

The Purple Press Senior Edition

VOLUME 17, ISSUE 8

"HOME OF THE PHANTOMS"

JUNE 2021



The Purple Press is written, edited, produced and distributed monthly by the Phoenixville Area High School Journalism class (Period 1).

Advisor: Mr. Zittel
Layout editor: Angeli

Genovese
Staff: Gloria Andrews, Kade Breisblatt, Isabelle Butera, Alex Duffy, Eryn Gasser, Chloe Johns, Katie Kramer, Alana Lathan, Ray Lewandowski, Jocelyn Martielli, Tessa Martielli, Max McMinn, Savanna Muller, Sully Nowak, Ariana Ortlip, Penelope Pappas, Caleb Pearl, Halee Reiman, Riley Shillinger, Eli Stevenson, Maggie Welsh.

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

If you have a comment, question, correction, or letter to the editor, please e-mail the advisor, Mr. Zittel, at zittelj@pasd.com.

The newspaper can also be accessed online at: http://pahs.pasd.com/clubs/literacy_publications/purple_press

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

Erini Pappas: High school went by swimmingly



Written by:
Ariana Ortlip

Erini Pappas, who we know as the great swimmer, a part of the Pappas triplets, and just an amazing light at Phoenixville, has left her mark on PAHS and is now ready to dive deep into a new pool: college.

Erini has always had a passion for swimming from a young age.

She said, "I knew that swimming was the sport for me because it is so much different than other sports, and honestly, it teaches the best life lessons."

She started competing in swimming at the age of five, and after years of hard work and dedication, Erini has some outstanding accomplishments, such as qualifying for Junior Nationals in the 100 back, placing at the YMCA nationals, and making her first state championships freshman year.

She usually competes in various events between PAHS and her club team (Upper Main Line YMCA), but they are Butterfly, Backstroke, and IM (individual medley). Her strongest events for high school are 100 back, 100 fly, and 200 IM. For her club season, her strongest events are 200 fly, 200 back, and 400 IM. A pro/Olympic swimmer that Erini admires is Elizabeth Beisel because she has a great spirit and attitude.

Trying to keep your grades up along with being a full time athlete is hard, but Erini made it look easy. She was able to balance swimming, school, and social life because she loves to be



Erini competes in an event at dual meet at Perkiomen Valley.

busy.

"Things never get boring," she said.

A huge step in a graduating senior's life is going to college. Erini will be attending and swimming at Fairfield University in Connecticut this fall, and she will be studying international business. Her siblings Penelope and George will also be attending college in the fall. Penelope will be attending Northeastern University in Boston, Massachusetts, while George is staying closer to home and attending West Chester University.

Erini plans on getting a job in college; she's not exactly sure what, but she said, "I'll definitely be doing something to make some coin." College is as far as Erini will go with swimming, but she plans to swim occasionally to work out or just stay in shape.

When she isn't swimming, you can find Erini thrift shopping with her sister, Penelope, and going into new

coffee shops. Before college move-in day, Erini plans on traveling to a few places this summer, including Virginia

and do the things that make you happy."

Beach, Ocean City, New Jersey, and possibly the Outer Banks in North Carolina.

At PAHS, Erini is for sure going to miss her favorite class and teacher she had this year, English 12 Honors, with Mr. Zittel, saying: "He is so funny." Her best memory of PAHS/senior year was being able to hang out with Mr. Weinstein because "he's not only a great teacher but also a great swim coach."

So, as Erini Pappas swims off to new adventures, she has this advice for underclassmen: "Don't be afraid to be yourself



Erini, her brother George, and her sister Penelope pose before going to Homecoming in their junior year. Photos courtesy of Erini Pappas

Karen Simaj Lopez: Learning in two languages



Written by:
Isabelle Butera

education.

This year, Karen finished out her high school career virtually, as did many other seniors. "It's better in person," she admits, although learning virtually allows her to live closer to her job. Nonetheless, she managed to enjoy her Sociology and Mural Arts classes this year. One of her other favorite classes was a cooking elective. Her favorite teachers from high school were Ms. Ulcay and Ms. Curley.

Karen reminisced on one of her favorite high school memories saying, "In my ESL class my Spanish classmates sometimes make food or talk about our lives." Karen remembers cooking one of her favorite dishes, carne asada, (grilled steak) to share with her classmates.

Outside of school, Karen enjoyed playing soccer for the past four years. "I played soccer just for fun [and I'm] just trying to be active," she said. She's played multiple positions on the field and enjoyed the time she spent with her teammates. Currently, she works at Honeygrow, a salad and stir fry restaurant in Exton.

The transition from living in Guatemala to the United States was not an easy one. Much of Karen's family, including her grandparents, Ortencia Say and Jose Luis Lopez, some aunts, uncles, and cousins still live in Guatemala. "I miss them, I really miss them," she said. Since Karen's mother immigrated to the US when Karen was only two, her grandmother and grandfather essentially raised her. She explained,



Karen's family celebrating Jonathan's birthday (Jonathan, Luisa, Arnold, Edison, Karen, and Jimmy).

"My grandmother and granddad are my everything."

Karen also has three younger brothers, Jimmy (16), Jonathan (13), and Edison (8). She spends her weeks with her aunts and uncles, and the weekends with her mom Luisa Lopez and stepdad Arnold Vicente.

Moving to Pennsylvania brought other adjustments for Karen. She explained: "I hadn't seen snow before because it's pretty hot [in Guatemala]... it was something new. [In Pennsylvania] there was snow everywhere."

English was also new for Karen when she came to the U.S. She first started learning English in seventh grade with Mrs. Werley, an influential teacher whom Karen found to be very encouraging. In describing Mrs. Werley, Karen explained, "She'd say you can do it, you've got to do it because I said so." Since Karen was only twelve, she was not only learning English and her normal schedule of classes, but she was still learning more advanced aspects of her native language, Spanish.

Five years later, Karen has improved her English greatly, something she accredits to the help of her ESL teachers. She explained, "It's a little hard because it's another language. I speak the basics but I get nervous."

After graduating from PAHS, Karen plans to start her college career at Montgomery Community college, studying nursing. "I like to help people," she said, explaining that this recent pandemic piqued her interest in studying viruses. She said, "I'd like to learn things about COVID-19."

Her advice to other English-as-a-second language students is: "Just keep going...keep trying to learn and watch videos and TV in another language. Keep going with college. Just because you're "illegal" or Latino, it doesn't matter... Just be yourself and don't try to be another person who is not you."

With admirable determination and resilience, Karen is excited to continue with her education and grateful for the support of her family and teachers.



Karen and her brothers (Jonathan, Edison, Karen, and Jimmy) enjoying the Dogwood festival

Josh Starczewski: A star of the classroom, courts, and stage



Written by:
Jocelyn Martielli

While there are many exceptional students that walk the halls of Phoenixville Area High School, there is one person in particular that really stands out. Tennis player, soccer player, and theatre star Josh Starczewski has really left his mark on PAHS.



Josh starring as Jean Valjean in Facetime Theatre's "Les Miserables."

Josh is a very active person within the Phoenixville community. He spends much of his time doing community service projects with his family and friends, participating in local community theatres, starring as the captain of the Phoenixville Boys' Tennis Team, and singing in the school's very own Vocal Ensemble and Vocal Fusion acapella group.

Josh also enjoys many of his classes as well, particularly in the math department. He loves all his teachers, his favorites being both Weinstains, as they are close family friends, Mr. Chiofolo, who helped him with math for two years, Mr. Zittel, who helped him with writing, Mrs. Nice, who is also a close family friend, and Mr. Burns, whose class was always a joy.

Josh said, "...they all taught me different things about myself, and also just how to learn...those teachers have definitely had long-lasting impacts on me." Perhaps their teachings are why Josh is also a proud member of the National Honor Society.

Josh shines on the tennis courts, as well. This year, he earned the honor of captain of the Boys' Tennis Team. He started playing tennis at the young age of nine and has played on the high school varsity team all four years. Josh keeps up with tennis during the off-season by playing winter tennis at Kinetix and on a club team in the summer.

"What I like most about tennis is that it is an individual sport inside of a team sport...you can still have individual success even if the team loses," he said.

In his freshman year, Josh played varsity doubles with Anthony DeLuca and won the PAC-10. In his sophomore year, he played second singles and went undefeated. As a team, they placed second in the PAC while he individually placed second in the PAC Singles Tournament. Unfortunately, his jun-



Having to wear a mask during this year's tennis season didn't affect Josh's devastating backhand. Photos courtesy of Josh Starczewski

ior year was cut short due to COVID-19 though he was first singles for the two matches they were able to play. This year, the team finished as PAC-10 champions with an undefeated record of 11-0; Josh also placed third in the PAC Doubles Tournament alongside senior David Clipper.

When not performing on the courts, Josh likes to perform on stage in local community theatre shows. He has been acting and singing for over 10 years and has been in 23 different musicals. His whole family is involved, especially since his mom founded Facetime Theatre.

"It's kind of hard not to be a part of it when you grow up all around it," Josh mentioned. Some of his shining roles include Crutchie in "Newsies," Jean Valjean in "Les Miserables," Willy Wonka in "Willy Wonka Junior," and

LeFou in "Beauty and the Beast." While juggling school, tennis, and theatre can be a struggle at times, Josh ensures he has room for everything on his schedule.

Being the youngest of four siblings (Jessica, Emilie, Ryan, and Austin), Josh loves his huge family. Despite the large age gaps, his family all lives locally and so they see each other often. His family is a huge inspiration to him, as they were the ones who contributed to his love for both tennis and theatre.

Unfortunately, this is Josh's last year at PAHS, but he has some great words of advice for any of the underclassmen: "The more involved you are, the more fun you're going to have in high school. If you have a passion, like a sport or an art...make sure it's definitely what you want to do and then really put time into it."

The Iconic John Daly



Written by:
Max McMinn

With 300 or so seniors, the Class of 2021 was one to remember despite the impact of the pandemic, yet one senior rose above the doom and gloom, winning the hearts of all of Phoenixville. From his impeccable humor, to his vast participation in student activities, and of course his famous 1978 Lincoln Continental, John Daly is an iconic member of the high school who will be remembered for a long time.

One aspect of John that people tend to gravitate to is his humor. This year, along with Caroline Mercer, John Daly was voted "class clown."

"It was cool, as I was not expecting it, even though it was a subliminal goal," admitted Daly. He added: "There is humor in everything. It just depends on if you are willing to accept it and laugh with everyone else, or to ruin humor for others by not "taking a joke."

John utilizes humor as something that gets him up each day. "Humor is my driving energy," he said. "I don't care if it's 8am and I just rolled out of bed, or right after a long school day, as long as I am telling jokes, hearing jokes, or just getting involved in humorous activities, I couldn't be more alive."

A major piece of the humorous John Daly mythology is his car, a 1978 Lincoln Continental Town Coupe. Back in sophomore year when Daly was beginning to learn how to drive, a new car made appearances in the teacher's parking lot that sparked a lot of attention and questions from teachers like Mr. Varady who wondered about John Daly and his regal ride.

"There is more of an appeal to the older



John and his iconic 1978 Lincoln Continental are born to ride.

Photos courtesy of John Daly

cars; the crystal clear paint jobs glisten in the sun, the engines have a deeper and louder sound, and the rides are smoother and more engaging than a newer car because the lack of technology really allows you to have the most interactive experience, especially if you do not have things like Anti-Lock Braking System or Traction Control," John said.

In addition to the Continental, the Dalys also have a 1986 Bronco XLT, but the Continental is his favorite. "I have always been a fan of Ford products, which the Lincoln Continental was, as Lincoln is Ford's luxury car brand," explained John. "Beyond that, I had seen the trend of how cheap some of the eras of Continentals are, and I stumbled upon the car that I drive today, and saw how these massive land yachts that have a lot of the standard luxury interior items in modern cars today are so cheap for what they provide; this is how America makes a real automobile."

At home, John also has the experience of living with seven siblings, one brother: Jude (15), and six sisters Maggie (12), Charlotte (10), Jane (7), Mary (6), Francis (6) and

Kiara (6).

"For a long time, privacy and individual toys/bedrooms were out of the question. But as I hit high school, my responsibility at the house went up, and I was slowly turned into Mr. Mom, which is a role I will never be ashamed to play," John stated.

In PAHS, John was a strong student. His favorite teachers include Mr. Gamble, Mr. McLaughlin, Mrs. Weinstein and Mr. Curley, and his favorite classes fall within the social studies department. Throughout high school, John has been involved with all sorts of activities like Science Club, the Latin Honor Society, and last year's Young Conservatives Club, but he's also gone on several Model UN trips. Additionally, he has participated in a multitude of sports, including playing golf and wrestling for the high school teams, but the one he's participated the longest in is tennis.

"I played with [my] dad throughout years 6-12 of my life and then began school play [during middle and high school]," said John.

Outside of school, John works as a food runner at Bistro on the Bridge and Bistro Dos in downtown Phoenixville. Some of his hobbies include playing arcade games (which have earned him several prizes at the Dogwood fair), skiing, going to the beach, and taking his cars for a spin.

This fall, John Daly will be attending the University of Colorado, Boulder, and will be majoring in psychology. "I love

the mind and its functions, and having general knowledge about the brain and what it does can lead to a deeper understanding of how we function as individuals, communities, and as an entire population," said John.

As he says goodbye, Daly reflects on what it means to live in Phoenixville. "I will miss the certain type of fun I can have here," he said. "Where I am going is a whole new scene for me, wintery and more outdoorsy than this area, so I will miss hanging out in someone's basement as opposed to going out at night or skiing and hiking during the day." His advice to underclassmen is to, "keep your head down, finish your work, and reward yourself on the weekends."

Next year, there is no doubt that his absence will be felt across the school, but with seven incoming siblings, teachers should not worry as the influence of Dalys will be felt for years to come at PAHS.



John Daly and his dog Scooby Cu, Cu meaning hound in Gaelic.

Hayden Perrone: The hardest worker I know



Written by:
Chloe Johns

Sometimes in life you come across people who lack any and all motivation to succeed, but senior Hayden Perrone is the exact opposite. She is one of the hardest workers I know and makes having multiple jobs, playing numerous highly competitive sports, taking a million AP classes, participating in numerous clubs, and making time for her family and friends all look easy.

While balancing sports and clubs, school has always been Hayden's top priority, and that includes the many AP classes that she takes. In her high school career Hayden has taken 11 AP classes and has excelled in all of them, her favorites being AP Biology and AP European History.

To no surprise, Hayden is also an amazing athlete and has played varsity softball, volleyball, and basketball for the school over her four years. She has played softball for 13 years and now plays competitively on her travel softball team, Sting Premier 18u. As a student athlete for Phoenixville, she displayed her stellar talent and leadership and was named a captain for both the volleyball and softball teams.

Hayden said, "Being a four year starter and a captain for the softball team has really benefited me in the long run. I began playing with girls that were four years older than me fairly early, and it really gave me a chance to improve and learn the game at a faster pace. Being on varsity also strengthened my leadership skills and allowed me to grow as a per-



Hayden Perrone poses like a model for her senior portraits.
Photo: Susan Duncan

son and a player."

Hayden will be continuing her softball career at Penn State Berks where she will be majoring in Biology with a focus in genetic engineering.

Hayden also tackles two jobs, balancing her roles at Giant (cashier) and O'Grady's (server). For a period of time she even had three jobs, the two she currently has and a lifeguard position at the YMCA. During a typical week, Hayden often works about 30 hours a week all while keeping up with her other obligations.

Hayden finds a way to also be highly involved in the many clubs that Phoenixville

Area High School has to offer. These include Spanish Honors Society, Student Council (secretary), Habitat for Humanity (secretary), Varsity Club, Destinations with Direction, and Chester County Futures. Being an active member in the school environment is very important to Hayden and that remained true even throughout the pandemic when not every club could meet in person.

Being so crazy busy isn't always easy. Hayden said, "Managing everything I do is the toughest part. However, I find that always having a plan and having a great support system of family and friends has helped me. Despite how much I do, my family is extremely supportive of me and my friends act like my 'hype men' and always find ways to cheer me up and keep me sane."

There's a lot to be excited about when graduation is coming, but while thinking back on her high school career Hayden said, "My favorite memory from PAHS was playing Powder Puff my junior year. Homecoming and the pep rallies were always my favorite because of the immense amount of school spirit and unity. My favorite memory while playing sports at PAHS was winning the Frontier Division for softball this season." After a crazy year of missing school and



Hayden Perrone getting ready to take a lead off first base during her senior night win against Upper Merion.
Source: Ashlyn Raudenbush

wearing masks, advice is always needed, especially when it comes from Hayden Perrone: "Although cheesy, my advice to the underclassmen would be to take nothing for granted and don't forget to stop and thank the people that help you along the way. I have had my share of personal hardships, and it always gives me a reality check to be grateful for what I do have, and to thank the people who have helped me get where I am today."

