Swim Team Makes Waves at States

by Hector Ruiz

Park View Boys Swim Team won the district competition, qualifying them to compete in the state competition in Richmond, Virginia from February 19-21st.

Park View Boys’ and Girls’ Swim & Dive have been competing since 2013. Coaches Amber Kerico and Maggie Pruden helped PVHS Boys’ Swim team get to states this year. The coaches mentioned that on their very first meet they won against Tuscarora High School, a “very competitive team.” It is been almost 10 years since this amount of swimmers has gone to states. “This is also probably the biggest swim team we have had in the history of the school,” Coach Kerico expressed. “The swimmers had a lot of enthusiasm during meets and practices and that’s vital to having a great season,” Coach Pruden stated. The students that attended states were Tyler Stevens (10), Carson Stevens (10), August Muller (11), Paulo Toledo (12), Eric Armstrong (11), Andres Merido-Rico (12) and Tyler Andrus (12). “One of the things I am never going to forget is the experience of getting all the way to states and the hotel as well,” mentioned the boys that went to states.

The final outcome of the swim season this year was they won only one competition which was their first one. However, some selected male students were qualified to compete in states. Merido-Rico (12) mentioned, “I am proud of my performance in states since it is my last year being in swim for PVHS because it’s my last year. We cheered for our teammates even if we were winning or losing.” Muller explained, “The only hard thing about swim was getting ready for Wednesday’s 6:30am practices for an hour and a half.” Muller also added that states was “nerve-racking, exciting, and remarkable.”

“I think I could have done better,” mentioned every team member but they are proud of what they got since they put a lot of practice into this. The entire swim team did amazing this year and so did the boys who went to states.

Above: Swimmers compete at the Region 4A West Swimming Championship in Manassas, VA.

Bringing Bocón To Life

by Liana Jackley

Thump. Thump. Thump. Ricocheted from the stage, as the silhouette of dancers appeared and the lights went down. A hush fell over the audience as the girls glided across the stage, while rhythmically keeping in time with wooden shoots they were carrying. The hypnotizing scene was a powerful opener for the bilingual play, “Bocón.”

“Bocón” is a moving play about a young boy, named Miguel, who lives in Central America and must escape the brutalities of the local militia. Miguel is guided by a spirit who protects children, La Llorona, to the city of Los Angeles - the place where he seeks sanctuary – but comes across trouble along the way. The “Bocón” crew faced a few difficulties because of weather conditions and in turn, were only able to perform two out of the three nights scheduled, February 11 and 12 of 2016. “Bocón” was chosen as this year’s play because of the culturally rich background it provided. “Immigration is one of our issues that divide us today and so many people don’t have the chance to see the side of those coming here,” shared Ms. Gayle, the director of “Bocón,” “It’s a lively story that parallels some of our students journey to come to America.”

Wolf Trap, the foundation for the performing arts, gave Park View Theater a thousand dollar grant for choosing such a “culture relevant show.” A professional choreographer was brought in, using the money from the grant, and taught the cast rhythmic dances that were incorporated into the play. “It was really generous of them to give us a grant,” said Kim Deccena, a senior and a first time partaker in a play, “It was well appreciated.” Park View Theater had hit the mark once again, and produced a phenomenal play. “Bocón’s” plot had it all, intertwining serious matters such as the hardships faced by immigrants, and more spiritual concepts like the mystic Hispanic legend of La Llorona. The cohesiveness of the music and lighting brought everything together. “Our strength was our will power to do really well,” said Deccena, “a lot of people supported us through it all [and] that’s why I really wanted to do well.”
Activity Buses make a Comeback at Park View

by Ibtisam Tora

Park View High School has finally brought back after school activity buses for their students. Two to three years ago, Park View had after school buses from Monday-Thursday for any student to use as a ride home. This year, in 2016, after school buses return with availability times on Mondays and Thursdays for students to use for athletics, academics, and clubs. “Students do not have to walk home now,” stated Mr. Arturo Jimenez, Park View’s spring coach for soccer. “It’s safer than walking home.”

