Here’s a hint of what’s inside...

- News
  - Eugene Delgaudio's impersonation
  - Faculty Halloween Costume Competition
  - C-SPAN
  - iPhone 4S
- Sports
  - Winter sports
  - Dodgeball Tournament
- Features
  - Patriot Spotlight
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  - Thanksgiving Poll
- Editorials
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- Clubs
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Guilford Elementary School gave thanks to their families by hosting their annual Thanksgiving dinner on November 21, 2011. Park View High School provided them with volunteers from many clubs, including Extra Mile, FEA, PEER, and NHS.

Volunteers, such as sophomores Samantha Lagan and Evelyn Hernandez, helped people who could not carry trays and showed them to the cafeteria or gym, informing them where the drinks were.

Other volunteers helped outside. “I helped park cars in the rain and clean off trays,” junior Michael Slobodnjak explained. Dressed in a bright orange jacket and carrying a flashlight with him, Slobodnjak pointed people in the direction they should go and helped them see where to park in the dark, rainy night.

Junior Katherine Canedo helped with the dirty trays and recycling cups as part of her volunteer hours for NHS. Some students did not volunteer with a specific club.

“I did it just because I went to Guilford; I did it last year, too,” sophomore James Lay said.

“It was a fun experience, because I went to that school and it was important to me,” Leesun Chea noted.

The Thanksgiving food seemed to be delicious for everyone. “The food was pretty good. I really liked their desserts… I really like pie!” Canedo mentioned. “It was yummy! I liked the mashed potatoes with gravy the most,” Lagan said.

As the night progressed, the families began to leave, and the volunteers were left to clean the cafeteria tables and laminated pictures that the elementary kids had made to be used as mantles for the dinner. The volunteers left for the night with a satisfied stomach and a satisfied soul.

Sterling Supervisor Falsely Impersonated on Election Day

Emily Mooney

Elections can be brutal for candidates but are not normally typically at the local level. For Sterling Supervisor Eugene Delgaudio, the election process turned offensive during voting on November 8th when a demonstrator showed up at Park View High School and pretended to be Delgaudio.

The demonstrator, dressed in Delguadio’s orange campaign colors, introduced himself to voters entering Park View as Eugene Delgaudio.

“He came over to me and introduced himself as Eugene Delgaudio, so I asked him his real name, and he said, ‘I am Eugene Delgaudio today,’” said Chairman of the Republican’s Loudoun County Special Events Committee Fred Avila.

“This is the first time I’ve ever seen something so outrageous,” said the 2011 Independent candidate for Sterling Supervisor Ali Shahriari. “He is impersonating Delgaudio by dressing as him or as someone who supports him with the color orange.”

“I think it’s very improper and not in good taste at all,” voter Esther Schaeffer said. “It’s a shame we have to resort to things like this.”

Delgaudio was upset that the demonstrator told falsities about Delgaudio and his family. “Anything is fair in politics but disrupting a polling place with intimidation, yelling, lies, and slandering me and my family as a candidate is wrong,” Delgaudio said.

“Vote for Eugene Delgaudio if you think this community is a cesspool,” the demonstrator shouted to voters as he waved a bright orange sign with the words “It’s a cesspool.”

According to the demonstrator, Delgaudio had referred to this community as a cesspool on publicad-vocateusa.org. He dressed up as Mr. Delgaudio because he wanted people to be aware of the comment. “I think people should know what their officials say so that they can hold them accountable,” the demonstrator said.

“Eugene is nationally known to be a purveyor of hatred among Republicans.”

Delgaudio, however, says he appreciates and represents the diverse Sterling community and says the quote was taken out of context. “There is every race represented among my supporters. Every race. There is an amazing melting pot in terms of there’s no race, ethnic group, or age range left out in my support of this community,” Delgaudio said.

Some thought the demonstration was not fair while others thought it was. “It’s not ethical; it’s disruptive. We condemn it. I’m an opponent of Eugene Delgaudio, and I condemn it,” Shahriari said. “There’s nothing wrong with it; he’s exercising freedom of speech,” voter Carlos Lujan said.

Loudoun County Sheriff’s deputies were called in by the chief of elections for the elections board. “The impersonator was told to immediately stop stalking or following voters around the polling area, to stop following me around, and to stop advancing on voters who were simply walking up to vote,” Delgaudio said.