Isaiah Pelzer: Painting his way to success



Written by:
Halee Reiman

Senior Isaiah Pelzer is truly an amazing member of the Phoenixville community; from art to activism, Isaiah made sure that his time at Phoenixville Area High School won't be easily forgotten. His peers voted him "Best Dressed," "Best Dancer," "Tiktok Famous," and "Best Artist" in the yearbook senior superlatives. Throughout his high school career,

Isaiah has managed to become a well-rounded student, and is one of the nicest people you can meet.

Creativity and artistic ability is something that Isaiah has always been gifted with. He is an extremely talented artist who has been drawing and creating art since the young age of five. He considers his style very broad, as he appreciates all forms of art. That being said, he creates much more digital art than paper and pencil (but graphite art is his favorite). He does sell his art, mostly through commissions, and he is a published artist. His artwork has been published in a book entitled "Fearless Conversations with a Limitless God," written by Veirdre Jackson.

In addition to his art, Isaiah is also extremely involved in activism in the Phoenixville community. Early last year, after the pandemic

started and more awareness was spreading about George Floyd's death and multiple other tragic deaths due to racial prejudices and racism, Isaiah partnered with other minority students at PAHS to start the group Blackcellence. According to Isaiah, "Blackcellence is a group promoting black excellence among the community and more importantly unity among our community, and emphasizing the fact that things need to change and [we are] working on how to get there."

Blackcellence broke Phoenixville crowd records with the first protest held early June 2020, where over 2000 people in the Phoenixville community and surrounding areas came out to march through Phoenixville and to Reeves Park and stand up against racism and prejudice. More events were held after this protest, a lot of them being virtual and collaborating with other

groups such as Diversity and Action. Another rally similar to the first one was held in October, at Reeves Park. Isaiah plans to continue activism in his collegiate career; he and other members of Blackcellence have recently become board members of Diversity and Action in Phoenixville and he hopes to stay connected with that group while at college.

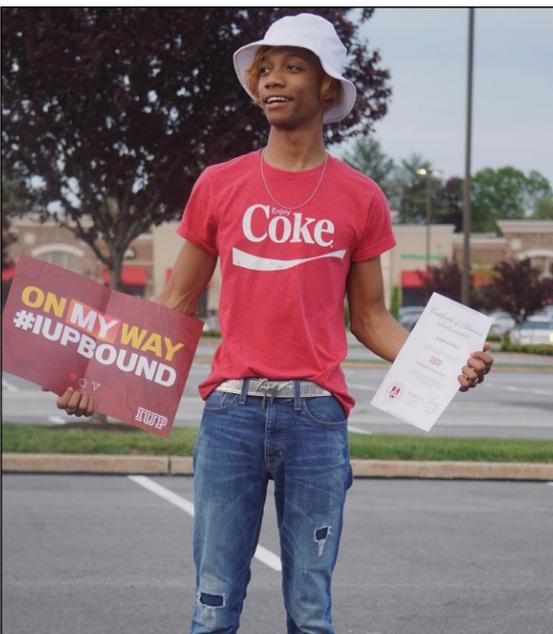
One of Isaiah's most memorable moments in high school was speaking at the Veteran's Day assembly in 2019. His favorite classes in high school were art and history, and his favorite teachers were Mr. Coyne, Mrs. Kabbat, Ms. Knabb, and Mrs. Lees. His favorite club was the "HOPE" club, or the "Humans of Phoenixville Empowered," which promotes and embraces social diversity and helps people stay unified with one another.

Isaiah said his favorite part of senior year was definitely prom, "because most of our

year was virtual or hybrid [so] it was great that we were all able to enjoy one last dance in high school and get together one last time. It was a really nice way to ease into the end of the school year."

After PAHS, Isaiah is attending Indiana University of Pennsylvania to study Graphic Design and Studio Art. He hopes to one day achieve his lifelong goal of becoming a car designer and starting his own design company. He will greatly miss the Phoenixville environment and how PAHS made his high school experience the best it could be, providing the perfect education to prepare him for the real world.

He advises that underclassmen keep working hard and try their hardest to not give up on their school work, especially in this different learning environment (and try not to get senioritis too early).



Isaiah showing off his college decision and commitment to Indiana University of Pennsylvania.
Photos courtesy of Isaiah Pelzer



Isaiah (center) and other members of Blackcellence (Glidera Garner and McKenzie Hodges) at their first rally last June.

Sara Filipovski: An athlete with the "Best Personality"



Written by:
Penelope Pappas

Whether you have butchered the pronunciation of her name, or have seen this curly-headed, flannel-wearing "shawty" around the halls of PAHS, Sara Filipovski, the winner of the "Best Personality" senior superlative, has and will continue to make a significant impact on the Phoenixville community and the world long after her graduation.

As a very involved and well-rounded individual, Sara (pronounced Sa-da), is extremely

dedicated to her academic, extracurricular, and athletic commitments, where she contributes her bright personality and infectious friendliness to all that surround her.

While managing an impressive record of clubs and advanced classes (her absolute favorite being Mr. Gamble's MatLab course), Sara's competitive background and her passion for sportsmanship has led her to excel in all elements of her life, but especially in athletics during her high school career. Sara has been a multisport athlete throughout her years at PAHS, competing on the swim team and helping to lead the Girls' Cross Country team.

Being a long-time swimmer and a natural-born athlete, (Sara's father swam on the Macedonian Olympic team), the progression into other sports was almost instinctive for Sara. Her developing love for running cross country allowed for her leadership qualities to

flourish, acting as an experienced upperclassman role-model for younger members of the team.

As co-Captain of Girls' XC, maintaining a positive team atmosphere is a primary component of the energy that Sara wished to bring to the talented and closely-knit group of runners. "I am going to miss the social aspect of the team the most," Sara reminisced. "The people on our team make this sport so much more enjoyable."

Sara has also raced in triathlons on a local club team for the last several seasons, training and competing in swimming, biking and running all throughout the year. To stay in shape after high school, Sara plans on joining the club triathlon team at university.

"Being an athlete is so important to me," remarked Sara. "It has taught me many lessons in life, especially with time management and wellness."

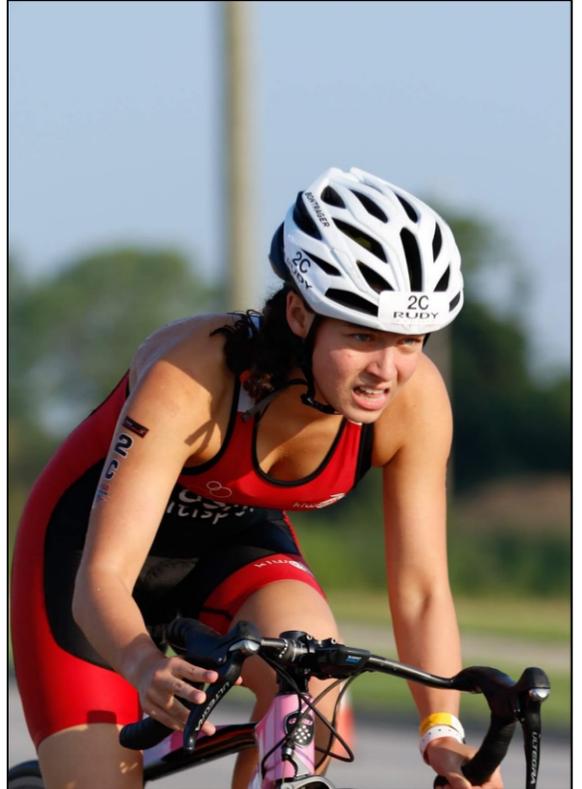
After graduating, Sara will be attending the California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo, where she plans on continuing to manage a rigorous athletic and academic schedule on the West Coast, majoring in Biomedical Engineering. Sara dreams of working to create life-saving technology in the realm of artificial organs and prosthetics.

"I want to make an impact on many people's lives through my line of work in the future," she said. "I love to help people".

Sara is an all-around incredible individual who is always driven to be her best self and aspires to motivate others to follow suit. Sara has made an awesome impression on all whom she has encountered during her time at PAHS, and there is no doubt that she will continue to make an impact on others wherever she may swim, bike, or run next.



Sara smiles in her XC gear before racing at a meet.



Sara races the biking portion of a triathlon a few summers back. Photos courtesy of Sara Filipovski

Tyler Grover: Young Mozart



Written by:
Maggie Welsh

I'm sure we've all met plenty of memorable classmates throughout our school years, those students who made the most uneventful class the most fun. We've all had classmates like that; however, senior Tyler Grover never fails to be the funniest guy in the room, while also displaying impressive musical skills.

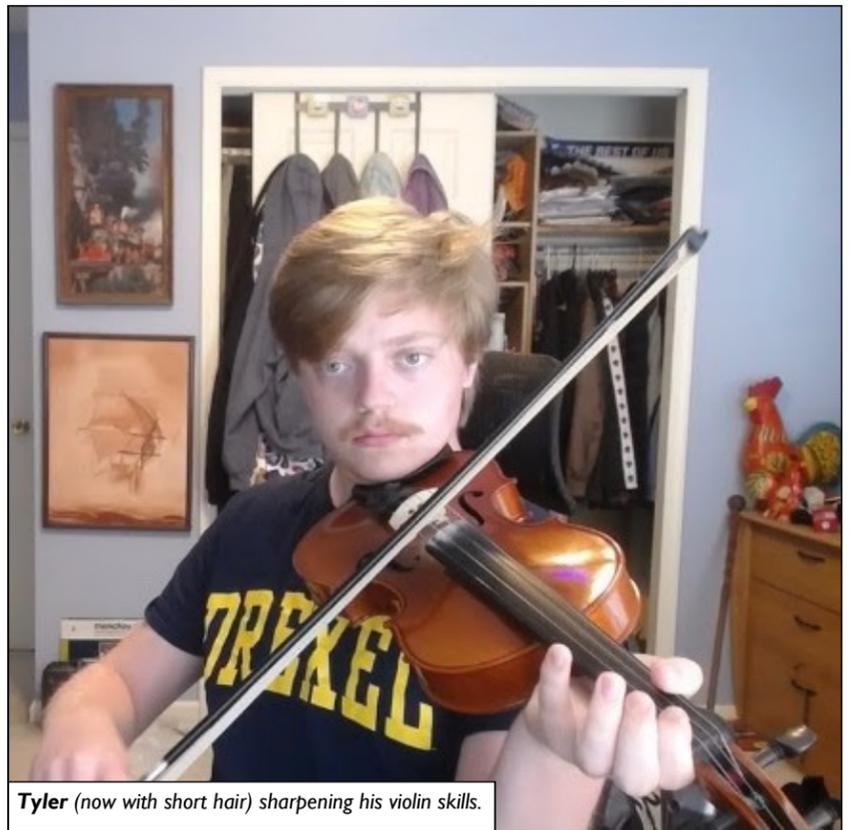
If you know Tyler you most likely know about his hair: a few years ago he had hair long past his shoulders, and it quickly became his defining feature. In January of 2020 he chopped most of it off and donated it, but the

legacy still lives in our hearts.

Along with being a class comedian, Tyler is also a very active member of the PAHS community. He has been involved in orchestra, tennis, and many clubs including Vocal Fusion, and Model UN. Tyler lives with his two parents, Alan and Gittan, his younger sister Paige who is currently a junior here at the high school, and his two dogs Zoey and Luna.

Tyler is also a skilled musician, playing many instruments like piano, the ukulele, guitar, trumpet, and the violin. But most important to him may be his role in the high school's a cappella singing group, Vocal Fusion. Throughout his three years with the group they have performed at art galleries, Chaplin's, the Towne Book Center in Collegeville, school events like Mini-Thon, and they even walked around downtown Phoenixville singing Christmas carols.

Tyler said, "[Vocal Fusion is] a great way to get better at singing with a group, it enhances your knowledge of music theory, and it's fun with friends." He advises underclassmen to



Tyler (now with short hair) sharpening his violin skills.



Tyler (with long hair - fourth from left) and the rest of the 2019-2020 Vocal Fusion group. Photos courtesy of Tyler Grover

join this group, saying, "It feels less like a club during practice, and more like you are hanging out with friends."

Another group Tyler enjoyed during his time at PAHS was the orchestra in which he performed at the baccalaureate and various concerts. Tyler enjoyed the experience and working with his teacher, saying, "Mr. Lee is one of the best around." He added, "It's similar to Vocal Fusion because it makes you a better musician and the music is advanced, but you end up learning how to play it."

This fall, Tyler will be attending Drexel University in Philadelphia where he plans to major in computer science. He chose Drexel because of how close it is to home and he

received scholarships from the school.

Looking back at his years here at Phoenixville, Tyler says that one of his favorite classes have been Calculus with Mr. Chiofalo. Some of his best memories have been his sophomore year AP Chemistry class, the tennis matches he participated in, the spring concert he performed at this year, and freshman year Mini-THON.

As for his advice to the underclassmen, Tyler said some of the most important things about high school is being active, joining plenty of clubs, and putting yourself out there as well as expanding your horizons. Also, some parting words he left for all the underclassmen were, "Audition for Vocal Fusion."

Nailah Green: The definition of excellence



Written by:
Eryn Gasser

Excellence is defined as the quality of being outstanding or extremely good. Excellence can also be defined as being a DI athlete, participating in activism in Phoenixville, and volunteering at a dream job at the age of 17. In other words, excellence is defined as Nailah Green.

Nailah Green is a senior at Phoenixville Area High School, who has five siblings: Safiyah, Nasir, Ameerah, Ali, and Malik. She plays three sports: basketball, field hockey,



Nailah posing in her stunning dress for the Senior Prom.

and lacrosse, and has been playing since she was three or four years old. She has played these sports for the school teams, and participated in gymnastics and travel field hockey for out-of-school teams. Her favorite sport to play is field hockey because she loves the dynamic of the game, and plans to play DI field hockey at college.

Besides winning, one of Nailah's favorite things about playing sports is having a group of people who support her. She also really enjoys meeting and connecting with new people. She appreciates that she can have a nice environment that can also be serious. Her best individual achievement for sports is that she won First Team Defensive Player of the Year for Field Hockey. Along with that, her best team achievement for sports was when her field hockey team won the Frontier division.

Of course, Nailah's incredible sports skills are not the only impressive thing about her. She plays a very important role in activism for not only PAHS, but Phoenixville itself. She is a member of the HOPE club at school, which has discussions on the uncomfortable topics that we do not normally discuss in school. She is also a part of Blackcellence, which is an activist group that works on bettering our current society, especially in the towns in our area. In fact, Blackcellence initiated the June 5th peaceful protest at Reeves Park in Phoenixville.

When Nailah is not scoring goals or working in activist groups, she is spending time on school and her other hobbies. She loves to run and work out, along with reading romance and African American history books. Her favorite high school courses she has had are Social Studies with Mr. Coyne, and literature with Mrs. Lewis. Mrs. Lewis is Nailah's favorite teacher, as Nailah said, "She is really good at teaching and making students not only read material, but apply it to both the past and present." Nailah also thought that

Mrs. Lewis is good at showing students how to communicate, respect, and accept different opinions that people have by looking from other people's point of view.

Along with the HOPE club, Nailah is also a member of the Varsity club, and a part of the school's nursing program, Allied Health. Nailah's dream job is being a neurosurgeon, and she is already gaining experience as a 17-year old. Her consultation was with a neurosurgeon in surgery, and not only did he accept her, but allowed her in an important surgery which was a great experience and showed her that this is what she wants to do.

Nailah said her favorite memory of high school has actually yet to occur: graduation. Graduation will be her favorite memory because she, "will finally be finished and will be ready to go to college to be independent and learn to make mistakes."

She leaves this advice to underclassmen: "Do not care about what anyone else thinks and just do what you want to do; find people who spread positivity and who want to see you do good. Time really does fly, and do not be scared to venture out and try new things."



Nailah Green playing stellar defense for the PAHS Field Hockey team.

Nailah plans on attending Lock Haven University as a DI athlete for field hockey with a bio pre med major, and then plans on continuing her path to neurosurgery. She has already impressed us all while only being in high school, so there is no doubt that Nailah Green's future will be full of more excellence!



The Green siblings (clockwise): Safiyah, Ameerah, Nailah, Malik, Ali, and Nasir.

Ocean Swomley: A wave of talent



Written by:
Katie Kramer

At PAHS, there are so many students with special talents. From star athletes to brilliant musicians, our school seems to have some of the best of the best. One of these fabulous folks is none other than senior Ocean Swomley. "Now what is Ocean's special talent?" I hear you ask, and to that I say...a lot! Ocean has not only been a part of leadership for Theatre Guild this year and performed in nine plays, but has been a prominent member of the PAHS Cross Country team, and a



A dazzling collage created by Ocean herself! Look at all the detail!



Ocean in her amazing homemade dress! Looks professional!

standout in the art department. Her creativity and chill attitude is sure to put a smile on anyone's face.

