senior **Kyra Trafford** clearing the ball to the midfielders.

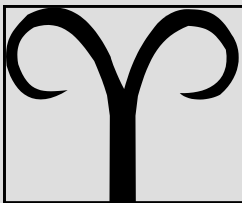


Written by: Lauren Harper and Morgan Morris

ARIES: (March 21 - April 19)

Venus has entered your star chart! Not to be the bearer of bad news, but this month will be full of disappointment. Everything you think will go one way will go the complete opposite, and not in a good way. You will try to eat but miss your mouth. You will try to sleep but you will need to get up and get a drink of water from the bathroom every 30 minutes. Try to stay optimistic the best you can this month, in any way you can.

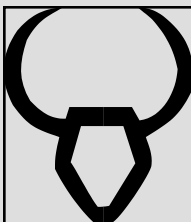
This month: Sing carols in every language of the flags hanging in Yellow Springs Hall.



TAURUS: (April 20 - May 20)

The Nether Star has entered your star chart! This means you will be addicted to playing Minecraft all month long. You will neglect your studies, hanging out with friends, and extra curriculars in exchange for playing Minecraft. You will become overly obsessed with the game and even start to act as though you are in the game, when in reality you are not. You will find yourself punching trees, thinking you can break them, and also be paranoid of creepers.

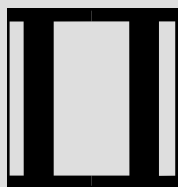
This month: Make and throw snowballs at your friends in Minecraft.



GEMINI: (May 21 - June 20)

Jupiter has orbited into your star chart! Your emotions are attuned to the great planet. This means you will feel emotions more intensely this month! See your crush in the hall? You will have the urge to ask him/her out! Someone steps on the back of your shoe at school? You will start a rock, paper, scissors battle because you don't want to start a fight and get in trouble, because that will make you feel extremely guilty when you are apprehended.

This month: Listen to "Feliz Navidad" by José Feliciano on repeat every day.



CANCER: (June 21 - July 22)

This month the Aurora Borealis is covering your sight of your star chart! Due to the bright lights, there is no clear reading of your chart. This means you can do whatever you want! Whatever your cold heart desires, you can do.

There is nothing stopping you from achieving your goals. Whether your goal is to be the best player on the team, or to see how many candy canes you can fit in your mouth, you can do it! There is no harm in trying new things either!

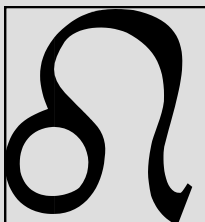
This month: Try to see how many candy canes you can fit in your mouth.



LEO: (July 23 - August 22)

Neptune has zoomed its way into your star chart! This means your sun sign is shining incredibly bright. This month includes a boatload of happiness for you. This month you will find yourself smiling at absolutely nothing. You will radiate positivity and optimism. You will have the urge to help anyone or thing in need. However, be careful, you may lose some friends or annoy people with your awfully bright attitude.

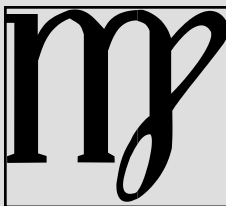
This month: Volunteer at a soup kitchen and spread holiday cheer!



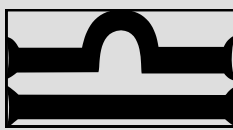
VIRGO: (August 23 - September 22)

The dark side of the moon has been exposed, leaving you dazed and confused this month! You will suffer from short term amnesia, leaving you to forget everything that has been told to you 20 seconds after the fact. You will constantly lose your train of thought and stutter your words when speaking aloud in classes. You will have trouble remembering homework and assignments this month.

This month: Remember to buy your friends and family holiday gifts.. or not.



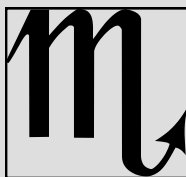
LIBRA: (September 23 - October 22)



This month the stars will align in your favor. The crush that you've had since fifth grade will run into you in the hall and that will start it all! You will find out you have everything in common, including that you both love the same coffee shop, even though neither of you like coffee. You do your homework together, go on long walks through the town, and buy matching shirts! Be careful though... it could just be a high school relationship and end suddenly.

This month: You will have a craving for egg nog that will wake you up every day at 3:32 a.m.

SCORPIO: (October 23 - November 21)



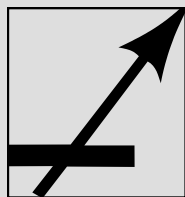
This month you will feel more love for dogs than you have ever felt before. You feel compelled to start your own dog sitting business, but you don't know yet that you are a little insane for doing so. You also will start a new club at school for people who own dogs. You just

love dogs! However, the dogs that you see on the streets will dodge you at all costs, but you still chase them down to pet them.

This month: Dress up the dogs you watch in matching holiday sweaters and boots.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 - December 21)

Lucky for you, this month the stars will align in your favor. Your mom will win the lottery and give you half of the money! This means you can buy your first car, pay for college, and quit your job. Everyone in school will want to be your friend. Everyone will want to come to your house



to see that giant check you just won. Soon you will see who your true friends are. Do they really care? Maybe not! But who knew how great it would be to win millions!

This month: Use your lottery winnings to buy all of the Christmas movies at your local WalMart.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 - January 19)

Pluto has entered your star chart, which means it'll be a cold, bad month for you. You'll be grounded for three weeks because you failed a test. The internet connection in your house will go down, meaning you can't even watch your favorite movies. On the bright side, your



parents buy a new pet but it is your least favorite type of pet. Now the pet becomes your responsibility even though you didn't even ask for it.