The negative influence of this demonstration on Delgaudio’s voting results appears to have been minimal. “Four years ago Eugene Delgaudio won that Park View precinct by four votes, and this year he won it by seventy-five votes,” Avila said. Delgaudio was reelected with an 800 vote lead over the other candidates. The demonstrator’s plan to bring out his version of the truth of Delgaudio’s character and discourage voters from reelecting him seems to have been a failure.
**Black Friday: gift shopping at its best!!**

**Megan Karman**

The busiest shopping day of the year, Black Friday occurs the day after Thanksgiving and usually stirs up quite a commotion. Most stores have “Early Bird” specials for the people that want to get a head start and snag the deals. Junior Aisha Naeem went to Wal-Mart at 10:30 pm and didn’t leave until 12:40 am. On a scale of 1-10 on how crowded it was, “A nine. I’ve never seen it that crowded.” She added, “The people were really rude and mean. There were two fights, and the cops came.” Grown-ups pushed little kids, including her brother, with their shopping carts.

Sophomore Emilee Pierson went shopping on Black Friday around noon with her sister. Her thoughts on Black Friday? “Too many people, day sales, at least until the sun came up. The huge savings at their favorite stores. On the other hand, the majority of Americans were fast asleep in their beds, not caring about the Black Fri.”

With their bellies full of Thanksgiving turkey, the die-hard Black Friday shoppers ventured out into the bitter cold at the dead of night to get the huge savings at their favorite stores. On the other hand, the majority of Americans were fast asleep in their beds, not caring about the Black Fri

**first-in-the-nation presidential primary.**

Mrs. Driggers, a third-year teacher here in Loudoun County, is the one to thank for this amazing opportunity. During the summer, she was visiting a National Book Fair at a mall in Washington D.C. when something caught her eye. It was a booth mentioning a huge decorated bus, almost looking like one a celebrity on tour might use. After looking through some appealing information, she was able to book the C-SPAN Road to the White House digital tour bus to come to Park View High School! “I hope as many students as possible will be able to attend,” says Mrs. Driggers.

The Road to the White House vehicle isn’t the only way to access primary information. C-span.org/bus is the quickest way to see a lot of what it has to offer. This site also includes a video library with links organized by person, subject, and date. There, you can view clips of interviews, news coverage, biographies and so on.

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**Not the Average Hall Pass**

**Isabella Pino**

Every teacher has one: a hall pass. While most are just pieces of paper, a few Park View teachers got creative and made fun hall passes. Some relate to curriculum, while others are out of the blue. Ms. Heath and Mrs. Parilla are two teachers who put their creativity into their hall pass.

History teacher, Ms. Heath, made a hall pass out of half a globe. As Ms. Heath’s first hall pass, it really made a statement: “I thought it would be fun, and hard for people to lose.” She got the idea when someone was about to throw out a broken globe. Not wanting to waste the thing, she made it her hall pass. This hall pass wasn’t always a half globe though; it has been broken twice before. “When I first got it, Mr. Khan played soccer with it.” Ms. Heath states. No one is sure how it broke the second time. Ms. Heath thinks she has the most creative hall pass by far. “Who else has a globe?” she said. Her students don’t find the globe as humorous as Ms. Heath thinks, though. “It’s really embarrassing because all of my friends in the halls ask me about it,” sophomore Rachel Braddock says, “but it adds a lot of character.”

Mrs. Parilla, has a toy stuffed dog as a hall pass. Mrs. Parilla said the hall pass was inspired by other teachers who used random objects as their passes, and she also wanted something important to her. “The stuffed animal is special to me and I wanted them [her students] to know I trusted them, and that they earned the trust.” Mrs. Parilla states. Her students are fond of the creative hall pass. “Initially they thought it naive of me to use something that was so important as a hall pass, but as I explained it over and over, they understand why.” As an Algebra 1 teacher, Mrs. Parilla thinks that the hall pass doesn’t relate to the curriculum but thinks it is an important life lesson that I wanted to give to them because knowledge is a gift.” When the students take the pass to go somewhere, they say “I’m taking the dog for a walk!” The students often lose the dog. “One time Mr. Green found it and I gave it a bath because I didn’t know where it had been.” From recycled half globes to stuffed dogs, these Park View teachers created hall passes that humor and embarrass students.

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**You’re In for a Factual Treat**

**Anais Parker**

Many high school students would admit that they’re not too interested in politics. All those debates, speeches, and press conferences can get too many people. “They’re complicated,” said, sophomore Malia Naeem. According to the 2012 United States presidential campaign looming, more teenagers are taking interest.