Ocean Swomley has always loved to work with her hands, using her creative skills to excel in her art classes and hobbies. Her pieces have been a prominent part of the school art shows on multiple occasions. Ocean's art skills aren't just restricted to the art rooms, as she's a jack-of-all-trades for all sorts of art mediums. From sketching to collages, sewing to painting, she has truly done it all. For this year's prom, Ocean sewed her own prom dress. This absolutely gorgeous red dress was expertly crafted and was a joy to see at this year's prom. To her, art is a sort of therapeutic activity, letting her truly express herself and de-stress.

Ocean has also been a part of the girls XC team ever since freshman year and loves to be active. She became one of the captains and a reliable runner and team member. Along with being an

athlete, Ocean has been a prominent actress in the PAHS theatre department. She has been in some amazing roles such as Ronia in "Ronia the Robber's Daughter," Catherine in the Third Production "The Aristacroaks," and Irene in "Radium Girls." Ocean also served as both secretary and treasurer of Theatre Guild.

Charlie Swomley, her older sister who graduated two years ago, was a wonderful part of leadership before she graduated and Ocean has truly shown the same level of love for the group. Each of these groups to Ocean were like family. Even though this year was hard for each of these groups and not what Ocean expected for her senior-year, they pushed through and made her high school experience amazing.

Ocean is planning on attending West Chester University next year and will major in Biology. She has always enjoyed science ever since she was little. She would visit the zoo all the time with her family, which made her



Ocean Swomley taking a bow in "Ronia the Robber's Daughter".
Photo: Mike Lantz

super interested in nature and how the world works.

"I always loved science," Ocean said, "...and my Biology class with Mrs. Santry this year really inspired me to go forward in Biology."

This senior year was a rollercoaster of unknowns, but Ocean found that it brought so many amazing memories. Her advice for the underclassmen is to not worry so much about grades and classes, but rather to focus on clubs and friends.

"Just enjoy your time in high school, don't take it so seriously," she said. If you involve yourself in the community and make friends along the way, you'll learn so much more and be happier, as opposed to stressing over homework assignments and quiz grades.

Sean Springer: An artistic soul



Written by:
Alex Duffy

Sean Springer is an active and involved part of the PAHS community, taking part in many aspects of our musical culture here at the school. A singer, a saxophone player, and an avid thespian, if you're involved in the musical side of PAHS in any way, you've probably met Sean in some way or another.

As a musician, Sean has been performing vocally and instrumentally for over 10 years. He's been playing the saxophone for years, and performs in the PAHS band programs. A vocalist in the Philadelphia Boys Choir from the ages of 8 to 11, he had a pretty involved vocal career at such a young age, commenting that "one December there was, I think, 21



The Springer Studio Youth Theatre, the musical theatre operated by Sean's family.



Sean Springer as Anthony in the 2019 spring musical at PAHS, "Sweeney Todd," performing alongside senior Ben Pratte.
Photo: Mike Lantzy

performances in 18 days or something. That's a lot. It got pretty crazy." Sean also went on a tour during the summer all over France in his second year in the choir. What a trip! Additionally, Sean plays some piano and guitar. As his family is all very musical, that helped to push him in that very musical direction.

Sean's engagement in the theatrical side of music goes back a long way, starring in his first musical in first grade. He credits this early interest in theatre and music to his parents, especially the fact that his mother

"has her own theater company [The Springer Studio Youth Theatre] and we do... a lot of shows there." He has also performed in theatre at SALT, a regional theatre in Chester Springs. His theatrical involvement also extends to the PAHS theatre program, as Sean starred in "Oklahoma" as Parker. Sean also played Anthony in "Sweeney Todd" in 2019 alongside his older brother Jacob (the judge), who graduated PAHS in 2019.

Another of Sean's many interests is in running and hiking. One of his most fond memories was a long backpacking trip into the wilds

of New Mexico. Over the 13 day long trek, his group covered 80 miles. One thing he said he remembered fondly was "I didn't bring my phone on it, which I think was the most valuable thing to me to take out of it." Being disconnected from the world really helped him understand himself and appreciate nature. What we can all learn from Sean is to disconnect from the broader world and live in the moment from time to time.

Sean does have quite a bit of direct advice for the underclassmen, and especially the rising seniors in the class of 2022. His advice for classes to take for them are AP European History and AP English Literature. He also commented that "you can be whoever and everyone's gonna love you anyways," saying that the most vital thing to do in high school is to make friends and connections, even to people you don't think you'll get along with. He cited NHS as a great place to meet other people from all different ways of thinking, and said that it has been a very positive force in getting him to do fun things he otherwise wouldn't have.

After graduating, Sean will be going to the University of Pittsburgh to study Mechanical engineering, but before then he leaves us with these thoughts on the wonderful community at PAHS: "I'm going to miss the people and the environment that's provided ... I feel like everyone here, especially all the teachers and even classmates, they're definitely just here to support you." I'm sure we've all been glad to be a part of our time as Phantoms at Phoenixville Area High School, and just like he's left his mark on the PAHS community, he's just starting to leave his mark on the wider musical world.

Korie Armour: Strutting her way to Nevada



Written by:
Savanna Muller

A glamorous future is in store for senior Korie Armour, as she says goodbye to Phoenixville Area High School and says hello to Nevada. She is a determined and talented teen, ready to use her artistic skills to begin her life in the makeup and nightlife performance business, specifically drag.

Everyone wants to find a passion, some form of creation that they can show them-

makeup about six years ago. She used to watch a lot of horror movies, which got her into doing SFX makeup (special effects makeup). Special effects makeup creates the appearance of things like wounds, scars, wrinkles and more on the skin.

Korie said, "Makeup has always been something I've been attracted to. I love how easily makeup can change a face; I can be Frankenstein one day, and have a gold glitter cut crease the next."

Though makeup is a huge part of what Korie wants to do in the future, it is only a fraction of what she will be doing. She specifically wants to do drag in her future, which will include fashion and performance skills, all of which comes easy to Korie. During the past year with Covid, Korie has spent a lot of time at home and with her family. Her family includes her mom, Debra, her sister, Breanne, her father, Jerry, and her pit-bull Jewellz. During quarantine she started spending more time practicing drag makeup and practicing how to walk in 10 inch heels.

Korie's road to self-discovery hasn't been an easy journey though, as she recently came out as transgender. Korie knew from a young age she was different, as femininity was always something she associated herself with more than masculinity.

She said, "Many boys my age played with Nerf guns, while I played with Bratz Dolls."

Korie started her transition at the start of quarantine, in 2020, though her friends and family knew before then how she felt about herself.

She said, "I just didn't know what I wanted to do about it until it hit me that I wanted to start my transition".

A book definition of being transgender is, "a

person whose sense of personal identity and gender does not correspond with their birth sex," but Korie has her own meaning to it.

Korie said, "Transitioning to me is starting a new beginning. This is my journey in life and I'm so excited everyday that this is who I am. That finally I can live my life to the fullest."

While starting her transition, most students were virtually learning, so transitioning during high school wasn't as hard. She had many people supporting her including friends, family and kind teachers. Transitioning comes with ups and downs though, and it isn't just all smooth sailing. Korie faced a lot of challenges mentally and physically during the school year, and it affected her work ethic in her junior

year. Fortunately, she got nothing but love from her friends, family and teachers, which helped her through her challenges.

She said, "My mother is my biggest supporter, and she always told me that whatever I wanted to do in life, she supports me no matter what. All I want to do in life is make her proud."

Korie gives this piece of advice to anyone wanting to transition or who is transitioning: "It's completely okay to not fully understand what you're going through. Take it a day at a time. Everyone has different challenges that they are going to face. Just be ready to take them head

on." Korie's favorite memory at PAHS was definitely the pep rallies, she said. Her favorite classes were her art classes and she really enjoyed taking Forensics this year. She has bonded with many teachers over the years, including: Mrs. Lees, Ms. Triebel, Ms. Davies, Mrs. Lewis, and Ms. Foresta.

Korie said, "I can never thank Ms. Foresta enough for allowing me to change in her office during gym class."

As she moves her life to Nevada, Korie opens a new chapter that will lead her to pursuing her dreams and future. She leaves us with these words: "Don't forget to be kind, and trans lives matter!"



Here is a look Korie did, inspired by a makeup artist/ drag queen, Valerie Valentine.

selves through. For Korie, makeup is a huge way that she expresses herself. She believes makeup is transformative, and you can be whoever you want to be through makeup.

Korie started her journey into professional



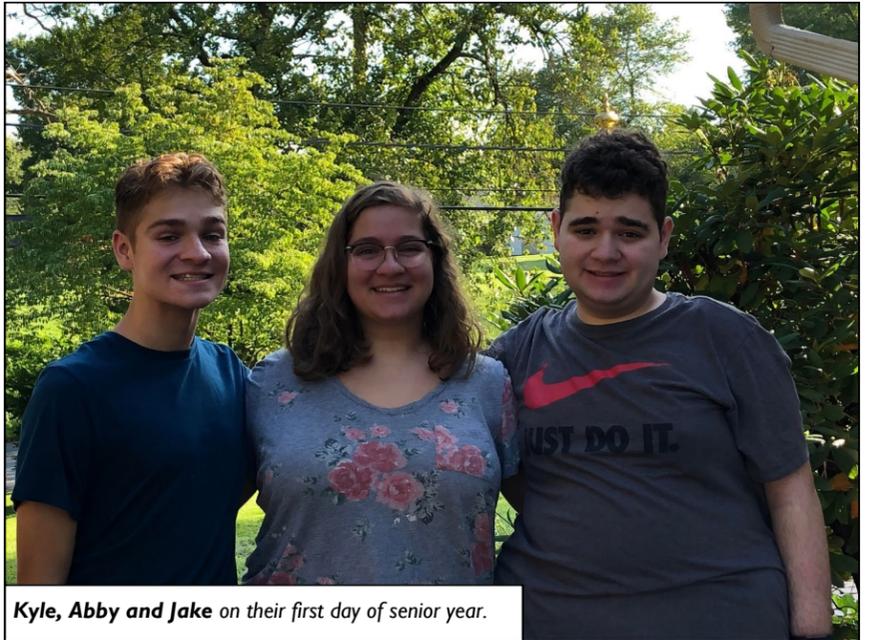
Here is Korie with a more natural glam, looking stunning posing with her friend Semaj Patrick.

Abby, Jake, and Kyle Bello: A triple threat



Written by:
Tessa Martielli

lings describe him as the wittiest of the bunch and the best Bello. While reflecting on his time in high school, he says his favorite class has been Fundamentals of Business with Ms. Wilbert. Once graduated, Jake plans on attending a program called 'Project Search' which will teach him the necessary skills to secure a full-time paying job. Though he hasn't had a job yet, he has volunteered at the Phoenixville Public Library. Within the past year, Jake and some of his friends from Discord streamed and played the game "Let's Fay: Kai the Kangaroo: Round 2". There's a playlist on the YouTube Channel "Your Clairly Godmother" if you want to watch it. Abby is quoted by her brothers as the kindest of the three. Her favorite high school classes have been ninth-grade English with Ms. Howard, and AP Government with Ms.



Kyle, Abby and Jake on their first day of senior year.

Going to school with your siblings can sometimes be a nightmare, but not for the Bello trio. Seniors Abby, Jake, and Kyle Bello are inseparable. From preschool to now, the three have spent their academic careers together. The rest of the family includes their 20-year-old sister Stacie and their loving parents, Leanne and Albert.

The oldest of the triplets is Jake. His sib-



The first day of preschool for Kyle, Jake, and Abby.

Kabatt. Abby enjoys reading and is a member of the school book club. She said she hopes to pick up a part-time job next year to get her "feet wet in the whole work thing." She said how lucky she was that her parents weren't pressuring college on the three, and how they are allowed to have some freedom in their future. Abby has supported her brothers throughout the years in many ways, one by tutoring them in math in middle school.

The youngest of the family and self-proclaimed 'comedic genius' is Kyle. You may recognize him from either working at Giant or playing spikeball at Manavon. As for his favorite classes, he commented: "Excluding the pure greatness known as any class with John Zittel, Mr. Gamble's Physics [Honors] and Engineering classes were quite sublime." After graduating, Kyle plans to go on vacation to North Carolina and then get a second job

for the summer. He plans on either attending Montgomery County classes in the fall or next year. About his plans, Kyle said, "I feel like an outcast because I'm not going to college right away," but he wants to see how far he can get in the workforce before committing to a school and deciding on a major. He also enjoys going to the gym in his free time.

Though they all have different plans for life, they know they will always have each other to rely on. The trio's favorite memories are the ones made around the dinner table. No matter what their schedules are, they always come together for a meal and some good laughs. Kyle said he sees them in the future having dinner out as siblings. After high school, they will all remain under the same roof for the time being. Despite their differing personalities, they are each other's best friends.

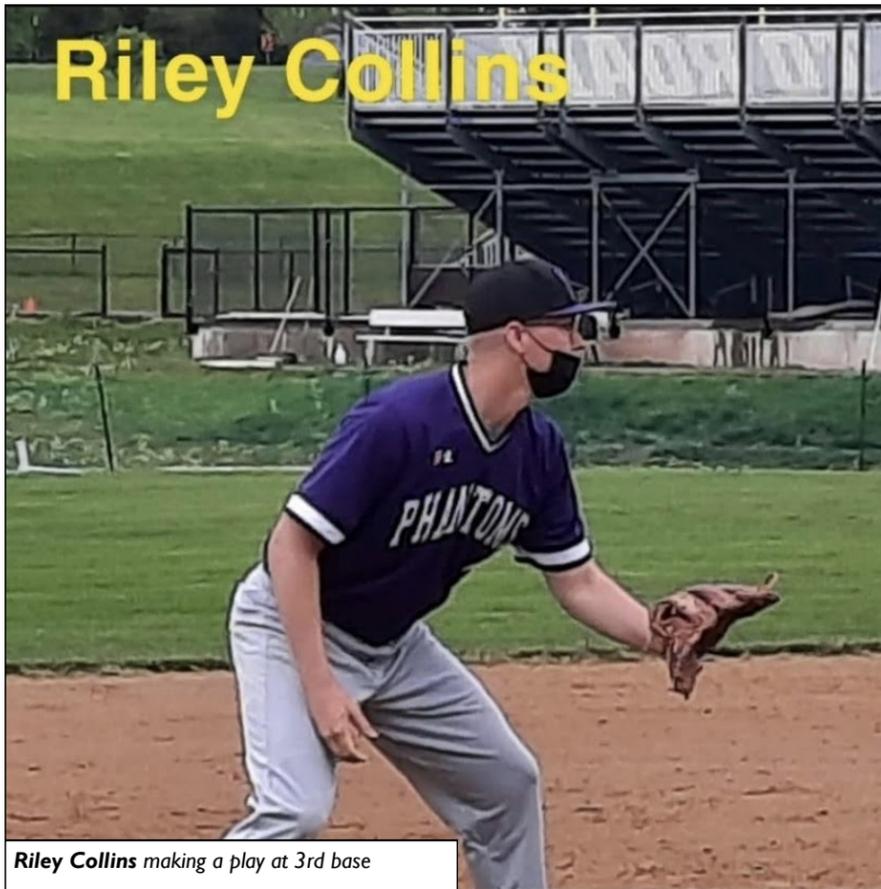
Riley Collins: Beating cancer, conquering life



Written by:
Kade Breisblatt

When the unexpected comes your way you can't run away from it, you just have to give it your best fight and overcome whatever obstacle life brings you. That's exactly what Riley Collins did, in the middle of his senior year, a year that all kids dream of being fun, exciting, and somewhat painless. Riley was overcome with a battle nobody in the world wants to go through, and that's cancer..

Some people don't know the impact Riley has had around the school. Riley is known around the school for being one of the nicest, most kind and heartwarming students in the whole school. It doesn't matter who you are, Riley will give you every bit of what it means to be a nice person. When Riley was going



Riley Collins making a play at 3rd base

through cancer treatments, his attitude did not change at all; he was still treating everyone he knew the right way. He never took his anger or frustration out on anyone and always kept his kindness and smile with him.

Riley Collins is also an athlete and he loves baseball. Even with treatment and therapy he didn't let cancer stop him from his senior year of baseball as he managed to keep up with his schoolwork, and attend all baseball practices and games. That is what you call dedication.

Riley said, "As soon as the doctor said I was allowed to attend baseball I went straight to baseball practice that day to be with all my friends." Riley has been playing baseball since he was six years old. He plays third base and his favorite part about baseball is hitting.

Some people in this world need to take a page out of the Riley Collins book, and that will teach them not only to never give up, but don't let any adversity stop you from doing the things you love to do. Also, keep being the

same person that you are, whether you're having a bad day, or going through something as difficult as Riley. Keep being a nice, kind, and respectful person just like Riley always is. Riley wanted his story shared because he wanted to inspire and motivate everyone to never give up.

Riley said, "No matter how difficult you think life might be, or how unfair it might seem, don't let that put your life on pause. Keep going and keep fighting through it."



Riley Collins and his mom and dad walking out on the field during Senior Day.



Riley catching a fish.