“They can stay after school now without worrying about getting a ride home,” Ms. Amanda Smith explained. Students who are behind in school work from being sick or from missing school because of weather, can now take this opportunity to stay after school and make up their work. This improves their grades and causes productivity instead of staying at home to accomplish nothing. “After school buses provide an opportunity for students to strive for sports,” Jimenez said. “Yes, it would be amazing if we had everyday expect Friday like we had before, but we cannot be too greedy. We should be happy with what we have now.”

With Loudoun County planning for next year’s budget, they have been deciding whether or not to cut activity buses or to cut freshmen sports for next year. “We are the only school in this county to have activity buses back,” stated Mrs. Jessi Rettle, a personal finance teacher.

Park View High School has been given the opportunity to have a safe, free ride home from school to be given the chance to enhance their studies, athletics, as well as clubs. Teachers and students have been grateful for this and hope for the next coming years that future students will have the same privilege.

The after school activity buses are scheduled to depart every Tuesday and Thursday at 5:15 and 6:15.

Students Share Their Opinion on the New SAT

by Rebecca Thang

Starting in March 2016, students will be required to take the newly-formatted SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test). The new SAT will be different compared the old one in terms of scoring, anatomy, timing, administration, essay, math, and the reading/writing sections. The old SAT was administered until January 2016.

Some of the changes for scoring will be that there will not be an incorrect answer penalty anymore. Also, the score will be out of 1600 instead of 2400. Before, there was a maximum 800 score for math, reading comprehension, and writing individually. Now, there will be a maximum of 800 for math and evidence-based reading and writing. Also, an optional essay will be scored separately. This means that students will be able to score between 200-800 in the evidence-based and reading sections of the test, and 200-800 in the math section as well. The optional essay will be scored separately.

In terms of the overall testing time, students will be allowed three hours to complete the test. This is not including the optional essay. If students opt to take the essay, they will have an additional 50 minutes to complete the test. Even if the essay is optional, it is highly advised to take the essay anyways, especially since many colleges are requiring the essay to be taken as well.

Many teachers and school administration officers have little information about the new SAT. Ms. Angela Hatcher said, “Honestly, I am not sure how I feel about the new SAT at this time; however, we are excited to hear from the students how they like the test.” One of Park View’s counselors will also be a part of administering the new test to see how different it will be for the new SAT. Hatcher says that she will listen to feedback from the seniors after the new SAT is administered.

On Saturday, March 5, students started taking the new SAT. Senior Mashaal Samuel and junior Vanessa Campos were one of the many who registered to take the new SAT that day. With the essay being optional, both Samuel and Campos opted out of taking the essay on Saturday. However, Samuel believed that the essay would have been really helpful. Samuel said, “The essay being excluded, seemed like a shortcoming for me, since I take writing to my advantage as much as I can, and with comprehension…well there not much margin to score for sound readers like me, who are thorough and slow, therefore seem to fail the art of skimming through paragraphs in a limited time.”

The reading/writing section will include more content based questions relating to science and social studies, consequently making the SAT seem “harder” to students taking the new SAT soon. However, Campos said, “It (the content-based reading section) made it (the SAT) a little easier because it gave you a little more work with and the questions were directly related with the passage.” Each student will feel different about the SAT. Some students will find the format easier to understand, while others may believe the new formatting makes the questions more difficult to understand. Students will continue to have different opinions relating to the new SAT format.

http://www.wfisd.net/Page/7972
Bottle Cap Collection takes over Park View

by Darlin Gonzales

In the past, Park View High School students have shown their eagerness to help others that are in need. Whenever an opportunity to help someone comes up, the Park View community has gone out of their way to do anything and everything they can do to make sure help is provided.

When one of our custodians mentioned that she was collecting water bottle caps for a friend that had a child with cancer and was turning them in for free chemo therapy from one of the economics teachers, Mr. Gerritt Peck. He had been told by one of the custodians that her friend had a little girl with cancer and she was collecting the caps and turning them in for treatment. Mr. Peck then told all of his students about the collection. Students and teachers immediately started collecting all the water caps from their homes and even asked family member to do the same. No water bottle caps were spared. “I went home and I told my mom about it. She took a plastic bag and hung it above the recycling bin and said that that’s where we would put the water bottle caps from now on. By the end of the week we had at least one small ziploc bag filled,” stated, sophomore, Judith Gonzales.