This month: Your new pet will ruin the tree in your family room, therefore ruining Christmas.

AQUARIUS: (January 20 - February 18)

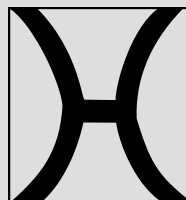
Your star chart is showing great changes in your life this month. You all of a sudden decide to start working out with Mr. Houck every morning before school, and right after school. You've never worked out before.



You'll join a new school sport and realize that you are actually really good at the sport. All of your AP or Honors classes stop giving homework and become easier than ACP level classes. Enjoy this month while it lasts!

This month: Challenge Mr. Houck to see who can eat more Christmas cookies.

PISCES: (February 19 - March 20)



No planet has entered your star chart, leaving you bored all month. You'll catch yourself playing board games alone because no one in your family is home from work and your friends are all away. There is no one to shop with, talk to, or hang out with in your free time... which is now all the time. You pick up a new

hobby: baking and cooking. You learn that you aren't very good at cooking because you always manage to burn popcorn.

This month: Make gingerbread cookies for everyone in your grade.

For Entertainment Only

What Holiday Snack are You?

From candy canes to cookies, everyone loves a classic holiday treat on a cold winter day. The question is, which one resonates most with you? Take this quiz to see which fan favorite describes YOUR personality the best!

- 1) What are you most likely to be doing on a snow day?
- A. Clearing the driveway
 - B. Building a snowman
 - C. Sledding with you friends
 - D. Hiding in bed
 - E. Posting pictures of the snow

- 2) What's your ideal holiday get together like?
- A. Planned activities and games
 - B. A last minute get together
 - C. The biggest group of people possible
 - D. Something that gets cancelled last minute
 - E. Whatever your friends plan is perfect

- 3) How do you respond to the cold?
- A. Re-organize your closet for winter
 - B. Buy a new jacket or coat
 - C. Wear lots of different hats and scarves
 - D. Stay inside
 - E. Borrow someone's hoodie

- 4) What can't you leave your house without in the winter?
- A. My bag
 - B. My chap stick
 - C. My seven foot long scarf
 - D. I forget whatever I need
 - E. My coat

- 5) How do you heat up?
- A. Plug in my heated blanket
 - B. Work out
 - C. Layer up
 - D. Cozy up and watch Netflix
 - E. Sit by the fire

- 6) What would be your ideal gift this year?
- A. A new calendar
 - B. A slime making kit
 - C. More clothes
 - D. A fuzzy blanket
 - E. Candy

- 7) What is your New Year's resolution?
- A. To manage my time better
 - B. To get in shape
 - C. To expand my friend group
 - D. Stay in touch with old friends
 - E. Be a better student

- 8) Ideally, where do you travel during the holidays?
- A. To visit my favorite colleges
 - B. My friends' houses
 - C. A big city to go ice skating
 - D. My kitchen
 - E. Probably my grandparents' house

- 9) What's you favorite winter sport?
- A. Snowboarding
 - B. Curling
 - C. Skiing
 - D. Ice skating
 - E. Ice hockey

- 10) Why do you like the wintertime?
- A. The cold makes me productive
 - B. Holiday themed get-togethers
 - C. I get to wear even more clothes
 - D. It's dark sooner, which means more sleep
 - E. Snow

Written by: Madison Muller & Alex Rieg

Mostly A's - You're a gingerbread... house! Mighty mighty, you tend to have strong and unbending opinions on most matters. You like following the rules, and organizing your holiday plans in advance is something you look forward to every year. You're most likely to be found color coding your ornaments or planning a big Christmas party for all your friends. Your goals tend to come before others, and you can come off as bossy or self-oriented.

Mostly B's - You're a nice, warm cup of hot chocolate! Although you tend to be a bit messy, you warm everybody's heart when they meet you. Depending on the people you are around you can have slight changes in your personality that make you unique. You are liked by almost everyone due to the numerous warm traits of your personality that you can choose to show. You're very outgoing and genuinely easy to get along with.

Mostly C's - You're a candy cane! Your odd sense of humor, bubbly personality, and unique sense of style draws immediate attention to you. You love going out during the holidays, jumping on any excuse to layer up and look your best at social events. Getting gifts to give to everyone you care about is your favorite holiday activity. It shows how much you care, and more importantly, how well you know and pay attention to your friends.

Mostly D's - You're an apple pie! You tend to be the lazy friend in the group, and oftentimes need to be coaxed out of your house. You get overwhelmed easily and avoid large social settings at all costs. You're very emotional and tend to fall apart easily, but on the bright side you care fiercely for your friends and family. Your intense emotions mean your friends can always count on you for support.

Mostly E's - You're the classic combination of milk and cookies! You have a pretty easy going personality and you tend to be more of a "go with the flow" type of person. You enjoy making spontaneous decisions and would rather not make commitments before hand. People enjoy being around you because, no matter where you are, you can make any place feel like home. You like helping people and often times put others before yourself.



Hi! My name is Hayden Semisch and I am currently a senior. I have been passionate about art since I was very little and love that I am able to show case some of my talents. I am now working on my senior project, where I plan to create a mural with recycled bottle caps/plastic. However, I cannot do it alone! I would love your donations. Bottle caps can be given directly to me or put the many boxes I have placed around the school.