Xandro Xu: Creativity for a cause



Written by:
Penelope Pappas

Many high school students can only dream of becoming the CEO of a nationally-recognized organization. For senior Xandro Xu, that dream has already become a reality. Xandro is the founder and CEO of the non-profit Creation For Prevention, an organization formed as a reaction to the US government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Inaction by the government really angered me," he said. "I wanted to do something to help." After seeing advertisements for art commissions on Pinterest during the early weeks of quarantine, Xandro became inspired to sell art to purchase personal protection equipment for undersupplied facilities. This idea compelled him to recruit students from around the country who were interested in supplying their artistic skills and leadership to set his cause into motion.

Creation for Prevention (C4P) was founded upon Xandro's mission to create unique pieces of art to fund charity campaigns that provide service to facilities impacted by COVID-19. The organization accepts donations and profits from commissions made by request on its website

(<https://creation4prevention.wixsite.com/creation>). The organization has branched out to support more causes, and now defines their art-advocacy mission as more inclusive towards other social justice initiatives. Currently, the organization is supporting a Pride month campaign for the month of June, donating their proceeds to the William Way Community House in Philadelphia.



Xandro donates personal protection equipment through Creation for Prevention to Temple University Hospital in Philadelphia.

Through the founding of Creation for Prevention, Xandro said that he "found ways to utilize his passions for art and service to help his community" during this unprecedented time. (Follow C4P on Instagram for informational content and updates: @creationforprevention)

Not only does Xandro provide service and leadership within his community, but he also demonstrates involvement in the artistic sphere, specifically in the realm of music. Xandro is a clarinetist and pianist who has been involved in various music ensembles in and out of school, ranging in groups and musical styles from the school's Jazz Band to the Philadelphia Youth Orchestra. Xandro was a contributing member of the PAHS band, and he auditioned and qualified for competitions on regional and national levels.

"Music allows me to express myself," Xandro stated, "and playing music has gotten me through really difficult times."

Along with his musical commitments,

Xandro also managed a challenging academic course load, taking on several AP courses, a teaching assistant position with Ms. Davies, and a college-level Microbiology course at Montco.

A strong advocate for social issues such as gender equality, LGBTQ rights, and climate change, Xandro finds importance in developing outlets for advocacy and sought out ways to strengthen the school community through activism. Xandro is president and founder of Girl Up, a club that met every other Tuesday after school that centered around the empowerment of women. He was also president of the Environmental Club, where he said that "students met every Friday after school and worked with community members on initiatives to make Phoenixville more environmentally sustainable."

In addition, Xandro enjoys traveling and capturing his life through photography. Some of Xandro's favorite travel destinations include France, China, the Rocky Mountains in Canada, and the different cities in California. Xandro has developed an interest in photography and he enjoys exploring the elements of visual effects in the process of editing photos. Xandro enjoys posting his photos on the app VSCO and has even received a republish from the app's official account on one of his photos.

Xandro will be attending the University of Pennsylvania next year to study Neuroscience and Music.

"Truly just be yourself" Xandro advises underclassmen, "At the end of the day, you are the most important person to worry about." Armed with his creative drive and passion for service, he is certain to accomplish this goal and more, as his ability to dream has cast Xandro Xu as an exceptional highschool-



Xandro smiles in front of the boulders at Monterey Beach in California. Photos courtesy of Xandro Xu

Colin Murphy: Ivy bound



Written by:
Tessa Martielli

Most people by the age of 17 are just getting their license and starting to figure out what they want in life. However, Colin already has a long list of accomplishments despite being younger than the other seniors. Though Colin Murphy is the Valedictorian for the Class of 2021, and his resume may seem a bit overwhelming for a 17-year-old, he's quite the normal guy.

One of Colin's claims to fame was the fact that he skipped eighth grade. Around seventh grade, he started taking classes at the high school, including Chemistry Honors and Latin. By the end of that year, he said that he, "talk[ed] to administration and we decided that it made more sense for me to skip eighth grade and go straight into ninth grade next year." He regards this transition as a pretty positive experience and that he's glad he did it. For his final year of high school, he took AP Macro, AP English Literature, AP Research, AP Statistics, Spanish, Multivariable Calc, and AP European History.

Colin was involved in many different activities within Phoenixville. He was president of Science Club, vice president of NHS, and a captain of the Academic Team. He also ran a science program for gifted students in middle school, and participated in Model United Nations as well as Student Forum. Two years ago he also went to Poland and participated in The International Young Physicists' Tournament (IYPT).

Sports-wise, he was co-captain of the cross country team and ran track. Out of everything from his high school experience, he is most



Colin with some of his track and field teammates, including his idol **Leo Sereni** on the far right. Photos courtesy of Colin Murphy

fond of his involvement with the cross country and track team. He joined the team in freshman year and it has become a huge part of his life. He noted he will miss not only the team, but the feeling of belonging and acceptance.

Though his senior year has been different than anticipated due to Covid, Colin still made the most of it. He notably was one of the few who always had his Zoom camera on, and attended in-person classes.

As for his life beyond Phoenixville, he is planning on attending Cornell this upcoming fall and majoring in physics; eventually, he wants to go for a Ph.D. He proclaims himself as a "big physics guy" and spends half of his free time reading physics textbooks. Physics is the connection between his passions of space, math, logic, and reason. He recommends any underclassmen to take a physics class at some point in high school. When he's not reading textbooks, he's doing normal kid things. He said that he, "see[s] friends and sometimes goes out."

The Murphy household consists of his two parents, Kim and Matt, and his older sister

Katie, a freshman at West Chester University. He also has two dogs, Bella and Simon, who he said are "not very good at being dogs," and three cats named Mo, Oscar, and Albert.

Though he looks up to many people, including his parents and teachers, Colin emphasized his appreciation for his peers. He especially looks up to junior Leo Sereni, saying he's "just the biggest man on planet earth."

On the '21 Voices Podcast, Colin recommended for underclassmen to take risks. Not "going over the speed limit" risks, but those that challenge you and get you out of your comfort zone. Colin is one of the members of the community whose legacy will live beyond his time in Phoenixville.



The Murphys: **Matt, Katie, Kim, and Colin.**



CAN YOU IDENTIFY WHICH SENIOR IS IN EACH PHOTO?



#1- Ally Wysocki #2- John Daly #3- Savanna Muller, #4- Lauren Ferretti, #5- Ray Lewandowski

2021 Art Show



IMPACT AWARD CEREMONY



Dr. Parkinson salutes the Impact Award recipients on May 25.



Colin Murphy with Mrs. Hrynko



Max McMinn and Mrs. Nestler



Peyton McDonnell and Mrs. Knaster



Corrinne Federer and Mrs. Murphy



Katy Dietrich and Ms. Goodwin



Heather Cirino and Mrs. Gray



Korie Armour and Mrs. Lees

"Rise" for graduation



Written by:
Alex Duffy

Teresa Haag is a local artist who has designed and painted many recognizable murals around Phoenixville, such as the mural on the side of the Gateway Pharmacy and the Welcome to Phoenixville mural by Bluebird Distillery. At the end of the 2019-20 school year,



Teresa Haag's studio and gallery in downtown Phoenixville where she exhibits and sells her paintings.

she was approached by the 2020 senior class about creating a painting for the class. So, she started brainstorming "Rise," a piece to commemorate the lost dreams of the Class of 2020--dreams of a normal graduation, of prom, and of all the other things which come from that transition between high school and the rest of your life.

The process by which "Rise" was created was different from much of Haag's other work, even down to the canvas on which it was painted. Usually, her paintings use newspaper as a substrate placed on the canvas before the paint, but for "Rise" she used the Class of 2020's senior portraits as the substrate, as she said she "wanted to make sure that the entire class was represented." Some students' photos can even be partially seen in the finished piece, primarily on the rightmost parts of the painting.

After the initial discussions on the concepts of the piece, Haag found a design concept "a lot like the finished piece," but found that after she made that initial version, she hit a roadblock, stating that "it was missing the feelings that I knew I wanted the piece to create."

The shadowed firebird in the center of the painting's sky was actually a later addition, and packed just the emotional impact that Haag was looking for, saying that she "had the vision of the Phoenix rising while I was out on a run on the SRT [Schuylkill River Trail] in town. At that point, I was able to move forward with the work."

The results truly speak for themselves in the finished version of Rise, a wonderful encapsulation of the celebratory nature which the Class of 2020

missed out on.

Teresa Haag operates her artistic business out of a studio and gallery on Bank Street--that's the street between Save More and Weitzenkornz, and across from the Children's Plaza. Her art often depicts average scenes of daily life in urban environments: paintings of turnpikes, skylines, facades, and

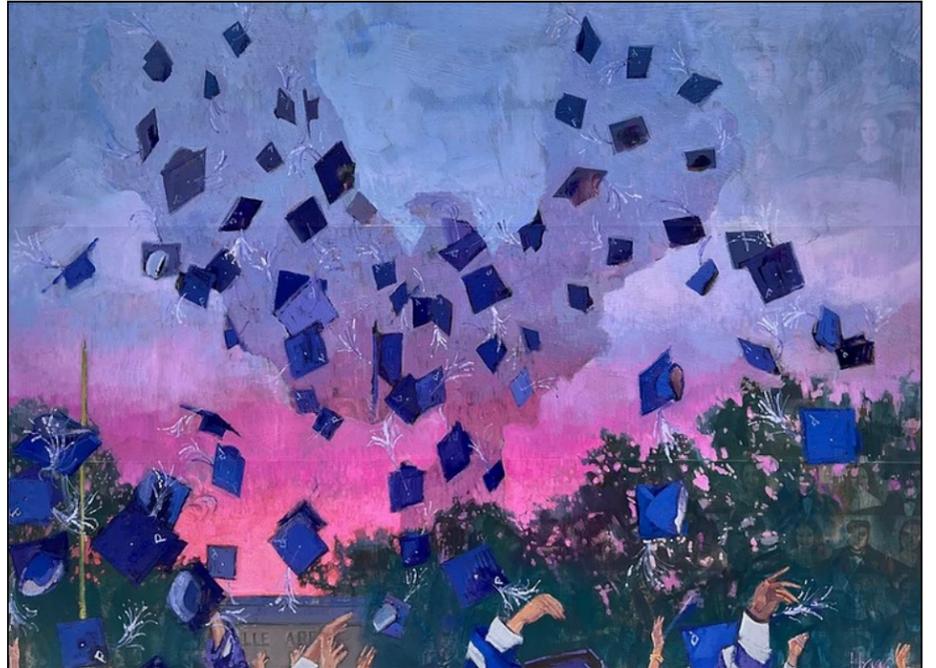
street level views. Some paintings are even of Phoenixville itself!

Of the reasons why she paints what she does, Haag said "I think that there is so much beauty all around us, and for me, I am always drawn to those that possess the spirit of the underdog. I love capturing the before, middle, and after effects of humans who thrive despite their circumstances."

"Rise" stands as a triumphant artistic symbol: one that shows the spirit of PAHS and its students not to be beaten down by the quarantine, but to push on despite these challenges.

Haag said, the Class of 2020 is "full of fire,

and grit, and perseverance, and ready for anything that comes their way as they go out and take their next best steps. "I love that you can see the echoes of the class coming through from the background of the work. It reminds me that each of the students accomplished something so big...they spent an entire lifetime working toward this accomplishment and had to dig really deep at the end to finish." Here's hoping that the Class of 2021 can also dig deep and channel some of that grit and perseverance as this school year comes to a close.



Teresa Haag's piece titled "Rise" depicts the graduating ceremony that the class of 2020 expected all their lives, but were denied due to the tragedy of COVID-19.

Photos: www.teresahaag.com

The school year of 2020-2021: What happened?!



Written by:
Ray Lewandowski

If you told freshman year me that my senior year, (what I had always been told would be the happiest time of my 14 years of mandatory education), would be a hodgepodge of chaos, cancelled events, and whatever else I've tried to repress from my memory, I would have laughed in your face. But unfortunately, I can't do that anymore because that's exactly what it turned out to be. This year has been nothing but chaos for both our class of 2021 and the previous seniors of 2020. But enough about all the misery we've experienced, since I'm sure you're just as tired as me of constantly hearing "Covid this" and "Covid that," so let's talk about all the good times that actually happened!

MOVIE NIGHTS

The movie nights were held at the beginning of the year on Washington Field, and was basically a theater experience, but the theater was out in the open and on a football field. Our feature films this year were "The Sandlot" and "Hocus Pocus". It was a great time, and if any faculty members are reading this, we should do it again next year!

SPORTS

Boys' basketball was on a roll for most of this year! Phoenixville entered Districts as a 6th seed, with a record of 11-6. They advanced to the semi-finals of Districts, defeating Holy Ghost Prep after going to overtime. However, our team would eventually lose to the District champions at the time, Chester. The girls had an equally good time this year. They finished the season 10-6 and won the PAC Frontier title over perennial powers, Pope John Paul and Pottsgrove. The team



Senior Max McMinn and his rubber flamingo prize pose together at the FOCUS event. Photo courtesy of Max McMinn

would move on to Districts as a 6th seed but lost to the 3rd seed, West Chester East.

And now for a look at tennis. Boys' tennis had an even better year than the basketball teams. Coach Ricardo Saad and the boys had another successful season, clinching their first outright PAC title since 2012. Led by senior singles players Josh Starczeski, Nico Rambla and David Clipper, the boys posted big wins against rivals Spring-Ford and Perkiomen Valley to take the league title.

Furthermore, both Phoenixville's softball and baseball teams would win the Frontier division of the PAC. Additionally, both teams earned a bye and ended up as the #4 seed in Districts. The captains for softball were Kendall Brown, Chloe Johns, Hayden Perrone and Alaina Woods, while the baseball captains were seniors Jason Bilotti, JJ Allen, and Justin Geiger.

Despite everything that has happened this year, it's always great to see when teams from PAHS do well. To everyone involved in sports at PAHS: my hat is off to you.

PROM

Hosted at Sunnybrook, the prom was a bit of a struggle to put on this year and not just because of Covid, but also due to the will of Mother Nature. It was especially windy and cold this year, and that caused the prom to be moved from outside, to back inside the Sunnybrook building, where prom royalty Sullivan Nowak and Erin Skomsky were crowned. A night of dancing in tuxes and dresses ensued, followed by the FOCUS after party event that went until 2 a.m. In order to give the prom-goers an alternative to a night of unsupervised debauchery, they had a night of carnival games and lottery drawings under the freezing night sky. Fun!

THE PLAYS

Despite the situations this year provided, PAHS still managed to put on two fantastic theatrical performances. The Fall drama this year was William Shakespeare's classic "The Tempest" and our spring musical was "You're a Good Man, Charlie

Brown!" The Fall drama was performed at Reeves Park on January 29th and 30th (I know, the beautiful Fall month of January). The musical was performed May 7th and 8th, with a small cast of only nine people portraying the legendary characters of the Peanuts, much smaller than what we're used to with the musicals.

Again, it's always fantastic to see folks from Phoenixville taking time out of their lives to put on a great show like these and all the effort that comes with it, especially with modern health guidelines. As a former actor in both "Sweeney Todd" and "Ronja the Robber's Daughter," I have to say this personally: I don't think I could have made it through a week of this stuff, but the fact you did several months of it and still put on your plays at the end, that's just downright inspirational.

And so, another school year is concluded. The seniors will go off to college or get a job, and finally become true adults. While the graduation is still yet to happen, we do know for certain that it is happening, without all the limitations of social distancing and seating, but everyone will still have to wear a mask. Even though that's not the ideal situation for everyone, the fact we're still having graduation after all the events that have been cancelled is fantastic. To the class of 2021, Godspeed. It's been a wild four years, but that's only a taste of what's to come...



The baseball game scene with the entire cast from this year's musical "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown"



Mrs. Nice: A fixture in the PAHS Music Department



Written by:
Isabelle Butera

For nearly two decades, Kate Nice was the lifeblood of the music program at Phoenixville Area High School, teaching Choir, Piano, Music Theory, running Vocal Ensemble and music directing/directing the spring musical. As Mrs. Nice moves on from PAHS, she leaves behind an incredible legacy within the music department and with the students she taught.

After graduating from Bucknell University in 1999 (double majoring in mathematics and music performance), Mrs. Nice was hired by PAHS to teach mathematics. When the choir director position unexpectedly opened up, Mrs. Nice hesitantly stepped into the role. Her first year, only 34 students participated in choir, but by the next year, the number increased to over 70. Enjoying her role leading the choir, Mrs. Nice went on to receive her Music Education Degree at Immaculata, as well as her masters and principal certifica-

tion. Nearly twenty years later, Mrs. Nice has taught Choir, Piano, Music Theory, and various levels of math. She said, "I like the everyday, like it doesn't have to be anything spectacular for me to think that we've had a great day. I love when kids tell me stuff they don't bother telling other teachers because I hope they get the vibe that I want to hear it and that I care about it."