“It’s great seeing how all the students here quickly started to take part in this. Without even knowing the person, they just all put their hands in and started bring them in. It says a lot about the student here at Park View. It’s amazing,” said Mr. Peck.

So far students have helped collect a little more than one thousand water bottle caps in a month. This shows the great amount of heart that makes up the student body here at Park View.

Competition is Fierce on Vocabulary.com

by Navleen Ghuman

Vocabulary.com is the new competition at Park View High School in the English Departments. It is an online website that is personalized to your vocabulary level of intelligence. Freshmen and sophomore English classes are using it.

To better their vocabulary, students master words and earn points for getting the word right. Students need to know the word and be able to define it in different scenarios. Other schools throughout the nation are playing on Vocabulary.com and Park View High School standings are outstanding. Park View High School is placed #11 in the Nation and #2 in Virginia, which many people are pleased about.

Andrew Tran, a freshmen, stated, “I spend two hours on the website daily, it lets me learn more words and it really helps my vocabulary.”

It is a competition to get to the top and soon enough Park View High School will be at the #1 standings in the nation. The top students spend around 16-25 hours on Vocabulary.com. Each of the top students have over 1 million points. These are great standings so far and are getting better and better. Park View High School was mentioned in a shout out for being in the Top 10 on the Vocabulary.com blog. “I would like to use Vocabulary.com next year if it’s available,” said Ms. Bui. “It’s proven to be a great tool to use to learn vocabulary without having boring worksheets and quizzes.”

Snow Days are a Blast from the Past

by Wendy Deras

How much snow is too much snow? Although every school year around January students and even teachers wish for snow so that they can get out of school. This year on January 22-24 a blizzard happened, where many counties in Virginia did not go to school the whole week due to the blizzard. Most students and teachers stayed home since it was difficult to go out.

It was not just that week that school was closed, days later, snow kept coming and school was closed for a few days, or ended up getting a two hour delay which a lot of people seemed to enjoy because it meant more time to sleep. Many students went sledding and had snowball fights, others stayed home and slept, a lot of them also just ate. “I ate a lot, I think I gained like 10 pounds,” claimed junior Stephanie Rios. With the amount of snow that accumulated there was no other choice than staying inside. It was too cold, and the roads were to snowy to be able to go out. Michael Marsh, a freshman, stated, “We need more snow days.”

Teachers felt the opposite of students. Mr. Tom Wellington, a history teacher, claimed, “It made my A days classes behind and I had to cut down on activities.” He also said he used the snow days to “catch up on work.” With the temperature rising, and winter going away, the possibilities of another snow storm are very slim. With the snow that the DC area received, people are happy that it lasted for a while, although snow may not fall again until next winter.
Speaking to The Crowd
by Kathy Majewski

On February 10, junior Nat Coombs won the Impromptu Speaking category at the VHSL District Competition. Forensics is the art of making a speech in front of an audience. In the Impromptu Speaking category, students are not able to prepare their piece beforehand. They have given a choice of three prompts and must perform them on the spot.

Four students total from Park View competed at VHSL, all in different categories. Barak Nicholes competed in the storytelling category. “I had to write a story on a Japanese folk tale,” said Nicholes, “and then I had to say it all in ten minutes, "and then I had to say it all in ten minutes," said Nicholes. "I had a month to prepare," said Kahlon, who memorized a prompt. "I had to write a story on a Japanese fairy tale," said Nicholes, "and then I had to say it all in ten minutes." Anmol Kahlon competed in the Original Oratory competition. He competed in the storytelling category, and performed a Japanese fairytale about an old man and a bird. His piece was about modern feminism. The competition includes ten events, from which students usually choose one. This year students competed in storytell- ing, poetry, impromptu speaking, and original oratory. To get people to join, they advertise forensics on the announcements and ask members to bring friends who are interested. The club advertises itself as a fun group and a good way to practice your public speaking skills. Forensics is able to give students a valuable long-term life skill. Though we have had a forensics team at Park View for a while, this is Ms. Mary Beth Gayle’s second year as advisor. “Ms. Gayle helped us prepare for everything that could go wrong in a competition. She really made us feel like we were ready to take anything on, and do our best. She teaches us how to be adequate public speakers, and that can help us for the rest of our lives,” senior Amy Hensler, the Forensics captain stated. Forensics is a group where anyone can join and is always looking for new participants to compete.