Fortunately, most of us have access to great information resources. But, if endless articles start to become boring, get ready for a different kind of source. It’s called the C-SPAN Road to the White House digital tour bus, and it’s coming to visit Park View High School in midwinter. C-SPAN is an acronym for Cable-Satellite Public Affairs Network, most commonly known for its American cable television network. It is paid for by cable consumers, which allows them to be nonpartisan. The programming is considered a public resource with its three television channels, one radio station, and groups of websites.

The bus gives the public a wide selection of free and unbiased resources. On the digital tour bus you can use a variety of interactive technological tools, including three plasma television sets broadcasting in high definition, often with live coverage of events, iPads, touch pads and laptops that display an array of useful information. The information C-SPAN offers is also available on Facebook, Twitter, and XM Radio, among other sites. It plans on being outside of most of the conventions and debates held during the presidential campaigns. These will all lead up to 2012: Fact or Fiction?

**Rebecca Weller**

Many people believe that when the clock strikes midnight on December 31st this year, it will be the last New Year’s they will experience. According to interpretations of the Mayan calendar, the world will end on December 21st, 2012. There are also interpretations of the writings of Nostradamus that indicate the world will end in 2012. These writings, called quatrains, were put together by Nostradamus in a book called, The Prophecies. One of his quatrains says, “In the sky will be seen a great fire dragging a trail of sparks.” Many interpret this as a comet coming close to or hitting the earth, causing cataclysmic events. Justification for believing in Nostradamus’ predictions is the assumption that some of them have come true, for example: the Great fire of London in 1666, Hitler’s rise to power, and September 11th each have been linked to a quatrain of Nostradamus.

Many Park View students doubt these beliefs; they do not believe the world will end in their lifetime.

According to Senior Cailey Barker, “I know I’m supposed to get through high school and college, and become a teacher before I die. The world’s going to end when I’m much older and I have kids.” Senior Stephanie Cox contends, “The Mayans just got tired of making a calendar, so they stopped because they knew they weren’t going to be living.”

Hollywood is making money off people’s fears about the end of the world. Movies such as 2012, The Day After Tomorrow, Knowing, and Deep Impact all show worldwide catastrophes occurring in 2012. Producers of these movies have taken the interpretations of the Mayan calendar and the writings of Nostradamus and turned them into movies that feed the fears of people about 2012.

When asked what they would do if December 21, 2012 was their last day on Earth, students at Park View thought for a moment before they could come up with an answer. “When I first heard about this, I was a booth mentioning a huge decorated bus, almost looking like one a celebrity on tour might use. After looking through some appealing information, she was able to book the C-SPAN Road to the White House digital tour bus to come to Park View High School! “I hope as many students as possible will be able to attend,” says Mrs. Driggers.

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Does iPhone 4s “Wow” ‘Apple’ Users?  
Isabella Pneo

“It’s the most amazing iPhone yet,” Apple states on their website. The newly released iPhone 4S has multiple new features. From Siri to the new Dual-Core A5 chip, Apple promises that it is "The most powerful iPhone ever." The iPhone 4S has major features and advances that distinguish it from the other iPhones.

One new feature is Siri. Considered an intelligent assistant, Siri helps you accomplish tasks on the phone. She speaks to you, and understands when you speak to her. For example if you ask her how the weather is, she will pull up that day’s weather report for your area.

Public response to Siri differs though. While freshman Jeremiah Burkel thinks Siri is awesome, freshman Ben Dabari disagrees. “I don’t find it useful,” Dabari stated.

Another new feature is iCloud which allows all of your music, photos, etc., to be wirelessly transported to your other devices automatically. According to Dabari, compared to his digital camera the iPhone 4S camera by far works better with eight megapixels, face detection, reduced motion blur, and HD recording. The iPhone 4S also has the highest resolution for its screen compared to any phone, making it easier to read information.

Apple claims that the performance of this new version has dramatically improved due to the increased power given by the Dual-core A5 chip and the over two hundred features with the iOS, making the iPhone 4S more practical and faster.

The iPhone 4S still has original iPhone qualities including its light weight of 4.9 ounces making it easy to carry. Its data capacity ranges from 16GB to 64GB. The downside to these iPhones is the cost: $199-399. However, overall, Park View students enjoy the upgrade, and don’t regret buying it.