Most students will look back on their choir classes as a perfect blend of music education and group-bonding needed for a successful ensemble. Mrs. Nice explained, "I feel like the classes I [got] to teach are special for kids not because we're doing anything completely amazing and phenomenal, chorally speaking. I mean, I do think we do those things, but it's not because of that that I think we have such a wonderful thing... we have created a place where kids feel comfortable."

Her students would certainly agree, as junior Emily Lutschaunig said, "Mrs. Nice goes above and beyond for her students. She is always there to help us improve and offer a safe space."

Some of Mrs. Nice's favorite memories of directing choir include singing carols for the school before winter break, singing at the rotary luncheon, seeing students work up the confidence to audition for solos, traveling

with the choir to performance cruises or other trips, and listening to the "things that people just blurt out" in choir. She added, "Sometimes I think the importance of building relationships with students, so that they don't just feel like your students, needs to be paramount in teaching...I truly believe that our choir has been as good as it has been because kids feel like they're part of something special."

Mrs. Nice not only strived to ensure the musical quality of the choir, but also to nurture kindness and respect. She said, "When I first started teaching in 1999 we took the kids to Dallas. The kids did amazing; we scored really well in the festival. What felt extra cool is that... our vocal department got a Positive Attitude award. We've won a lot of awards over the years. We've gotten a lot of superior ratings. But to me, when you are recognized for the character and the type of program you have...that's really awesome."

In addition to teaching choir classes in school, outside of the school day Mrs. Nice ran the Vocal Ensemble and most recently directed the spring musical "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown." She also teaches and directs at Facetime community theater, and performs with other local theaters.

This past fall, Mrs. Nice took a leave of absence from her busy schedule at PAHS. She explained, "My family and I decided to become a foster family a few years ago and we have been blessed to have a few kids placed with us. We were asked to take a preemie home in July." Mrs. Nice and her husband, Matt, have cared for their foster child, Davie, as well as her three biological children, Josie, George, and Franklin. Additionally, she wanted to limit her exposure to Covid to best take care of her parents, particularly her father who's been ailing for several years.

She explained, "I have felt as though the time in my day could be better balanced. I was very much hoping that I'd be able to remain teaching here on a more part time basis so that I would have a little more time to tend to my family, my immediate family, my kids and my parents; unfortunately, the part time thing didn't work out."

The decision to leave PAHS was not an easy one for Mrs. Nice. As for what she will



The members of the singing group Beauty MRK: **Maria Panvini, Rachel Hendrickson** and the one and only **Kate Nice**. Photos courtesy of Mrs. Nice

miss most about teaching, she said, "That's easy, I will miss the students. I'm sad that my last times here are during this weird year. I'll miss every day with you guys."

Mrs. Nice will be equally missed by her many students. Sophomore Nadya Dato said "Whenever I walked into Mrs. Nice's class, whether I was having a bad day or not, I'd always leave with a smile on my face."

"Mrs. Nice stands out to me as a teacher who truly cares about her students and is passionate about music," said junior Audrey Smith. "She has encouraged me to become a more confident singer."

And finally, as senior Phoebe Groves said: "Mrs. Nice was one of the reasons that I loved coming into school, she always made my day better. Phoenixville will not be the same without her."



Mrs. Nice poses for a photo with her husband **Matt** and her children: **Franklin, George, and Josie**.

with the choir to performance cruises or other trips, and listening to the "things that people just blurt out" in choir.

She added, "Sometimes I think the importance of building relationships with students, so that they don't just feel like your students, needs to be paramount in teaching...I truly believe that our choir has been as good as it has been because kids feel like they're part

Farewell Mrs. Evans!

Many students will think of Mrs. Diane Evans as the friendly, helpful lady in the front lobby, but there's much more to her than that! Sadly, PAHS bids farewell to Mrs. Evans as she heads into retirement. Here is what she had to say about leaving:

Q: Where did you attend high school? College?

Upper Darby High School, Upper Darby, Pennsylvania.

Q: Where did you work prior to PAHS? I worked at the PASD District Administrative Office for 30 years.

Q: How long have you been working at PAHS? Describe your responsibilities here over the years.

I've been here almost three years as office support for the main office. That includes doing anything needed to help out the secretary. I also helped with filing in the attendance of-

rice, pretty much anything someone needed done. Of course, this past year with Covid, things were different. The job itself changed and I've been splitting my time between the front lobby and the main office. I like the fact that I get to see more of the students out front. I really enjoy meeting them and getting to know them. It also provides a place for parents and teachers to drop and pick things up.

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

My interactions with my co-workers, the students and teachers. One singular memory was of a student that was moving, and stopped in to tell me how my talking to him had helped him so much during the year. That really touched my heart.

Q: Why have you chosen to leave PAHS?

I just felt like it was time to retire. I will absolutely have to find something to keep me busy.

Q: Talk about your family! Pets?

It's just myself and my husband John. We don't have children of our own, but we have tons of nieces & nephews, greats, and great-greats. We're very close to them and enjoy winding them up and sending them home. We also enjoy hiking and love being out in the woods. Our current dog is named Eli. He is part Springer Spaniel/Border Collie & Sheltie. He's very smart and a lot of fun. I've always had at



Mrs. Evans and her husband, **John**. Photo: Mr. Zittel

least one dog. Dogs have always been part of my life.

Q: What will you miss the most about PAHS?

The sound of the kids in the halls, the life that they bring to every day. Getting to know the teachers, I admire them so much. Working with nice people makes every day a good day.

Q: Anything else you want to add? Just that I will miss working here and have many happy memories to take with me.



This is **Eli**, Mrs. Evans' dog Eli, a mix of Springer Spaniel, Border Collie, and Sheltie.



10 myths you may still believe about college



Written by:
Elizabeth Kolb

We've heard it all before, the advice given by older folks who tell you to "enjoy being under 18 while you can, because it's only going to get worse once you leave high school," and the horror stories of despicable professors and crowded lecture halls. From the beginning of middle school to the end of high school, we were made to believe that college is a place where you are left to fend for yourself and where the horrors of the real world begin. What if you were told that college should not be a place to dread, but rather a time in your life to anticipate with excitement and the hope for unprecedented freedom? Here, I will debunk 10 myths many high schoolers still believe about what happens in college.

1. You will be a number in a lecture hall of 200 students

The Truth: Only if you choose to attend a large university. Although the stereotypical college campus depicts lecture halls full of countless, faceless students, there are many small or medium colleges to choose from. Unlike a large college, small or medium colleges offer smaller classes with professors who will most likely know your name, strengths, and weaknesses, much like your typical high school class size.

2. The professors are cruel and unusual

The Truth: Some are, but most are not. The persona of a distant, strict professor who will refuse to help you, even though you scheduled office hours with him, is in the minority of the vast and diverse professorial personalities you will encounter while

in college. Especially if you attend a small or medium college, most of your professors, will, in fact, be eager to get to know you, take time out of their day to help you understand the material (as long as you ask for the help), and even give a friendly smile or wave if you cross paths on campus.

3. College is the 'real world'

The Truth: In elementary school, you were told that middle school is the 'real world'. When you got to sixth grade, you learned that middle school could hardly be considered the 'real world'. In middle school, you were convinced that high school is the start of the 'real world'. When you got to high school, you realized that the real world was not high school. Likewise, when you cross the stage at your high school graduation, you will still not be quite there yet. *Sure, college has its increased responsibility and course load, but it pales in comparison to when you have children, own a house, and have a full-time job.*

4. You will have to cook for yourself every meal once you are in a dorm

The Truth: As a freshman, you will instead have a meal plan. Nowadays, meal plans are more like cruise dining than cafeteria eating, with all-you-care-to-eat buffets. Depending on the specific meal plan you choose and the college you go to, you may also have the chance to enjoy 24/7 dining hours and unlimited meal swipes. Unless you choose to live in an apartment on or off campus, you will not have to cook ramen noodles three times a day, seven days a week.

5. Most of the classes in college are Gen Ed classes, which will be boring

The Truth: Although you will indeed have to take "General Education" classes for your first two years, most of your classes will count towards your major and elective credits. *Even the general education classes you'll be required to take are in no way like your high school core classes. Unlike in high school, you will get to choose from a wide selection of courses you can take in the college's math, science, seminar, and English requirements. Think fascinating courses like Women in Math for your math requirement or The Fairytale for your English gen ed class.*

There's something for everyone, so every student can enjoy not only their major, but also their gen ed requirements as well.

6. You will have to follow a schedule, attend classes, do homework, etc.

The Truth: Let's face it; all the study halls, lunch periods, bus schedules, and mandatory attendances are all useless. Despite what others told you, the rules high school places on you will no longer be there once you go to college. In college, you have the freedom to choose: the freedom to choose when your classes will be, when and where you will eat lunch, if you're going to complete assignments, and even if you'll even be attending classes. Despite this, if you want to get good grades and get a degree, it is highly recommended that you don't cancel too many classes and complete your projects and schoolwork on time.

7. You will have to wake up every morning for 8 a.m. classes

The Truth: Only if you want to. Since college students are free to choose when their classes will be in their schedule, you will, too. Especially for your gen ed classes, you will be free to pick the time that's right for you - whether that be 7 a.m. in the morning, at noon, or even at night. Unlike high school, your college classes do not meet every day, so every day on campus will be different and unique. In other words, there will be some days of the week when you do not have any classes and other days where you can sleep in until noon because your classes don't start until 4 p.m.

8. You will be completely 'on your own' with nobody to assist you

The Truth: On campus, there will be plenty of resources to go to if you ever feel the need to vent out or if you are struggling in a subject. Many colleges offer writing centers where fellow students can peer edit your papers, as well as resident assistants and on-campus counselors for emotional support. Your professors, the campus police, and student tutors are also there to help you when you are in most need. You just have to go forth and ask for help; unlike high school,

nobody's going to seek help for you.

9. In college, there will no longer be any fun activities or science experiments, but only long, boring lectures

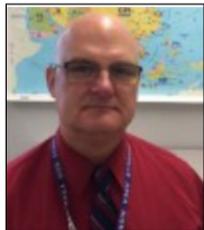
The Truth: Although there will be many more research papers to write and more lectures to sit through, there will still be plenty of interactive learning to do in college. Science classes, for example, still have labs and experiments, but with a planetarium, observatory, and/or greenhouse on campus. Business classes offer countless internships and career opportunities, and political science students get to do the same on Capitol Hill. Likewise, geology and archeology students have the chance to join real life archaeologists in uncovering the next big discovery.

10. Community College is less expensive than a four-year college

The Truth: If you live in the Philadelphia Area, this is far from the truth. Unlike most areas in the country, the average cost for community college for PA residents, specifically those who live in southeastern PA, ranges from \$9,000 to \$11,000 for a full academic year. That's also about the same tuition for a public four-year university in Pennsylvania! Throw in the costs of today's cars, the fact that there won't be a meal plan at community college so you'll have to pay for food yourself, and the cost of gas. Although you won't have to pay room and board at community college, you may have to invest in a car that costs tens of thousands of dollars to commute daily. If you apply to a state school and are lucky enough to get a scholarship, that's even less of a burden on your wallet if you attend that state university rather than your local community college. So, relax if you think community college is a more economical option, but you dread missing the college experience. Sometimes, community college is equally expensive.

The Bottom Line: College is not as scary as some may have told you. College is what you make of it, and if you ask former college students, many will say that it only gets worse better when you leave high school.

PASD Wall of Fame inductees, 2020 & 2021



Written by:
Mr. Coyne

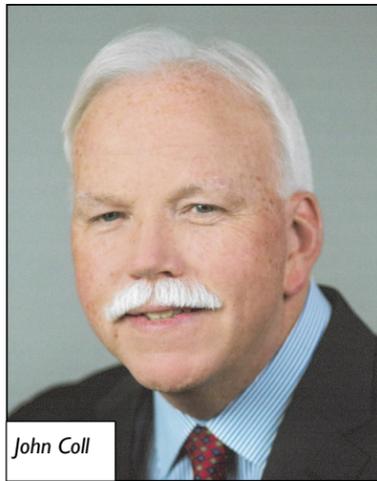
The Phoenixville Area School District Wall of Fame Committee inducted three new members to its Wall of Fame on Monday, May 3, 2021. Due to COVID-19 last year and the shutdown of all schools in Pennsylvania, the Wall of Fame ceremony was not held. This year the Wall of Fame Committee combined the 2020 and 2021 ceremonies to honor all three inductees.

2020 Inductees: John J. Coll Jr. and Thomas E. Mitchell (posthumously)

Mr. John J. Coll Jr. was born and raised in Phoenixville. A 1971 graduate of St. Pius X High School, he continued his undergraduate education at Mount Saint Mary's University, graduating in 1975 with a BA in Political Science. He then graduated from George Mason University with a Juris Doctor Degree in 1980. He continued on to Villanova University Charles Widger School of Law and graduated in 1987 with a Masters of Laws in Taxation.

Mr. Coll has spent numerous hours as a volunteer with Ann's Heart Code Blue Shelter in Phoenixville, Cure Alzheimer Fund of Philadelphia, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Holy Family Regional Elementary School, coach at Phoenixville Marian Youth Club for field hockey, member of the board of the Phoenixville Athletic Complex Booster Club, coach and President of the Phoenixville Babe Ruth Baseball League.

Over 40 years of coaching, Mr. Coll has become a proponent of community-based athletics as an inexpensive means by which attributes such as perseverance, dedication,



John Coll

resiliency, a strong work ethic, and the ability to deal with adversity can be developed.

Mr. Thomas E. Mitchell was born and raised in Phoenixville PA. A 1969 graduate of Phoenixville Area High School where he was also a varsity wrestler, he started working at the Spring City Knitting Company after high school, but his true passion was that of being a car salesman in the Phoenixville area for over 30 years.

"Big Tom" was a dedicated volunteer to many groups in the Phoenixville area. He served on the school board, with Kiwanis, Knights of Columbus, Lion's Club, St. Ann's Church, PACA, Latino Board, Diversity in Action Committee, and was a founder of the Phoenixville Youth Wrestling League.

For 41 years, "Big Tom" served as Santa Claus, bringing the holiday spirit to the Phoenixville area. He raised funds and organized the Christmas lights on Main Street, the Christmas parade, and Santa's House. For his community service, "Big Tom" received the Phoenixville Area Recreation Department Outstanding Service Award, Phoenixville Ath-

letic Association Service Award, Phoenixville Health Foundation Champion of the Community, Volvo US Heroes Award, Pennsylvania State Senate Service Award, and the Phoenixville Area Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Citizen of the Year.

"Big Tom" was a true Phoenixville Phantom! He loved Phoenixville and its residents. His commitment to service truly impacted the people of this community

2021 Inductee: Barry Irvin Sankey (posthumously)

Mr. Sankey was born in Pottstown, PA. He is a 1972 graduate of Spring-Ford Area High School. He then graduated from Temple University Cum Laude in 1976 with a BA degree in journalism and political science. While at Temple, he served as a reporter, editor, and managing editor for the Temple News Sports Newspaper.

After graduating from Temple, Mr. Sankey became a sportswriter for the Philadelphia Evening Bulletin, Pottstown Mercury, Spring-Ford Reporter, and the Evening Phoenix. Mr. Sankey was an active volunteer with the Phoenixville Area School District Sports Hall of Fame Committee, President of the Congregation Mercy and Truth Synagogue in Pottstown, and a member of the Board of Directors of B'Nai Jacob Synagogue in Phoenixville. He was also a major supporter of the Phoenixville and Spring City American Legion Baseball teams.

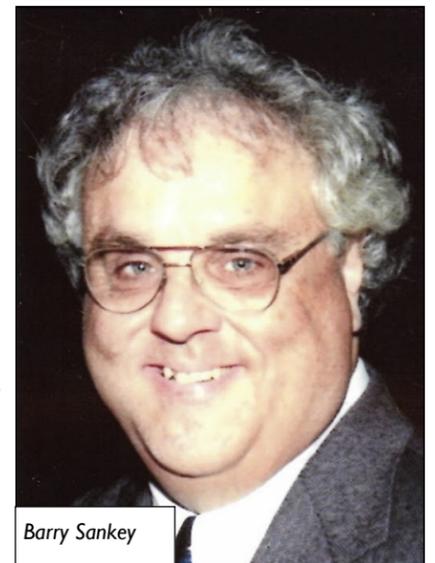
For his many years of covering sporting events, Mr. Sankey was awarded the Who's Who for Sports Journalism, Keystone Press Award, Managing Editors Award, and the Professional of the Year: America's Registry of Outstanding Professionals/VIP.

"Barry was a mainstay sports reporter in my hometown for decades. The industry changed, but his love for the Phoenixville Area never did. He always had a kind spirit and loved seeing locals succeed," said Kevin

Neghandi, ESPN Sports Broadcaster and Phoenixville Area High School Graduate Class of 1993.



Tom Mitchell



Barry Sankey

Boys' Lacrosse: Back on the field



Written by:
Sydney Eckhardt

After a lost season in 2020, PAHS Boys' Lacrosse came back ready and rejuvenated to play. The team finished with a 3-6 PAC record, and a 3-8 overall record. Although the Phantoms fell short of their goal to make Districts, they were excited to play together again after missing last season due to the pandemic. The Phantoms Boys' Lacrosse team showed great promise for the future as they fought their way through a competitive season.