Chinese Club Promotes Cultural Awareness
by Madelyn Rivera

Under the guidance of Ms. Fei Meng, a Chinese native, the Chinese Club students learn everything about the Chinese culture. From playing ping pong, to learning the differences between American and Chinese culture, the students have a lot of things to learn and do. “It’s very relaxing and all the people in the club are all very nice,” Yen Truong, a junior, stated.

The Chinese Club is one of the many foreign country based clubs at Park View. Just like any other club, the Chinese Club holds meetings and special events. Because the Chinese New Year happened last month, the Chinese Club members decorated their classroom and hallway for the holiday. Although the club may seem like just fun and games, there is also an equivalent of learning. The Chinese Club students get to hear firsthand stories about China from Ms. Meng herself. “We learn different perspectives on the Chinese culture because of our teacher,” Evelyn Santos, a senior, claimed. “It’s all because she shares her stories with us.” Learning about Chinese characters, practicing games the Chinese made, and eating dumplings are all common activities that happen in the club; not to mention grasping the culture differences of both the United States and China. As a whole, the Chinese Club has qualities that really attract students from all backgrounds and ethnicities. The Chinese Club welcomes all students that are willing to learn a little bit more about the Chinese culture and the new things it has to offer. The members encourage you to try it out. They guarantee that you will have an amazing time, and educational time.
Super Tuesday Impacts LCPS Students, Parents, and Teachers

by Naheema Ahmed

Loudoun County Public Schools decided on whether or not to close on March 1, 2016 for primary elections, and some students experienced voting for the first time while a teacher experienced an exit poll for the first time.

Set up on February 16, Ashburn resident Caitlyn Brown started a Change.org petition calling for LCPS to close schools on the day primary elections were to take place. She, along with many other parents, was concerned for students’ safety. Brown posted on the page: “Due to the recent notification of the plan for the primary elections on March 1st, many of us, parents, staff, and students have become concerned about the security risk posed by keeping schools open on March 1st, 2016. We believe opening schools to the public raises many red flags and makes our schools vulnerable. Schools are locked during the days to prevent student risk, so we are in awe that these protocols will be lifted for primary elections.” Finally, on February 24, LCPS decided it would be closed for Super Tuesday.

This election was special because for some students at Park View, as it was their first time voting. Senior Mai Wedatalla was one of them. “I was excited to vote and to be a part of history. I’m taking AP Government this year, and we just learned about voting and polls, so it was really cool.” She was shocked at how quick and easy it was. “It takes less than five minutes to make a big difference,” stated Wedatalla. After voting at Rolling Ridge Elementary School, she said, “I felt it was necessary to close the schools because of safety precautions, and for more efficiency. These days you never know who’s plotting what, so it’s better to have the schools closed. It’s also easier for us kids to vote throughout the day instead of in that short time period before school, because there’s a big rush of people trying to vote before work in the morning. It’s more flexible when schools are closed.”

Senior Kathryn Burch was excited to be voting for the first time as well. “I loved being able to be a part of something that, as a woman, at one point in time, I wouldn’t have been able to do. I think it’s so amazing that countless women fought for years for a that right, and I feel that it is my duty to have a part in the history of our country. I was beyond proud to do so.” Before voting, Burch believed it was a tough call on whether or not schools should close because in the area, she did not think there would be such a huge voter turnout, to the point that people would not be able to go to school and work. At the same time, she was concerned about the safety for students in school. After she voted, specifically at Forest Grove Elementary, she said, “I think it was necessary for the safety of the elementary students, but at least at the time I went, there was not that many voters. But I think that it’s good that they closed because that at least gave everyone that’s eligible the chance to go out and vote. They can’t have excuses like they didn’t have time.”