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HALLOWEEN CREEPS INTO PARK VIEW  
Michelle Rosado

This past Halloween, many of Park View’s students and faculty dressed up for the occasion. The English Department, known for being an active participant in dressing up at this time of the season, challenged the rest of the school to a costume contest. The participants included the Media Center Team, Math Department, ELL Department, Technology Department, Learning Resource Department, and English Department to name a few.

It was enjoyable for the students to see their teachers and fellow students dressed in funny costumes. “I thought teachers dressing up would be lame,” Junior Kathy Tran commented, “but I gotta admit, it was pretty funny to watch.” Individual students decided to dress up in costumes ranging from Spiderman to SpongeBob’s Mermaid Man.

At the end of the day, the rewards were given out. The “Best Department” award went to the Language Department, and the “Best Group” award was given to the Guidance Department. The “Best Individual” awards were handed out to Mr. Rosenthal, Mrs. Fissner, Mr. Kesselering, and Mrs. Clemens. The Math Department and the Technology Department were both given honorable mention. The creativity and involvement the faculty and students showed on Halloween were enjoyable and amusing for everyone to see.

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Imagine curling up in a cozy blanket on the couch, in front of the TV. Now all one has left to do is pick something to watch. And what could be better than a movie that gets you in the holiday spirit? There are holiday movies to suit everyone’s taste: some classics, and some just coming out in theater now.

“My favorite holiday movie is The Polar Express because it is a good example of the perfect Christmas,” stated junior Dan Greenfield. The Polar Express is a wonderful, touching movie based on a storybook written by Chris Van Allsburg. It follows a young boy who gets the chance of a lifetime: to take a magical train trip to the North Pole and meet Santa Claus.

Sophomore Maddie Williams said “I like Elf because it’s really hilarious, and it involves the coming together of family.” Elf is a comedy starring Will Ferrell who plays a man named Buddy, who was raised by elves in the North Pole. He sets out to find his true identity, and reunite with his Dad.

“How the Grinch Stole Christmas and The Santa Clause are my favorite,” exclaimed Senior Yorkie Torto. “They show all the fictional things I used to believe as a kid.” The Santa Clause is a movie starring Tim Allen, who played the character Scott Calvin. Scott is forced to replace Santa when he accidentally kills him on Christmas Eve.

How the Grinch Stole Christmas is an animated movie, based on the book by Dr. Seuss. The Grinch is a creature that lives outside of Whoville, which is inhabited by the Christmas-loving Whos. The Grinch can’t stand Christmas and so he sets out to ruin the holiday for everyone.

In theaters, there are some new holiday features sure to get one in the holiday mood. A Very Harold & Kumar Christmas, Arthur Christmas, and New Year’s Eve.

A Very Harold & Kumar Christmas is about two friends who burn down Harold’s father-in-laws prize Christmas tree and then embark on a desperate search through New York City to find a replacement. “I would like to see A Very Harold & Kumar Christmas, because it looks really funny,” said Greenfield.

Arthur Christmas is an animated movie that reveals how Santa really delivers all the Christmas presents in one night: using an ultra-high-tech operation hidden beneath the North Pole. In this movie Santa has two kids: Arthur and Steve. Steve, as the oldest brother, is supposed to one day take over his dad’s job. Arthur loves Christmas with all his heart and embarks on a desperate journey to deliver one left-behind toy.

New Year’s Eve is a movie that is very similar to the film Valentine’s Day. Not surprisingly, they are both ensemble films directed by Garry Marshall. With a cast including Sarah Jessica Parker, Jessica Biel, and Ashton Kutcher, the movie follows different characters as they ring in the New Year.

No matter whether one wants to watch a classic holiday movie in the enjoyment of their own home, or go to the theaters, there are enough movies to get one excited for the holidays. Every movie reveals a different aspect of the holidays, making the holidays extra special.

WHAT’S ON YOUR THANKSGIVING PLATE?
Rebecca Welker

The warmth of friends and family, the extravagant colors of orange and red leaves outside, the smell of festive food, it’s finally Thanksgiving. Many students have different ways to celebrate the holiday. Some celebrate with traditional turkey and stuffing, others with fish, goose, and corn bread. Almost everyone has a craving for what they want to eat on Thanksgiving Day, ranging from meatloaf to chocolate pecan pie.