Team captains Ryan Gilleland (senior), Ryan Harth (senior), Bryan Maguire (senior) and



Senior **Nolan Martin** is a formidable opponent in goal.
Photos: LifeTouch



Junior **Gavin Matta** defending in a game against Spring-Ford.
Photos: LifeTouch

Max Strunk (senior) lead the Phantoms to a comeback victory against Pope John Paul II and an overtime victory against Interboro. Second-year Head Coach Jason Costello said the captains "provided leadership for the younger players through encouragement and positive feedback," which were vital traits considering the underclassmen have not played together for two years.

Leadership helped the Phantoms continue to push through their season as Covid protocols were put in place to ensure the players' safety. Coach Costello said the team was "diligent in maintaining our distancing and wearing masks," and the Phantoms went the entire season without any Covid outbreaks.

The bond between the team's seniors was unbreakable, as 9 of the 11 seniors had played together since elementary school. The Phantoms were led by upperclassmen who became the backbone to their success. The starting varsity players were seniors Dylan New, (midfielder), Max Strunk and Ryan

Harth (defense), Nolan Martin (goalie), Ryan Gilleland and Jack Kelly (midfield), Bryan Maguire and Andrew Carranti (attack).

Coach Costello noted that the small 25 player roster meant the boys had to play for longer stretches on the field, resulting in fatigue. Nonetheless, the Phantoms had a strong start to their season winning three games straight against some of their rivals. The Phantoms fell to tough opponents like Spring-Ford and Perk Valley, but picked up other wins and experience along the way.

Senior Ryan Gilleland stated, "Despite our record, I'm quite proud of what our team achieved this season. A lot of the younger guys saw good time and became much better players because of it."

Through it all, the Phantoms rallied together to hold fundraisers to help their community and the program itself, which included cornhole tournaments and Easter egg drop offs. The boys attributed their success to their close knit team and strong coaching presence.

Senior Max Strunk said that he had "high expectations [because] we had a very experienced team" and was overall proud to play with his teammates once more. He stated that the Phantoms and seniors "were happy to have mostly a full season."

Gilleland added, "I'm gonna miss being able to share a locker room and the field with my teammates, especially my fellow seniors. Our group has been playing together for eight years, so knowing this is the last year we'll be playing together is tough."

The program will continue to grow in the coming years with about a dozen eighth graders set to join the team. While the seniors lead the Phantoms for the past four years, their impact will not be lost on the new upperclassmen and team members. The PAHS Boys Lacrosse coaches and players are excited for the next season, and are eager to get back out on the field and play together

Girls' Lacrosse: Another successful season



Written by:
Gloria Andrews

As spring came and went, the girls' lacrosse team kicked off the season with their heads rather than sticks held high. With the continued restrictions of Covid in mind, they had to not only play the best they could, but adapt to the not-so-new world of social distancing. Despite the restrictions of the season, the girls put forth a solid effort to net a successful season.

Coach Aamina Thornton was ready for anything regardless of this year's obstacles,

and she was confident her team would be too. This year marked Coach Thornton's ninth year as head coach of the lacrosse team. Working alongside assistant coaches Tequila Donnelly and Gretchen Krueger, they advised the girls to "compete and have a great time," according to Coach Thornton. The team was evidently ready to take that advice with them to the field. Though the season ended sooner than the team they may have hoped in Districts, it was still a great success. The team ended with an 8-2 PAC record and 9-6 overall. They made it to postseason, but lost 12-7 to Methacton.

With all of the restrictions Covid put forth, the seniors were rotated through the captain position. This year's Varsity team consisted of seniors Alana Lathan, Corine Federer, Andrea Hook, Nailah Green, Lucy O'Donnell, Kate Sims, and Christina Spasato;

juniors Maddy Schramm, Kathryn Jacketti, Aija Dunleavy, Ella Siaton, Gianna Thaxton, and Natalie White; sophomores Jaime Michaud, Hadley Mardis, Kira O'Donnell, Rachel Tuckman, Caroline Flick, and freshman Ella Ballow. This year's top three goal scorers were Lathan, Thaxton, and Michaud.

With the wise words of coach Thornton in mind, the season started off with a bang, scoring victories in the first few games with ease. Towards mid-season though, the team hit a bump in the road finishing with some close losses.

Junior goalie Maddy Schramm explained, "We got stuck in a bit of a plateau of not playing our best games." Coach Thornton found that one of the team's greatest strengths is their drive, especially as a team, so they quickly picked themselves up and got back to work.

The Lady Phantoms came back towards the end of the season with a major win against Upper Merion, who had been undefeated prior to the team's victory. With spirits high, the team was able to head to Districts, but the season ended with a loss to Methacton.

Though Covid restrictions put a strain on all normalcy, the team was still able to enjoy some yearly activities. They continued the tradition of the upperclassmen having an underclassmen 'little sister' with whom they share words of encouragement and little gifts to provide for some positive team bonding.

Senior Alana Lathan said, "One of my littles gave me a cape that I wore during

warmups that I considered a good luck charm for our win."

Unfortunately, the girls weren't able to participate in any outside activities or fundraisers because of Covid restrictions, but plan to resume next year.

The girls' lacrosse team evidently wouldn't let anything get in the way of a good season this year. They found triumph early on, and came right back from a rough patch. It was clear that the team was just eager to hit the field and play the best they possibly could.

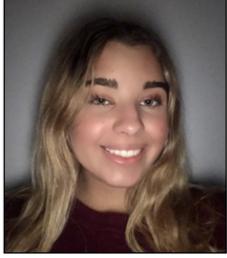


Junior **Ella Siaton** carefully guarding the opposing players.



Junior **Maddy Schramm** keeping the goal clear.

Softball: Frontier co-champions



Written by:
Riley Shillinger

This year the Phoenixville Softball team has endured a season of Covid, challenges, and adjustments, but came out swinging. Chloe Johns (senior), Hayden Perrone (senior), Kendall Brown (senior), and Alaina Woods (junior) took their leadership positions as captains and helped bring the team a record of 9-1 in the Frontier division (overall 12-4 for the regular season). The Lady Phantoms were crowned as co-champions of the league with Upper Perkiomen High School.

This was Coach Claire Emplit's third season



Senior and Captain **Hayden Perrone** preparing to take off to second base in the Phantoms Senior Night win over Upper Merion.
Photo: Phoenixville Softball Instagram account

game count. The girls also typically have a fundraiser at O'Grady's, but they were not able to do that this year. The girls did not let this problem derail them. Instead, they sold pies last winter which earned them money due to last year's season being cancelled.

The varsity softball team consisted of pitchers Courtney Gable (senior) and Arayana Ashlie (junior), catcher Alaina Woods (junior), first baseman Riley Daher (junior), second baseman Maddie Buckwalter (junior), shortstop Aubrie Breisblatt (senior), and third baseman Chloe Johns (senior). Playing left field was Emma Dempsey (senior), along with Hayden Perrone (senior) in center field, and Courtney Gable (senior) in right field. Kendall Brown (senior) was a DP/utility player and also pitched.

the team develop camaraderie and trust in one another. I [also] enjoyed watching them [celebrate] the big wins and celebrating them with the team."

Speaking of big wins, the Lady Phantoms were seeded 6th in the 5A District 1 playoff bracket. They won their first game against Chichester (10-0) and followed up with a close loss against Marple Newtown (4-3) to end their season.

Overall, the Phantoms softball team had an amazing season with an impressive record, a share of the league title, and a strong Districts run all during a pandemic. The team did a great job of supporting their teammates and making every game meaningful and memorable.

Coach Emplit said, "This has been a special season coming back after the Covid shut down. The girls gained an appreciation that every day matters and they went out to win every game. Even the losses brought a lesson that they could take with them."



Senior **Courtney Gable** mid-pitch, ready to strike out the batter.
Photo: Phoenixville Softball Instagram account

of coaching the Phoenixville Softball team, along with her three assistants, Abdul Madyun, Taylor Crown, and Jason DiBofsky. Coach Emplit commented on the difficulties of helping the team prepare for the season, saying, "Covid led us to start our season two weeks late, and we also didn't have the opportunity to have open practices in our hitting facility through the winter."

Covid certainly did not make the softball season schedule as easy as the past years. This year, a few of the games were cancelled or rescheduled due to other teams having Covid cases, but the Phantoms stayed Covid-free and made every

The Lady Phantoms had an extremely strong offense this year. Coach Emplit said, "Courtney Gable had five home runs this season [and] the girls were able to string together hits in big games leading to key wins." The team had some strong returning players on the varsity team as well as some younger up and coming players that will continue the competitiveness of the program. The girls pulled off an impressive season, which included beating Perkiomen Valley for the first time in 13 years, and had only one loss in the Frontier division (to Upper Perkiomen).

Both Perrone and Johns agreed that the team's best achievement this year was beating Upper Perk at their home field, 7-3. Johns commented, "It was the first time we had beaten them in my four years here and they're our division rival, so the win was extra special."

Coach Emplit added, "I enjoyed watching



Senior and captain **Chloe Johns** gets ready to launch the ball to first from third base.
Photo: LifeTouch

Phantom Baseball: Frontier champs



Written by:
Eli Stevenson

2020 and 2021 have been strange years full of ups and downs. This has been the case for most people, including high school sports teams. Due to Covid, most seasons in the fall and winter were shortened or started late, with less time to practice and play, and spring sports was no exception. However, one team that overcame those obstacles to have a spectacular season was the Phantoms Baseball team, as they won the Frontier division and made a run in the District playoffs.

The team is a group of amazing players and coaches. Head coach Geoff Thomas was hired in 2019 and the assistant coaches he works with are Todd Endy, Ian Frain, Doc Kennedy, John Vondercrone, Erik Rutchauskas, Nestor Acosta, Scott Smiley, Jack Sturgeon, and Dave Clarke. According to Thomas, his assistants



Senior **Mike Memmo** firing heat from the mound.

really helped to get the players to understand and practice the game well.

Senior JJ Allen said the best advice from his coaches was, "No matter what the situation is, just play with class... That was our goal in every game."

Throughout the season, Covid had a big impact on the team's productivity. According

to the team's Coach Thomas, "First and foremost, the entire year was focused on making sure our student athletes and coaches were healthy and safe. We were limited to a shortened fall season, a shortened winter season with small group workouts, and we were pushed back two weeks for our regular season. We improvised and did our best. It was a challenge, but we were able to play baseball and get back to a routine."

The Phantoms had a terrific season with a 12-4 record in the PAC, and went 9-1 to win the Frontier division. Coach Thomas remarked, "I knew that we had a

Hayden Mayhall, Kade Breisblatt, Jason Bilotti, Dallas Maloney, James Potuznik, and sophomores Hudson Narke, and Dylan Antonini.

The captains of the team were Bilotti, Allen, and Geiger. According to Geiger, the Phantoms had a great season, "The best achievements our team accomplished this year was winning the frontier division and getting a 4 seed in the District's playoffs and getting a first round bye." Unfortunately, the Phantoms lost their first District game to Marple Newtown in the District playoffs. They only played five innings due to rain and lighting and lost 3-2.

Pushing as a team and staying connected during a difficult time, the baseball team was able to win 12 season games and win the Frontier division, wrapping up a great season. Coach Thomas said, "I enjoyed spending each and every day of the spring with our amazing student athletes of Phantom Baseball. I am honored and blessed to coach these great guys."

very strong pitching staff and I expected to compete in all of our games and have great success in the PAC. We are a big rival with Spring-Ford. We beat them 5 to 2 [and finished] 3-3 in the Liberty division."

The starting pitchers included seniors Jason Bilotti, Kade Breisblatt, and Mike Memmo, as well as junior Drew Kingsbury. Relief pitchers included sophomores Hudson Narke, Dylan Antonini, Avery Schwartz, and senior Cameron Schiele. The catchers were seniors Justin Geiger and JJ Allen. At first base players were Schwartz, Kingsbury, Schiele, and senior Riley Collins.

At second base were sophomore Luke Seldes, and senior Tom Zink; shortstop was manned by senior Antonio Valenteen, while seniors Memmo and Geiger saw action at third base. Outfielders were seniors Tom Davis,



Senior **JJ Allen** was a steady force behind the plate for the Phantoms.

Phoenixville High School Baseball 5/14/21 Final

14

0

FRONTIER DIVISION CHAMPIONS!

The Phantoms were successful in winning the Frontier Division of the PAC.



Spring track 2021: A season to remember



Written by:
Caleb Pearl

Covid really hit schools hard, especially on the sports front. Thankfully, COVID-safe procedures were implemented so all sports were able to have their seasons, and track was no exception. The Phantoms were excited to get back together after having no season last year. Head Coach Justin Winters said, "The goal was to re-establish Phoenixville track and field after a lost season." But they did much more than that.

Initially, the expectations for this season weren't too high, as Covid really affected the team with the added precautions and reduced schedule. But despite that, captain Madison O'Neill said, "In years past our event groups were often separated, but this year we were



Madison O'Neill (right) - anchor of the women's 4 x 1600 meter relay - who broke a 17 year school record.
Photo courtesy of Coach Winters

able to be together as an entire team. It allowed us to be more supportive than ever for each other than in years past."

Captain McKenzie Hodges said, "I thought it would never be as good as past seasons, not to mention all the new rules I wasn't super excited for," but she also added, "I could never have been so wrong."

To foster team growth and spirit, Coach Winters set up an alternate session called "Breaking

Midnight." The track and field team would compete against themselves in order to not only train, but also bond as a group and evaluate everyone's strengths and weaknesses.

According to Coach Winters, the best strength they had this year was balance and unity. He said, "Often, teams have just a couple things they can hang their hat on. We've had a super balanced team this year," and that "made us difficult to beat and kept us in every meet."

And their excitement really showed. The Phantoms won four out of five meets, getting a good overall second place to rival Upper Perkiomen.

"They did an amazing job. Their energy, enthusiasm and optimism kept me going and gave me the courage to try new things," Coach Winters said.

On April 29th, Phoenixville had an outstanding win against Upper Perkiomen, 101-46. With the help of junior McKenzie

Hodges' "undefeated triple jump," along with winning 4x100, 4x400, and 4x800, the team was the best all around.

On the 13th of May, the Phantoms had another amazing win, defeating Pottstown 86-53. Thanks to Kris Grinstead's long jump (18-09), and triple jump (38-11), Phoenixville pulled ahead. Owen Koch won the 100 and 200 with some incredible speed. The shot put team, including freshman star Aidan Roche, also got some amazing points in.

And three days later on the 16th of May, Phoenixville won again against Pottstown, 110-20. again, junior McKenzie Hodges won the long jump, 15-11, while year Glidera Garner won the triple jump, 29-05.75. Phoenixville was also very quick that day, winning the 4x100 and 4x800.

Another highlight of the season was the setting of a new school record, one that hadn't been broken in 17 years, in the 4 x 1600 meter relay during a Breaking Midnight event.

Coach Winters said, "Madison O'Neill - our captain, leader and tone setter - was the anchor, but they all did an amazing job - Anna Carruthers (freshman), Alyssa Cunningham (sophomore), and Griane Reed (junior). The record was 17 years and old and they beat it by almost 40 seconds (22:53). It was just a magical night that really brought the team together."

Not surprisingly, the captains tell plenty about Coach Winters' supportive attitude: "Mr. Winter's favorite thing was to "branch out. Meaning, run and talk to someone you don't usually run and talk to. This was the main thing that allowed our team to become a team" O'Neill said.

The 2021 track year went very well, and there is a good chance it will be even better next year. With no more Covid, and more time together, you can bet the track team will be ready for regular competition next year.



Coach Justin Winters leading the Phantoms Track team to a victory.
Photo: LifeTouch

Phoenixville Boys' Tennis: PAC Champions



Written by:
Nadya Dato

"Great kids, excellent students, amazing friends and fierce competitors" — that is how the PAHS boys' tennis coach, Ricardo Saad, describes this year's record breaking team. With a record of 11-1, the Phantoms had a marvelous year culminating with a satisfying win of the PAC10.

This year, the tennis team was composed of a majority of seniors. Coach Saad describes them as "excellent and energetic players." Due to the seniors' experience, and the guidance of Coach Saad and Assistant Coach Abriana Nolan, this year's tennis team thrived despite the unprecedented conditions



You can't stop Varsity Captain and #1 singles player **Josh Starczewski**.

brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Without the exceptional instruction of fourth year Head Coach Ricardo Saad, this decisive PAC victory would not have been possible. Ever humble, Coach Saad explained that the victory of the tennis team was self-granted by the players themselves.

He said, "The team's strength was a power-

ful sense of belonging and representation. When they were competing, I was always reminding them that they were representing their town, their society, their school, their family, their coach and themselves. And they fought quite hard."