There were some students who voted before Super Tuesday, like senior Caitlyn Payne. “This actually wasn’t my first time voting,” Payne stated, “I voted in November for the general election, but it gave me a kind of feeling of power.” Senior Kathleen Chesnutt was among some of the students who voted for the first time as well. “I voted at the Oak Grove church in my neighborhood. I was so excited to vote for the first time, even though I wasn’t especially excited about any of the candidates in particular. I was really excited to finally get the chance to vote. My polling place didn’t have anything divided within the room. We just asked for either a democratic or a republican ballot at the check-in table.” Chesnutt did not think it was necessary to close. “LCPS did a good job with making their safety precautions public. They were going to keep voting areas sanctioned off from the rest of the school and require IDs to get into the school, which is the normal school security, so I thought it was a good security plan.” She was not complaining about school closing, however. “I can understand why LCPS closed because it does pose a safety risk, especially with the higher than usual turnout for the primaries, but I think their original plan was enough of a safety precaution. It was still great to have a day off though, I spent most of my day working on yearbook pages, and then I had free time at night to watch the Super Tuesday coverage on the news.”

Voting at Sully Elementary School, economics teacher Michael Vereb participated in an exit poll for the first time as he was leaving, which is not set up at all polling places. “The polls had two separate surveys,” he explained, “They asked if you had a Republican ticket or a Democratic ticket, then they asked a lot of demographic questions. What your age is, your income, education level, race, things like that. Then different questions like ‘Would you be satisfied if this candidate won?’ How satisfied would you be if this candidate won?’” He thought participating was cool because the data from the exit poll is what they look at in different news outlets. Vereb stressed the importance of voting. “There was a great deal of magnitude in this election,” he began “I think it’s going to have a big impact on our nation. I hope the magnitude of that helps you guys – the younger generation, increase voter participation and make sure that what you value is demonstrated by voting.”

Students and teachers take pictures displaying their excitement in voting in the primaries.

Photos from top left going clockwise: Kathleen Chesnutt, Mr. Michael Vereb, Kathryn Burch, Katie Breza, Nicole Robinson, Caitlin Payne, and Omar Halabi.
Destiny Colbert

Editor-In-Chief

What do successful women like Oprah Winfrey, Helen Mirren, and Ellen DeGeneres all have in common? They are revolutionary, happy, and inspiring women who are completely secure in their decisions to not have kids. With the recent surge of women focusing more on their careers and less on their need to procreate, I still find it quite odd that society frowns upon a female’s choice to not have kids. Data from the U.S. Census Bureau reported that nearly half of women between the ages of 15 and 44 did not have kids in 2014, up from 46.5% in 2012 to 47.6% in 2014. It was even reported being the highest percentage since the Census Bureau started measuring it in 1976. So, even though

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data from the Pew Research Center reports being the highest among the 20 to 24 year olds. It seems that the 21st century teenager is more likely to become a millennial than the generation before them. This is due to the fact that the average amount of sleep that teenagers get is 7 3/4 hours. However, they need between 9 and 9 1/2 hours.

Teenage Stress: It Never Ends.

Every teenager is promised it gets easier after high school. But the truth is it never ends. After high school comes college, and after college comes life. If asked, “How stressed are you?” what would be your answer? No? Well you are one of the lucky ones. Yes? Join the rest of us.

In the 21st century teenage stress is at an all time high. It seems that the motto for our peers is “more is better” or better yet more is the only option. You have to be extraordinary at many things to thrive in the war-like competition called post high school life. We have been trained to think that the only way to be successful is to not only be the best at everything, such as participating in multiple sports or musically talented activities, multiple Advanced Placement classes, numerous clubs and afterschool activities and community service, but you have to attend some type of education after high school.