Thanksgiving was originated in 1621 when the pilgrims and Indians shared an autumn feast; but it was not until 1683 that it finally became a national holiday. Since 1863, this holiday has been warped and shaped into what we know it as today. Along with family, football, and floats, it is a time of giving thanks to those we love and cherish.

Although the traditional Thanksgiving dinner consists of turkey, mashed potatoes, green beans, and pumpkin pie, many students at Park View eat things like french fries, noodles, curry, and lemon meringue pie. A Thanksgiving poll to show the different kinds of foods that students eat, and the results were surprising. According to the poll, chicken is more popular than turkey winning by a mere three votes. Gravy won over cranberry sauce by a big margin of 122 votes. There were many other sauces that got votes as well such as marinara sauce, ketchup, A1 sauce, hot sauce, and BBQ sauce.

Thanksgiving allows time to be with the ones we love and to have that one great dinner. Although there are many types of foods that people eat, there is one thing in common to all Thanksgiving meals: as much as we love the food on the table, we love the people that sit around it just as much.

MEAT

Sides

Sauces

Vegetables

Pies

Cartoon courtesy of Amanda Wimmer
The last two dodgeball teams met on Tuesday, November, 22nd in front of the entire school to determine the first official dodgeball champs of Park View High School. The Power Rangers (seniors) took on Team Bartow (juniors) in a best of 5 games set. The Power Rangers consisted of powerhouse Ryan Plowman, Brian McManus, Samantha Thomas, Zach Strickland, Ryan Biever and Dan Laub. Team Bartow consisted of brothers Tony and Geoff Staszak, Gurvinder Singh, Cory Left, Thomas LaMon, Daniel Chieu and Matt Micheli.

Before the game, Team Bartow member Cory Left said, “Our team, before the game, made sure we were ready. We had a team sleepover and we watched the movie Dodgeball and got mentally ready for the big game.”

Before the big championship game the two teams that were tied for third place played each other. The Mathletes, which consisted of all math teachers at PVHS, took on (BTW) Balls to the Wall in a third place game. BTW, which consisted of all juniors, defeated The Mathletes to earn the third place spot.

Now it was time for the big championship game. The first game was taken by Team Bartow, after Tony Staszak eliminated Ryan Biever. After switching sides, Team Bartow took the second game. In the third game, the Power Rangers defeated after Brian McManus caught a deflected throw from Tony Staszak, which became the turning point for the Power Rangers. The fourth game went by very quickly as The Power Rangers tied the series up two games to two.

As the fifth and final game was about to get under way, both the junior and senior sections were cheering on their fellow classmates as they were about to make Park View history. Both teams got together and planned what they were going to do. The game was very intense, but the seniors prevailed and made a comeback to win the championship. The Power Rangers defeated Team Bartow in the first annual Park View High School dodgeball championship. The Power Rangers received an old dodgeball as their trophy and ran up and down the court in pure excitement knowing that they (seniors) are more dominate than the juniors. Power Rangers member Brian McManus, who made the most important play of the championship game, said, “They gave us a good game, but we’re way better and more athletic.”

After the championship game, The Power Rangers faced off against The Mathletes in a “best verses worst” matchup. The Power Rangers swept The Mathletes right out of the classrooms as they showed their dominance after the big championship win.

The Lady Patriots started their meet off against the Lady Huskies with Sophomore Cynthia Vu and Senior Julia Chelar placing 1st and 3rd, respectively in the 200 meter. Then Sophomore Catherine Vu twins sister of Cynthia Vu, placed 1st in the 100 yard fly.

The Patriot swimmers started their meet off on a high note with Senior Jonathan Thurston placing 1st in the 200 yard free. Then, the Park View boys swept the 200 yard IM with Junior Michael Borges 1st, Seniors RC Castaneda 2nd, and Zach Strickland 3rd. Junior Ismael Ferman mentioned this before the meet, “I think that our team is ready due to the amount of heart we put into practice which will give us an edge when facing the Huskies.”

Regarding the season, “I believe that we can do as good as last year and maybe a lot better due to our new swimmers.”

Michael Borges continued to shine for the patriots in the water by placing 1st in the 500 yard free. Then, Catherine Vu, the only Park View girl who swam the 500 yard free, placed 1st against four other Huskies. Senior and captain Sierra Zentz said she loves being captain, “It feels great! I feel like people really look up to me. I swim year around on another swim team called SNOW.”