The tennis team, in a relentless effort to bring home a win for Phoenixville, dedicated their weekends to additional training to help notch key wins against rivals Perkiomen Valley, Spring-Ford, and Methacton.

The varsity squad was made up of all seniors, with Josh Starczewski at first singles, Nico Rambla at second singles, and David Clipper playing third singles. The doubles lineup included Anthony Deluca & Oliver Gordon at first, Dylan Gheris & Dylan Eliason at second, Gavin Perillo & Brendan Flick manning third, and Lyla Eaton & Brandon Benkler playing fourth. Senior Braden Mahar and junior Luca Butera also saw time in the varsity doubles lineup.

Coach Saad explained the Spring-Ford and Perkiomen Valley victories: "Our varsity defeated Spring-Ford when our #2 doubles was unable to play due to Covid exposure. We placed Bradan Mahar, from junior varsity, in and we won. When we played against Perkiomen Valley, our #3 singles had exposure to Covid and was replaced by Luca

Butera, another junior varsity player. We also won."

Team Captain Josh Starczewski reflected upon the team's intense match against Spring-Ford: "We were both 7-0 and whichever team won was essentially guaranteed to win the championship. We have a very long standing rivalry with them so winning an away match against Spring-Ford was an unbelievable feat."

While winning the championship was an incredible achievement, that is not the only thing the boys are proud of, for they remained undefeated this entire year until Districts where they fell to Downingtown East.

Starczewski said, "[Being undefeated] was one of the team's greatest achievements." While he personally had very high expectations of the team because of how much time they had worked together before the season started, he still felt a great sense of pride in accomplishing this major goal.

In addition to the whole varsity squad, the Phantoms will also be missing eleven seniors from the junior varsity team next year: John Daly, Robert Edney, Kellen Narke, Owen Westerfer, Paul Grosso, Jonathan Witcoski, Tyler Grover, Jackson Schultz, Ryan Herbs, Karl Terstappen and Zeke Daniels.

Coach Saad remains grateful for these players' hard work and dedication this year: "We had excellent players that were seniors and stayed playing in JV. And they were almost as good as the varsity players. These good competitors didn't have the chance to play varsity and their level was high. I'll dearly miss them all."

Although the team will be losing these talented seniors from junior varsity, the team has great potential for the future to be competitive and strong next year, Coach Saad said he hopes to reinvent a team from junior varsity with a bond between the players that was as strong as this year's, and to continue their legacy of hard work next spring, with more championships to come.



Coach Ricardo Saad congratulating the team after a win.



→ SENIOR PLANS ←



ABELL, KASEY MARIE
 ABSHER, ANNE PAIGE
 ACEVES, SALVADOR
 ALLAIN, WILLIAM PAUL
 ALLEN, JOHN JOSEPH
 ALVARADO MANUEL, ANDERSON
 ABIMAEAL
 ALVARADO QUINONES, RODOLFO
 AQUARO, ANNABELLE MARIE
 ARMOUR, KORIE
 ARRANZ, ANA CARMEN
 BATCHU, RONIT
 BATZEL, ANDREW BLAINE
 BAUTISTA DIAZ, MARVIN
 ANIBAL
 BEATTY, MORGAN JENSEN
 BECKER, SAMANTHA PAIGE
 BELLO, ABIGAIL GRACE
 BELLO, JAKE ALBERT
 BELLO, KYLE PHILIP
 BILOTTI, JASON JOHN
 BITTNER, EMILY ANN
 BODO, LENCI ELIZABETH
 BREISBLATT, AUBRIE DEANNA
 BREISBLATT, KADE PHILLIP
 BROPHY, MATTHEW QUINN
 BROSTOWICZ, KELLY CHEN
 BROWN, KENDALL CAROLINE
 BRUTSCHE, JACKSON PATRICK
 BUTERA, JANE ISABELLE
 CAHILL, CASSIDY GRACE
 CAMPBELL, LEILU VALENZUELA
 CARDONA SALGUERO, DANIEL AL-FONSO
 CARRANTI, ANDREW JAMES
 CARVER, COREY RYAN
 CASADAY, EVELYN MAE
 CASTANON-SALAZAR, WILSON JOSUE
 CASTELLÓN ARGUETA, JOSE DANIEL
 CHAMPAGNE-LEE, JULIEN ELIJA
 CHAVEZ LOPEZ, MARIA CRISTINA
 CHEN, HAOHUA
 CHIPONIS, GIANNA YOSSELIN
 CHRIEPTO, ERIN ELIZABETH
 CIRINO, HEATHER NOELLE
 CLIPPER, DAVID BERKELEY
 COCKERHAM, GAVIN J
 COLLINS, RILEY RICHARD
 COONRADT, AVA CLAIRE
 CORRENTI, LAUREN ALEXANDRA
 COWAN, MOLLY ANNE
 CRAWFORD, TAYLOR JOANNA
 DALY, JOHN GERARD
 DANIELS, EZEKIEL DILLON
 DAVIS, THOMAS MICHAEL
 DE AMORIM, ANABEL ARIANE
 DELAGARZA, RYLEE SUZANE
 DELUCA, ANTHONY JOSEPH
 DELUCA, JOSEPH WILLIAM
 DEMEY, ALEXIS GRACE
 DEMPSEY, EMMA NICOLE
 DESIMONE, EYVAN MATHEW
 DIAZ MENDOZA, ANGEL ROLANDO
 DIAZ, DIANA ROSE
 DIBOFSKY, CHELSEA MARA
 DIETRICH, CHRISTOPHER GABRIEL
 DIETRICH, KATHRYN OLIVIA
 DILISSIO, MADISON JANE
 DISE, JULLIANA MARIE
 DISE-CARRANZA, GRAZZIA ISABELLA
 DOLAN, NICHOLAS MICHAEL
 DOONAN, WENDY THERESA
 DUFFY, ANGUS RONAN
 EATON, LUKA PAUL
 EDES, NICHOLAS WILLIAM
 EDES, THOMAS EDWARD
 EDNEY, ROBERT WILLIAM
 ELIASSON, DYLAN WILLIAM
 ESTEBAN CRUZ, HEMYLI NOHEMY
 FEDERER, CORINE GENEVIEVE
 FERRETTI, LAUREN SHAINA
 FIELD, ELLA CECELIA
 FILIPOVSKI, SARA
 FLICK, BRENDAN CHRISTOPHE
 FLORES PALUX, CARLOS RAUL
 FOERSTER, PHOEBE FAHY
 FOLEY, AIDAN THOMAS
 FORSS, BAILEY ROSE
 FOSBENNER, LAURYN ALEXIS
 GABLE, COURTNEY ROSE
 GARCIA, HIZAMAR YANDARI
 GARWOOD, AIDAN MICHAEL
 GARZA FUENTES, KELER AMILCAR
 GASSER, ERYN REILLY
 GEHRIS, DYLAN CHRISTOPHE
 GEIGER, JUSTIN CHARLES
 GERNER, ANNA ELISABETH
 GERNER, ROSA CAROLINE
 GIARDINA, CHRISTOPHER FRANK
 GILLELAND, RYAN PATRICK

Saint Joseph's University
 Pennsylvania State University-Main Campus
 Employed
 Ursinus College
 University of Delaware
 Employed
 Employed
 Unknown
 Unknown
 Temple University
 Carnegie Mellon University
 Employed
 Employed
 Pennsylvania State University-Main Campus
 Unknown
 Unknown
 Temple University
 Carnegie Mellon University
 Employed
 Employed
 Pennsylvania State University-Main Campus
 Unknown
 Unknown
 Employed
 Employed
 Unknown
 Ohio State University-Main Campus
 Montgomery County Community College
 University of Pittsburgh-Pittsburgh Campus
 Neumann University
 Frederick Community College
 Pennsylvania State University-Main Campus
 Pennsylvania State University-Penn State Altoona
 University of Pittsburgh-Pittsburgh Campus
 The University of Alabama
 Northwestern University
 University of Delaware
 Pennsylvania State University-Penn State Brandywine
 Pennsylvania State University-Main Campus
 Stevens Institute of Technology
 Montgomery County Community College
 New York University
 Unknown
 Unknown
 American University
 Employed
 University of Massachusetts-Amherst
 Unknown
 Montgomery County Community College
 University of Maryland-College Park
 Pennsylvania State University-Main Campus
 Universal Technical Institute
 Pennsylvania College of Technology
 Unknown
 University of California-Los Angeles
 University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
 Saint Joseph's University
 University of Colorado Boulder
 Millersville University of Pennsylvania
 Unknown
 Unknown
 Unknown
 Indiana University-Bloomington
 Pennsylvania State University-Main Campus
 West Chester University of Pennsylvania
 The University of Tennessee-Knoxville
 Unknown
 Employed
 Employed
 West Chester University of Pennsylvania
 Unknown
 Ursinus College
 Montgomery County Community College
 Employed
 Saint Joseph's University
 Employed
 University of Scranton
 Rochester Institute of Technology
 Rochester Institute of Technology
 Employed
 Employed
 University of Pittsburgh-Pittsburgh Campus
 Liberty University
 Employed
 University of Delaware
 The University of Tampa
 The University of Alabama
 California Polytechnic State University-San Luis Obispo
 Pennsylvania State University-Main Campus
 Employed
 Pennsylvania State University-Main Campus
 Unknown
 Unknown
 Kutztown University of Pennsylvania
 East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania
 Unknown
 Unknown
 Employed
 West Chester University of Pennsylvania
 West Chester University of Pennsylvania
 Chestnut Hill College
 Colby College
 Northwestern University
 West Chester University of Pennsylvania
 Vassar College



GOLBERG, JOCELYN SARA
 GONZALEZ, NAYLA LIZBETH
 GORDON, OLIVER WOLF
 GRAMMERSTORF, ALEXA BROOKE
 GRAY, DANIEL JAMAL
 GREEN, NAILAH
 GREENE, BROOKLIN NYCOLE
 GRINSTEAD-WIGGINS, KRISTOPHER LEE
 GROSSO, PAUL JOSEPH
 GROVER, TYLER KENDALL
 GROVES, PHOEBE ROBERTA
 HADFIELD, SEAN DAVID
 HAHN, MOLLY ROSE
 HARTH, RYAN MICHAEL
 HATHAWAY, AIDAN JAMES
 HAWKINS, JANTZEN ELIZABETH
 HECK, JADEN DARIE
 HEILES, JONATHAN AARON
 HERBST, RYAN ANDREW
 HERRMANN, CHRISTOPHER JAMES
 HERZOG, KAIA LEE
 HESSE, CONNOR ROBERT
 HIHI, LUKE
 HILL, LARIAH MARIE
 HIMES-BERNAT, SARA ROSE
 HOFFMAN, QUINNLAN ALEXANDER
 HOFFSIS, HOLDEN ROBERT
 HOMA, CAITLYN MARIE
 HOMA, CORINNE NICOLE
 HOOK, ANDREA GRACE
 HOPKINS, ELLA KATHRYN
 HOWSON, ZACKERY BENJAMIN
 HUDSON-IRIZARRY, AIDEN ELLIOT
 HUSSIN, JACKSON GATEWOOD
 HUYNH, DANIEL LE
 JACKSON, JASMINE NICOLE
 JENSEN, JESSICA NORA
 JODRY, PAULINE KATHRYN
 JOHNS, CHLOE ALEXIS
 KANE, LILLIAN DOROTHY
 KELLY, CATHERINE GRACE
 KELLY, JACK WILLIAM
 KETTELE, HANNAH LOVE
 KLEPPE, CARSON GRANT
 KOLB, ELIZABETH JADE CHAN
 KOVACH, THOMAS ALEXANDER
 KRAMER, JACK WALTER
 KRAMER, KATHERINE GRACE
 LABIK, AVA MARY
 LAGODZINSKI, KATARINA LUCYNA
 LAGODZINSKI, ROBERT SEWERYN
 LATHAN, ALANA REED
 LAYNE, PATRICK JAMES
 LE, TU VAN
 LEININGER, DYLAN JAMES
 LEWANDOWSKI, RAYMOND CHARLES
 LIETO, ANINA FIORE
 LITTLETON, CIARA ROISIN
 LORENZON, VINCENT EMIL
 MACKEY, BROOKLYN NICOLE
 MAGUIRE, BRYAN EMMETT
 MAHAR, BRADEN PATRICK
 MALONEY, DALLAS J
 MANGIALARDI, KILEY MARIE
 MARTIELLI, TESSA JEANINE
 MARTIN, ELIJAH RAYMOND
 MARTIN, NOLAN WILLIAM
 MARTINEZ, SAMANTHA LISETH
 MARTINEZ-GUEVARA, RAUL
 MAURICIO, ELSIAS ISAAC
 MAYHALL, HAYDEN JAMES
 MAYINJA, MAKENA AIMEE
 MCADAM, LIAM WOODRUFF JACK
 MCCARTHY, SARAH
 MCDONNELL, PEYTON REECE
 MCMINN, MAX TYLER
 MCNULTY, SEAN ANTHONY
 MCSHANE, ALEXANDER WILLIAM
 MEANEY, JULIE CELESTE
 MEMMO, MICHAEL THOMAS
 MENDEZ ALVAREZ, LUIS MIGUEL
 MENDEZ NIZ, MEDALIN ERMINIA
 MERCER, CAROLINE ELIZABETH
 MEYER, RYAN HARRISON
 MITCHELL, PEYTON JAMES
 MOCHNALY, KERRI ELIZABETH

Stetson University
 Montgomery County Community College
 Colgate University
 Palm Beach Atlantic University
 Bowie State University
 Lock Haven University
 Pennsylvania College of Art and Design
 Hampton University
 Temple University
 Drexel University
 Pace University, Westchester Campus
 Indiana University of Pennsylvania-Main Campus
 James Madison University
 Michigan State University
 Unknown
 Employed
 West Chester University of Pennsylvania
 Lehigh University
 Unknown
 The University of Tampa
 University of Colorado Denver (UC Denver)
 McGill University
 Montgomery County Community College
 Unknown
 Employed
 Unknown
 Delaware County Community College
 Millersville University of Pennsylvania
 Ursinus College
 Pennsylvania State University-Penn State Altoona
 US Army
 Employed
 Colorado College
 University of Virginia-Main Campus
 Drexel University
 Montgomery County Community College
 Millersville University of Pennsylvania
 Saint Joseph's University
 Pace University
 Duquesne University
 University of Delaware
 Liberty University
 Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
 Kutztown University of Pennsylvania
 Unknown
 West Chester University of Pennsylvania
 West Chester University of Pennsylvania
 Worcester Polytechnic Institute
 University of Dayton
 Montgomery County Community College
 George Mason University
 Unknown
 Montgomery County Community College
 Employed
 Unknown
 Unknown
 Employed
 Employed
 Massage Therapy School
 Marymount University
 Rochester Institute of Technology
 Pennsylvania College of Technology
 Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania
 Unknown
 Montgomery County Community College
 Post University
 Unknown
 Employed
 Unknown
 Villanova University
 Babson College
 Unknown
 Northeastern University
 American University
 College of William and Mary
 Employed
 Temple University
 High Point University
 York College of Pennsylvania
 Employed
 Employed
 Miami University-Oxford
 AmeriCorps
 US Marine Corps
 Drexel University