There are only 24 hours in a day but for teenagers nowadays every single hour counts. Personally, I take eight classes, each of those classes roughly require an hour of homework. On an average day for me, I would go into school early for additional help or a club meeting for half an hour, then spend eight hours in school, then go to practice for an hour and a half, go home and do about four hours of homework. That’s 14 hours of the day, not counting any other activities or doing regular teenage activities; leaving seven hours left, and if every teenager is required to get eight hours of sleep that means I am left with two hours for me, because according to Nationwide Children’s Wellness, “The average amount of sleep that teenagers get is between 7 and 7 1/2 hours. However, they need between 9 and 9 1/2 hours.”

One of my personal goals is to get into college. Growing up in a county like Loudoun County success can define you. The competition is more than tough in Loudoun County, and money powers opportunities. Growing up I never noticed that in order to do many things you have to have money, and being raised in a county where we are given many opportunities that other schools have never had. I have personally experienced that money can give one more opportunities to further themselves then someone who does not have money. They are automatically knocked down a level due to the fact that they were given fewer opportunities and have fewer advantages as far as their schooling and their community.

A Millennials Choice to Not Have Kids
A regular day at Park View High School consists of it being either an “A” or “B” day with four blocks a day, every day. For some interesting students, that is not the case. High School students have the opportunity to apply for special programs to study their desired career.

Junior Valeria Flores is one of the exceptions. On “A” days she falls into the regular Park View schedule and takes all four of her core classes: “I don’t ever have extra time after school because I’m having to worry about homework,” said Flores describing the fact that she is not able to have a Pride due to the limited space on her class schedule. On “B” days she travels to Cornwall Campus at Inova Hospital in Leesburg, which branches off from Monroe Technology Center, to start her unique day off.

MTC offers high school students a variety of programs like Graphic Communications, Veterinary Science, Auto Collision Repair Technology, and many more. Flores takes the Introduction to Health and Medical Science class, which requires her to wear red scrubs for a uniform due to being in a hospital environment. She starts the school day by arriving to a written lesson plan. The daily lesson plans usually consist of online quizzes, workbook work, and playing a game of Kahoot as a class. “It introduces us to the medicine terminology and anatomy, and gives us experience with patients,” Flores said.

One of the exciting events that she has experienced is taking a field trip to the Valley Health System. Flores and her class toured the hospital and went to all of the different departments and even got the opportunity to hold organs.

“I’m spending a whole entire day learning about what I want to do for a living when I’m older so it’s not boring,” described Flores. She hopes that taking this class will benefit her in preparing for her preferred career for becoming either a neurosurgeon or trauma surgeon in the future.
A Sweet Surprise for Valentine's Day

by Jennifer Nunez-De Lao

Each year on February 14th, people exchange cards, candy, gifts, or flowers with their special “valentine.” It is a day of romance for most people but also a day of loneliness for many others. On Valentine’s Day, people decide to take their special someone to dinner. You can imagine the waiting list, especially since this year it was on a Sunday.

Besides couples, Valentine’s Day includes friendships. Although, many people do enjoy waking up to cute text messages, receiving flowers, stuffed animals, cards, there are many that dislike Valentine’s Day for the reason that it makes them feel lonely.

Everyone has a different opinion on Valentine’s Day. The idea behind Valentine’s Day is to make the person you love to feel even more special on that day. Few find that day pointless but many others wait all year because they have someone special to spend it with or maybe because the people they love are happy. At Park View we found a way to celebrate Valentine’s Day. Pink roses were sold throughout all lunch shifts Monday the 8th through Friday the 12th. One rose costed three dollars and a bouquet of roses were ten dollars. Roses were delivered Friday because Valentine’s Day landed on a Sunday.

Throughout the day many people walked around with pink roses from loved ones that they have around them. At Park View, we celebrated Valentine’s Day a little early, but people enjoyed seeing other’s happy faces when they received a flower.

Even though not everyone received a flower, we still managed to spread love all through Park View all day.