Going into the relay races, the Park View boys placed 2nd in the 200 yard free with a team of Thurston, George Lowden, Castaneda and Strickland. Then, once again Jonathan Thurston placed 1st in the boys 100 yard back. As the final result came in, it was the boys of Tuscarora who won by a score of 174 to 106. It was a hard fought battle by the Patriots who put a lot of heart into each event.

As the final few events were coming to a close Julia Chelar placed 3rd in the 100 yard back and t Catherine Vu placed 3rd in the 100 yard breast to make it an exciting finale. With the only Park View girls 400 yard free relay team of Chelar, Zentz and the Vu twins, they finished 2nd to the Huskies.

The final score did not really show how hard the Lady Patriots fought 203 to 78. After the meet Assistant Coach Heath said, “I’m proud of how hard the team fought and put so much heart into each event, 50% of the team were are new swimmers.”

Matthew Morley-Hillen

Swimmers Start Strong

Park View swimmers started the season off against Tuscarora at Claude Moore. Park View senior and captain Julia Chelar had this to say about the upcoming meet, “We are getting there! We need to keep conditioning and practice our technique training, and then we’ll be ready to humble the Huskies.” As it is her last season, she said, “It is sad because I’ve made some really good memories and had fun experiences on the team.” The Lady Patriots started their meet off against the Lady Huskies with Sophomore Cynthia Vu and Senior Julia Chelar placing 1st and 3rd, respectively in the 200 meter. Then Sophomore Catherine Vu twin sister of Cynthia Vu, placed 1st in the 100 yard fly.

The Patriot swimmers started their meet off on a high note with Senior Jonathan Thurston placing 1st in the 200 yard free. Then, the Park View boys swept the 200 yard IM with Junior Michael Borges 1st, Seniors RC Castaneda 2nd, and Zach Strickland 3rd. Junior Ismael Ferman mentioned this before the meet, “I think that our team is ready due to the amount of heart we put into practice which will give us an edge when facing the Huskies.”

Regarding the season, “I believe that we can do as good as last year and maybe a lot better due to our new swimmers.”

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Say “goodbye” to the fall sports season, and “hello” to the winter sports season, including Gymnastics. This popular sport requires precision, coordination, physical strength, flexibility, balance, agility, endurance and physical grace. Gymnasts display all these qualities as they perform handsprings, handstands, split leaps, aerials and cartwheels.

But how did it all start? Well, Gymnastics evolved in ancient Greece. Physical fitness was important and there was a gymnasium in every Greek city. The gymnasium consisted of a courtyard that was used for jumping, running, wrestling, and later was used for military training. But later on the emperor stopped gymnastics due to the medieval beliefs during the Dark Ages. For awhile after that, gymnastics was forgotten, but was reborn in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century.

Two physical instructors, Friedrich and Jahn designed an apparatus which was called the parallel bar, which helped lead to the birth of modern gymnastics. Later on they introduced the horizontal bar, parallel bar, side horse, balance beam, ladder and vaulting horse. Since then gymnastics has evolved much more. Scoring standards were designed and gymnastics became a part of the Olympic Games.

As for Park View gymnastics, Coach Ki-era Poplawski comments, “I’m looking forward to having a big team and learning new things. We are working on having more girls to qualify for the state qualifier meet. Our goal for this season is to improve our skills.” So everybody get ready for gymnastics season because it’s going to be a good one.

The Lady Patriots kicked their season off away against the Vikings of Loudon Valley. Coach Kitchen had this to say before the game “They’ve being working very hard every day on offense and defense and since we haven’t played them in a long time it should be exciting.” What are your goals for the team this season? “Establish a program of tradition and honor as we strive to compete at the highest level of competition.” The team seems to be ready and excited for the upcoming season. Junior Ashlyn Kimble said, “We’ve all been working very hard on our plays and we just give it all we got.” She mentioned that, “This year we are stepping it up and have been working really, hard. This is our year!” This is Ashlyn’s first year back on the team after missing her sophomore year while she attended Middleburg Academy.

Senior Jenifer Carter had this to say about the season, “This season we have a pretty good stack of players; I’m hoping we can work together and make it great.” Carter also said, “I’m very excited. We lost our first scrimmage, but showed a lot of promise. Maybe in the first home game, we’ll take the win.” The team showed lots of promise throughout their pre-season.