→ SENIOR PLANS ←



MOFUNANYA RAMOS, JARLY IKECHUCWU	Unknown
MOFUNANYA RAMOS, JEREMY PRINCE	Employed
MOORE, DEONCIA FAITH	Neumann University
MULDROW, MAXWELL MCKINLEY	Montgomery County Community College
MULLER, SAVANNA LEIGH	Montgomery County Community College
MURPHY, COLIN CHRISTOPHER	Cornell University
NARKE, KELLEN THOMAS	University of Virginia-Main Campus
NEW, DYLAN JAMES	Susquehanna University
NIZ PEREZ, HANIA SOEMIA	Unknown
NOECKER, VIOLET AUDREY	Empire Beauty School - Reading
NOWAK, SULLIVAN JILL	West Chester University of Pennsylvania
O'DONNELL, LUCY VERONICA	Pennsylvania State University-Main Campus
O'MEACHAM, ANA BRYNNE	Unknown
O'NEILL, MADISON TRISTA	Ohio State University-Main Campus
ODEMIS, ONUR REHA	Drexel University
OLSEN, ZACHARY RYAN	Ursinus College
ORSATTI, JARED WILLIAM	James Madison University
ORTLIP, ARIANA KOREN	Coastal Carolina University
OSCAR, HANNAH KATHLEEN	University of Pittsburgh-Pittsburgh Campus
OSCOVITCH, LUKE EVERETT	West Chester University of Pennsylvania
PAPPAS, ERINI CHRISTINA	Fairfield University
PAPPAS, GEORGE	West Chester University of Pennsylvania
DEMETRIOS	
PAPPAS, PENELOPE ELENI	Northeastern University
PATRICK, SEMAJ ALEXIS	LIM College
PATTERSON, ALTIMA DIAMANTE	Employed
PECHACEK, MITCHELL JAMES	Unknown
PELZER, ISAAH NERI	Indiana University of Pennsylvania-Main Campus
PERILLO, GAVIN CHRISTOPHER	Pennsylvania State University-Main Campus
PERRONE, HAYDEN ROSE	Pennsylvania State University-Main Campus
PERROTTO, ALEXANDRA GRACE	University of Maryland-College Park
PONTIN, TIMOTHY RICHARD	West Chester University of Pennsylvania
POTUZNICK, JAMES PETER	Duquesne University
POWELL, SEAN JOSEPH	West Chester University of Pennsylvania
PRATTE, BENJAMIN THOREAU	Florida State University
PULEO, ANNA TESS	Louisiana State University
RAMIREZ LOPEZ, JAIR DE JESUS	Employed
RANGAPPAGARI, NIKHIL VENKATA	University of Maryland-College Park
RAYSOR, BRIAN JAMES	Employed
REIMAN, HALEE AVA	University of Pittsburgh-Pittsburgh Campus
REO, SOPHIA ROSE	West Chester University of Pennsylvania
RESUTA, KYLE JOSEPH	Indiana University-Bloomington
RILEY, EMMA JANE	Pennsylvania State University-Main Campus
RITTER, SARAH GRACE	Arcadia University
RIVERA, PAOLA STEFFANY	Employed
ROGACKI, JACOB STEPHEN	Arcadia University
ROMANO, ELIJAH HENRY	Montgomery County Community College
ROMERO MANCHAME, ORLIN NEFTALY	Employed
ROMNEY, BENJAMIN THOMAS	Harrisburg University of Science and Technology
SABO, MATTHEW RYAN	University of Maryland-College Park
SAKOWSKI, CATHERINE JANE	Unknown
SANCHEZ BARAHONA, SANTIAGO	
SANCHEZ, RICARDO	2 year college
SANCHEZ-GOVEA, JESSIE	Delaware County Community College
SAYLOR, KATYA IRA	Unknown
SCHIELE, CAMERON DADE	Unknown
SCHLAG, MATTIAS GUSTAV	Utah State University
SCHLOSMAN, COURTNEY ANNE	Montgomery County Community College
SCHLOSSER, COLE TIMOTHY	The University of Alabama
SCHULTZ, JACKSON DONALD	Kutztown University of Pennsylvania
SCHULZ, ELIZABETH ANN	Towson University
SCHWARTZ, CAROLINE ALLYSANDRA	University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
SELDES, SAVANNA LEIGH	Palm Beach Atlantic University
SHILLINGER, MICHAELA ANNE	Pennsylvania State University-Penn State Altoona
SHILLINGER, RILEY TARYN	Pennsylvania State University-Main Campus
SIEFERT, ANDREW RICHARD	Unknown
SILVA BARRIOS, JESUS ANTONIO	Employed
SIMAJ LOPEZ, KAREN DANIELA	Montgomery County Community College
SIMMONS, AALIYAH LASHON	Unknown
SIMS, KATHRYN ANN	The University of Tennessee-Knoxville
SIMS, MATTHEW EVERETT	Indiana University-Bloomington
SKOMSKY, EMMA KATHYRN	James Madison University
SKOMSKY, ERIN ELIZABETH	University of Pittsburgh-Pittsburgh Campus
SMITH, BENJAMIN JOSEPH	Minnesota State University-Mankato
SMITH, ETHAN LAWRENCE	Unknown
SMITH, SEAN CHRISTOPHER MA	Unknown
SMITH, SKYLAR JANE	Montgomery County Community College
SOUSA, HEMILLY BRITO	Employed
SPIVEY, MARCUS TYRONE	Montgomery County Community College
SPOSATO, CHRISTINA ANN	University of Delaware
SPRINGER, SEAN PATRICK	University of Pittsburgh-Pittsburgh Campus
STARCZEWSKI, JOSHUA JOHN	University of Maryland-College Park
STERRITT, GEENA MARIE	Edinboro University of Pennsylvania
STOUT, EVAN BAO NGUYEN	Pennsylvania State University-Main Campus
STRAFACE, JULIANA ROSE	Temple University
STRUNK, LIAM MAXIMUS	The University of Tampa
SWOMLEY, OCEAN MARIE	West Chester University of Pennsylvania
TAGUE, JOSHUA MICHAEL	Unknown
TARQUINI, HANNAH BARBARA ESTHER	Jefferson (Philadelphia University + Thomas Jefferson University)
TERSTAPPEN, KARL PHILIP	Montgomery County Community College
TEZAK, ALLISON KATHRYN	Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
THOMAS, ZHIYA YASMINE	Pennsylvania College of Technology
TILLOTSON, MICHAEL DUGAN	Employed
TRACY, JAKE DANIEL	Employed Delaware County Community College



TRAN, NOELLE TUYET LIEN	University of St Andrews
LEE	
TULLOS, TABITHA GRACE	Employed
TURUNEN, LINDSEY ANN	Michigan State University
VALENTEEN, ANTONIO JOSEPH	Pennsylvania College of Technology
VARADY, JOSEPH COSMOS	Immaculata University
VELASQUEZ ROMERO, ANYE-LOW VINICIO	Employed
VILLEGAS-RIVAS, DOUGLAS ALEXANDER	US Army
WALDMAN, AMY ELIZABETH	Montgomery County Community College
WALLECE, MATTHEW TODD	Pennsylvania State University-Main Campus
WALTERS, AIDAN JEREMY	Unknown
WANDOVER, HENRY ELI	Bard College
WARREN, JOSHUA ANDREW	Employed
WEIAH, MILTON ISAAH	Montgomery County Community College
WEIL, FREDERICH DONALD	Employed
WEISS, REGINA ELIZABETH	Employed
WELLNER, ARIA JULIE	Jefferson (Philadelphia University + Thomas Jefferson University)
WELSH, MARGRET DOLORES	Montgomery County Community College
WESTERFER, EMILY LOUISE	West Chester University of Pennsylvania
WESTERFER, OWEN MICHAEL	Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania
WILKERSON, DAKOTA LANE	Employed
WILSON, ISAAH JAMIL	West Chester University of Pennsylvania
WINEBURG, ROBERT JOSEPH	US Army
WITCOSKI, JONATHAN BAKER	Susquehanna University
WOODALL, ELOISE PAIGE	University of South Carolina-Columbia
WRIGHT-THOMAS, JADIAN DA'OU	Pennsylvania State University-Penn State Brandywine
WYSOCKI, ALLYSON MARIE	Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania
XU, XANDRO TIANYUN	University of Pennsylvania
ZINK, THOMAS ALBERT	West Chester University of Pennsylvania



The Purple Press Senior Farewells

Ray Lewandowski

Well, I'll be entirely honest with you here. Did I only take one year of journalism, compared to my three years of TV class - Yes. Did I enjoy both of them in equal measure - Also yes. Now not only did I have an absolute blast writing what I did (mostly), I also gained a newfound respect for writing about what I want to, how I want to. It's a lot different than being told how and what to write about in English class, and I am ashamed I couldn't squeeze in another year or two with it. Well, that about sums it up. As Arnold Schwarzenegger once said, "Hasta la vista, baby."

Max McMinn

Back in 8th grade while departing middle school, my 6th grade social studies teacher, Mr. Maggs, advised me to do three things in high school; stay informed, join Model UN and write for the Purple Press. After fulfilling the other two, I finally joined the Purple Press staff during my junior year. Thank you Mr. Zittel for helping me become a better writer and for all the fun that goes into making an issue. I would also like to thank all my teachers, for better or for worse, you made me who I am today. Shoutout to David Nguyen. I will miss you all. See you, space cowboy.

Eryn Gasser

Since freshman year I have always wanted to write for the Purple Press, and I am so grateful I had the chance to this year. Not only was I able to write about things that interest me, but I gained experience and range as a writer. I wish I could write for the Purple Press for much longer, but alas my graduation prevents it. I would like to give thanks to Mr. Zittel for improving my skills and making journalism a class I will never forget, to Halee Reiman and Sullivan Nowak for showing me the fun in writing with friends, and to Zachary Rosenfeld who was always the biggest fan of my articles. I cannot wait to write in future newspapers :)

Chloe Johns

As my time at Phoenixville Area High School comes to a close I just want to thank everyone who's been by my side throughout my time here. Thank you to my friends, my teachers, and my family. It may not have been a typical "four years" of high school but I still had a great "high school experience" that I wouldn't trade for the world. Oh and also the Sixers are winning the championship this year!

Alex Duffy

"High school was always going to suck somehow, but I'm glad that PAHS made it suck way less than it would've anywhere else. Big thanks to my friends, my classmates, and my teachers. Birds aren't real."

Penelope Pappas

"Time flies! Couldn't be more grateful to have spent the last four surrounded by some of the most amazing peers and teachers. High school sucks!! But I wouldn't trade my experience at Phoenixville for the world. Thank you all for the best years. I'll always love you, Pville <3"

Katie Kramer

"I would like to thank all of my teachers I've had in the past for a wonderful experience. Even though I've hardly stepped in the building this year, I shall wish you farewell in spirit!"

Savanna Muller

"Being in Journalism for the past two years was one of the best decisions I made in high school. This was hands down the most fun class I ever took and it made me a more open-minded person. As a high school journalist you're not only looking at high school news, but what's happening in your community and what's happening in our country and world. Although I may have missed a few deadlines (sorry Mr. Zittel for the procrastination), I am more than happy to be a contributor to The Purple Press. I will miss this class, our parties, the whole atmosphere, and definitely the best journalism teacher (Mr. Zittel is buff). Thank you Mr. Zittel for making this class as fun as possible and to my fellow writers for making the best out of every issue we produced. I will deeply miss this class and I recommend anyone reading this to sign up for Journalism!!!!"

Riley Shillinger

Thanks for all the memories. Goodbye and good riddance (j/k).

Halee Reiman

"I am so happy that I was able to write for the Purple Press my senior year! Thanks to all my friends who read my articles every issue, specifically Eryn Gasser and Katy Dietrich. Thanks for everything and have a good summer :)"

Tessa Martielli

"I have loved the paper since I was interviewed in freshman year. Though this was my first and last year in journalism, I'm so grateful to have had this experience. Even in a virtual setting, the class was always entertaining. Anyways, thank you, and Jocelyn: you better solve the riddles next year."

Ariana Ortlip

"Freshman me was always excited to spend senior year with my same group of friends, go to all these school events, and get the worst senioritis. With the whole pandemic it really changed my whole perspective in life. It for sure did some damage to my senior year, but it also taught me to never take anything for granted during a hard time like this. The four years of high school change people. I've grown closer to people, but also grew apart from a lot of people I called my best friends and I learned that's okay. I'm so grateful for all the teachers I've had in my lifetime that each taught me something new, not just for educational purposes but also about life. Graduation is gonna be a sad day, but I'm excited to start a new chapter of my life."

Isabelle Butera

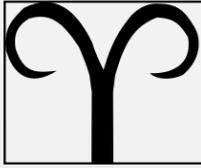
A huge thanks to Mr. Zittel for putting up with my political rantings and inability to understand How to use Capitalization. Thank you to my teachers and classmates at PAHS; for better or worse, the past four years were a unique experience I won't forget.

WRITTEN BY: Riley Shillinger & Halee Reiman

ARIES: (March 21 - April 19)

As Mars moves farther away from your star chart, your luck will begin to run out. This month will not be the best for you. Every time you speak you will address the person you are talking to as Mom or Dad. You will begin to break out all over your face with pimples the size of Jupiter and no cleanser will work. Be careful of where you step, because this month every time you go for a walk on the beach, you will likely step in dog poop and ruin your brand new shoes.

This month: Scream a Jonas Brother/One Direction mash up at the beach during Senior Week.



LIBRA: (September 23 - October 22)

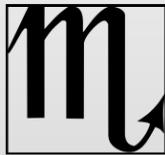
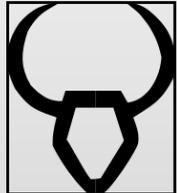
This month, Arcturus, the brightest star in the northern hemisphere, has re-entered your star chart so this will be a fantastic month for you! As long as you shout "basil" three times before every test you will get an A+ on all of your assignments. Pay close attention to your dreams this month, as one of them is bound to come true. When you go to the grocery store this month, you will encounter a mysterious figure who will be able to answer any three questions about the history of potato glass.

This month: Put an aloe plant under your pillow six nights before graduation (trust me).

TAURUS: (April 20 - May 20)

As Saturn moves closer toward your star chart, your month will be filled with good luck. YAY! Because of your good grades, your parents will decide to buy the family a little yellow lab puppy. In a couple months you will be invited to go to the Bahamas for a little vacation along with your friends' family. Expect a raise at work for all the hard work you have been putting in, along with a cake your boss made just for you.

This month: At graduation, look out for something purple and polka dotted.



SCORPIO: (October 23 - November 21)

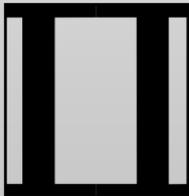
The stars are aligning in a perfect formation to look exactly like the "Starry Night" Painting by Vincent van Gogh. Lucky you, this will be a fantastic month! A new relationship is coming your way (look out for potential suitors at graduation). It may be a friend, or maybe even your soulmate, the secret is in the stars. Make sure to step outside and walk exactly forty-three steps every five hours and twenty-three minutes. Make sure you avoid everything yellow, spikey and bright.

This month: Try and get abducted by aliens during Baccalaureate.

GEMINI: (May 21 - June 20)

Congratulations!!! You are in luck. Since Venus is entering your star chart you will find love this month. Your soulmate will meet you between the public bathrooms and an overflowing trash can. The two of you will connect immediately and your family will love your soulmate. When you go to senior week this month you will meet two more people that will become your best friends and you will have an inseparable bond with them.

This month: Have a dance party with your favorite teacher two days before graduation!



SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 - December 21)

This month, a shooting star has entered your star chart! This brings both good and bad luck your way. Round things are your friend, but beware of squares as they should be avoided. Your crush will begin to text you, but will leave you on delivered for three hours in between every text. You will also suddenly start to confuse your best friends' names with what you had for dinner. Careful not to offend!

This month: Hum "Happy Birthday" before saying goodbye to anyone at graduation.

CANCER: (June 21 - July 22)

Oh no! There is a comet that will pass through your star chart this month. That can only mean one thing, this month will not be in your favor. Every time you hang out with your friends, you will constantly trip over your own feet. Fortunately, this month your crush will notice you, but unfortunately whenever they talk to you, you will meow in response. The only meal you can eat this month must start with the letter P or you will grow warts the size of your pinkie toe!

This month: Play pong every day and create a tanning schedule at Senior Week.



CAPRICORN: (December 22 - January 19)

Uh oh! This month Uranus has a bright glow around it in your star chart! This is not good for you. This month you and your closest friend will fight over who is more iconic, Nicki Minaj or Cardi B. Due to the unbalance in the solar system this month, your music taste is getting increasingly worse. Go listen to that old playlist if you want to have any chance at a decent weekend. Drink iced coffee to prevent a bird pooping on your head.

This month: Design a video game surrounding "Big Time Rush" and play it at Senior Week.

LEO: (July 23 - August 22)

Your star chart will be the dimmest one this month, so it might be best to not leave your house this month. Whenever you talk, you will not be able to control a heavy Russian accent that will scare everyone you talk to. After driving more than one hour, your car will get a flat tire in an area with no cellular connection. Your phone will constantly glitch, in residential areas, when texting your friends and start to play Cardi B at maximum volume.

This month: Be sure to carry a shiny rock and a single daisy in your pocket at graduation so you don't trip.



AQUARIUS: (January 20 - February 18)

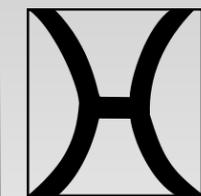
Pluto is travelling at extreme speed throughout the Milky Way. This means trouble for you and your Fairy Godmother. This month, you will not be meeting your "Prince Charming," potentially even the opposite. Go for a walk around your neighborhood searching for a curly avocado. Once you locate it, contact someone whose name begins with J. They will give you advice on how to change your style.

This month: Dye your hair bright pink for the last day of school and for graduation.

VIRGO: (August 23 - September 22)

Your star chart will shine the brightest this month. This month will be the best month of the year for you. Every morning you will wake up to a feast for breakfast and choices a mile long. You will be the life of the party all week at sweek. Many friends will reach out to you to make plans and every day will be filled with adventures. Your parents will give in and buy you a lottery ticket and you will be a winner!

This month: Offer pickles with peanut butter to every new person you meet at Senior Week.



PISCES: (February 19 - March 20)

Due to the geometric rotation of Mercury in your star chart, you will not fall at graduation. A mentor will find their way into your life this month. Make sure to keep an eye out for them.

They will meet you next to the picnic table and the sponge marker, you know where. During your last English class before senior finals, on Zoom do the Hannah Montana Hoedown Throwdown dance with your camera on.

This month: Fill a life-sized dinosaur piñata with peanut butter and surprise all the guests at your graduation party.