Senior Yorkie Torto said, “As a team we want to win a lot of games and to make it even farther than we did last year.” As it is her last season she said, “It’s sad because it will be my last time playing competitively on a team, but at the same time it is exciting because it’s my last year to show what skills I’ve developed since freshman year. I think we are looking pretty good. We have a lot of old and new talent,” Yorkie concluded. Good luck, ladies!
Arsenic and Old Lace

Deborah Wimmer

This may be Ms. Marybeth Gayle’s first year teaching drama at Park View, but that did not show in her astounding job with the fall production, “Arsenic and Old Lace.” Ms. Gayle had many tasks to accomplish with directing this play such as choosing which play to do and casting a crew of elite actors and actresses.

“Arsenic and Old Lace” was a dark comedy that kept one on the edge of their seats. “I wanted to pick a comedy for my first show at Park View because I thought that a strong situational comedy would be a strong way to start the year,” Ms. Gayle stated.

In the play, a man named Mortimer Brewster discovers that his beloved, elderly aunts have a hobby they have been hiding—murdering innocent men. On top of that, Mortimer’s brother Jonathon also has a fascinating craze for killing people and using their faces as his in order to avoid being recognized by cops. The plot line of the play kept one’s attention throughout.

With a new teacher/director, this play was definitely different than plays in the past. “It was very different because there was a lot of adjusting that had to be made, but it was fun working with Ms. Gayle,” Junior Molly Hamdon, who played Mortimer’s love interest, said. “I think she was great and definitely gave a new vibe to things.”

There was a lot of work to do in order to get ready to perform the play. “We did lots of running through lines, memorization, built the set, painted the set, and we even looked up background information on the play, and just worked really hard,” declared Senior Sarah Paquette who played the murderous, elderly Aunt Abby.

“I liked Ms. Gayle’s interpretation of the story line and the people she casted for the characters, I’m excited to see more work from Ms. Gayle,” Junior Uyen Tran said. All-in-all it is safe to say that Ms. Gayle did not fail to deliver a spectacular play, which indulged viewers to a wonderful experience.
Everyone knows the December holidays like Christmas and New Year’s Eve but what about the other holidays in December like Hanukkah or Kwanzaa? Now most people have heard about them but do they really know anything about what goes on during each? Well for the most part, people know some facts about these holidays but they don’t usually know about the celebration.

Hanukkah, the Jewish Festival of Lights, begins at sunset on December 20th and ends at sunset on December 28th. One of the symbols for Hanukkah is the Menorah. The Menorah is a candle stand with nine branches, and eight candles that represent each of the eight nights of the holiday. Each candle is lit with a special blessing.

Another symbol for Hanukkah is the dreidel. The dreidel has the Hebrew letters “nun,” “gimel,” “shin,” and “chadash” on each of the four sides. They stand for “A great miracle happened there,” which refers to Israel.

Each player starts out with the same amount of candles or tokens and puts one in the pot. Next they take turns spinning the dreidel and seeing how it lands. Nun means “do nothing,” “gimel” means “take the whole pot,” hay means “half” and shin means “add to the pot.” The game ends when a single player wins all the tokens.

When it comes time to eat, traditional Jewish foods are cooked in oil to remember the oil burned in the temple. They eat latkes which are potato pancakes or sufganiya, a kind of jelly donut cooked in oil.

Sophomores Alex Gallant and Charlotte Rothman both celebrate Hanukkah. Alex Gallant commented, “I eat latkes and matzah. We pray, open presents and light candles.”

Charlotte Rothman commented, “I eat latkes. We light the menorah and spin the dreidel.”

Kwanzaa, the African-American harvest festival, begins on December 26th and ends on January 1st. Many of the celebrations include singing, dancing, drumming, storytelling, poetry reading, and eating a large traditional meal. On each of the seven nights, the family gathers around the Kinara, the candleholder, and lights one of the seven candles on the Kinara, the candleholder, while they discuss one of the seven principles.

The principles, called the Nguzo Sabe, are values of the African culture which contribute to building and reinforcing community among African-Americans. The seven principles are “umojo” or unity, “Ujamaa” or cooperative economics, “Nia” or purpose, “Kuumba” or creativity, and “Imani” or faith. They also have seven basic symbols which are the crops, place mat, ear of corn, the seven candles, the candleholder, the unity cup and the gifts. An African feast called a Karamu is held on December 31st.

Sophomore Brandon Figueroa won a marketing category. “I like DECA.” She won 1st place in the promotional design. Senior Tamara Voellinger commented, “I think DECA is a helpful club for students looking for a future in business. I became interested because his brother told him about it, “My brother told me it could be helpful and it looks good on college applications.” As for the competition, he won two awards and said, “It was a fun first competition.”

Senior Tamara Voellinger commented, “I like DECA.” She won 1st place in the promotion role-play 3rd place in the retail and marketing category.

Sophomore Brandon Figueroa won a place in the state competition. His strong suit is that he can come up with unique ideas. "This is an experience that you will never forget. I love DECA!" he commented. He described it as a club where you can make many long lasting friendships and learn social skills.

All in all, DECA’s first competition was a great success, and they cannot wait until the next one. The next competition will occur in Norfolk, Virginia, where DECA students will spend a weekend participating in the state competition. After that, they will move on to Nationals in April, where students will go to Utah. Good luck, DECA!
Patriot Spotlight

Students

Mighty-mighty Senior Tanner Williams is pretty excited to be in his final year of high school. “It’s nice to know in a couple months I’ll be finished with high school, graduated and moved on.” Tanner played football in his freshman year, he has played varsity lacrosse for three years in a row, and he has competed in varsity wrestling for four years. He has been a member in DECA and FBLA for three years and a member in NHS and Mu Alpha Theta. Tanner’s favorite subject is history because, “It’s the most fascinating and interesting subject there is.” If he could be anything in the world it would be a prince or a king of a country because, “Ruling and being famous would be fun.” One thing he’ll miss about Park View is the people, and the kindness and generosity they’ve shown him.

Ryan Carter is a super-super Sophomore here at Park View High School. “My favorite subject used to be math, until it got difficult. Now it’s science just because I can understand it,” Ryan says. He has been on the golf team for two years and participated in the Debate Club. As a sophomore he lettered in Golf and is looking forward to trying out for the soccer and swim team this year. She’s a part of Club Real and Patriot Pals this school year. When asked if she could be anything in the world what it would be, she replied with a smile, “Definitely a social worker. I like to help people and it makes me feel like I have the ability to change a person’s life.” Her favorite things to do outside of school are hanging out with friends and texting. Lucia describes herself as being, “Happy, bubbly, and most definitely outgoing!”

Freaky-freaky Freshman Patrick Stewart is a proud Patriot here at Park View High. His top four favorite subjects are math, science, history, and geography. This is because “It is very fun and gets my brain turning,” Patrick says. This freshman’s major accomplishment was being in the Geography Bee three times in a row and going to the state competition three times in a row placing in the top 10. Patricks’ favorite thing about Park View is seeing and meeting his old and new friends. He is a member of SCA and is looking forward to being in “Its Academic” later in the school year. Patrick enjoys reading, drawing, and looking up family history outside of school. “We have over 3,000 names,” Patrick claims excitedly. If he could be anything in the world it would be “A politician. I would love to change things in society, I enjoy change and people in general,” he states.

Veteran and New Teachers

Park View High School’s new French teacher, Madame Billington, has been teaching French for four years. She currently teaches French 1, 2, and 3 along with being in charge of the French Honor Society at Park View. She has experience teaching in elementary school, middle school, high school, and adult education. “The love of teaching and learning” is the response from Madame Billington when asked what inspired her to become a French teacher. Although Madame Billington has never taught in France, she is a native French speaker from the South of France. Back in her high school days, she ran for fun and also participated in swimming. Outside of school she enjoys spending time with her family. When asked the hardest thing that you have had to deal with as a teacher, Madame Billington says “Giving detention. It’s just sad but you have to do it.” Asked to describe what motivates her, she says, “the love of different cultures and having fun.”

Mrs. Tanuel Fissmer has been teaching at Park View High School for nine years. During this time, she has taught English 9-12 and is currently teaching British and American Literature. Back in Mrs. Fissmer’s high school days, she played tennis, ran track, and played basketball for two years. She was a part of Student Government, our SCA, NHS, Spanish club, Spanish singers, and chess club as a student. At Park View, Mrs. Fissmer has been in charge of Latino Dancers, and the Community Outreach Committee which coordinates projects to reach out to the community. Outside of teaching, she likes to run for fun, spend time with her kids and family, read, and travel. She describes herself as a “people-oriented person” and leaves us with, “I love working with students to find out how they learn. Throughout the years I’ve been teaching, to have students that I’ve taught to e-mail me and come back to see me and say thank you is a really happy feeling. It’s exciting to walk in a business, see that they’ve graduated and become successful.”
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