Park View Celebrates African-American History Month

by Nicole Suc

February 2016 has been claimed “the best Black History Month,” by the satellite television channel, CNN (Cable News Network.) Some famous artists in pop culture have brought the spotlight upon black pride during this month; from Beyoncé’s music video “Formation” and her performance at the Super bowl referencing to the Black Panthers, to rapper Kendrick Lamar’s Grammy performance of ‘The Blacker the Berry’. Jesse Owens, the African-American track and field star in the early 1930’s, biopic “Race” (directed by Stephen Hopkins) was released in theaters across the nation on February 19, 2016. In the year 1926, publisher and historian Carter G. Woodson established the second Monday of February to be a time designated to commemorate two major achievements in African-American history. The proposal to expand this week to the entire month of February, was first introduced in 1976 that the U.S. government confirmed that the week celebration become an entire month, known today as Black History Month.

From Booker T. Washington to Rosa Parks, there is no doubt that the contributions and accomplishments by the notable African-Americans in history have changed history not only in the United States but around the world where segregation and inequality still existed between races. “I think Black History Month is very important. When people say that we should not have it because it is 2016 and we should move past everything, I cannot help but disagree with the idea that having things like Black History Month, Black Magazines, and Black awards shows contradicts the efforts to end racism. There has been criticism over whether the month of February should even be labeled “African-American History Month” due to the fact that the celebration appears racist. Actor Morgan Freeman, stands by this criticism against the celebration by expressing his thoughts in an interview with 60 Minutes, American newsmagazine television program broadcast on the CBS television network ”You’re going to relegate my history to a month! I don’t want a Black History Month. Black history is American history.” Carter G. Woodson originally anticipated on the month becoming unnecessary in the future of the United States with the hope that African-Americans would be completely integrated into the society and that there would be no need to have their contributions and achievements singled out among the years to come.

African-American History Month is more than just a simple month of the year, it is a time designated to commemorate those who have progressed our society to be equal individuals and for all races to live without fear that they will be seen as different or lesser than anyone else.

Joe’s café

Joe’s Café is an American style café that serves breakfast and lunch! 45665 West Church Road Sterling, Virginia 20164 703-444-1118 Mon-Sat: 7:00 A.M. -1000 P.M. Sunday: 8:00 A.M. - 9:00: P.M.

Joe’s Pizzaria

Joe’s Italian Pizzaria serves lunch and dinner, including the popular buffet option that runs Monday through Friday. Joe’s Pizzaria also provides the pizza we sell every Friday in the school foyer! 22360 S. Sterling Blvd.
Spring Into Fashion

By Aliyana Raja

Now that March has started and the weather is getting warmer, most people often have trouble figuring out how to transition their heavy winter wardrobes into spring without sacrificing style and comfort. With New York Fashion Week just ending last week, there are plenty of fresh, trendy looks that will be seen in the halls of Park View High School this spring.

One trend that will be around all throughout spring and into early summer are the infamous off the shoulder tops. Contrary to popular belief, off the shoulder tops are not just for boys anymore, instead it is a staple to everyone's spring wardrobe. According to popsugar.com, white button downs are very easy to dress up or dress down. Anyone can opt for a fitted shirt paired with some favorite pants and favorite slip on shoes for a more casual look or rock an oversized button down with your favorite booties or heels for a simple and easy dress.

White button downs are not just for boys anymore, instead it is a staple in everyone's spring wardrobe. According to popsugar.com, white button downs are very easy to dress up or dress down. Anyone can opt for a fitted shirt paired with some favorite pants and favorite slip on shoes for a more casual look or rock an oversized button down with your favorite booties or heels for a simple and easy dress.

Suede skirts are another essential that everyone will find themselves needing this spring. It is also very easy to turn an outfit from casual to dressy. You can pair them with heeled sandals, floral tops, lace crop tops or even regular t-shirts. For those chilly spring days, a pair of tights underneath the skirt can easily be thrown on with some boots.

Men's spring fashion this year is all about layering with pops of color. One trend that kept coming up onto the New York runways were bomber jackets. Bomber jackets are usually made of leather, but it is easy to get your hands on some that are made of lightweight material. They are versatile for casual days to keep looks cool and comfortable. Trousers are worn best in men's fashion this year. Trousers are worn best with accessories like light brown boots and chunky belts. Style white pants with patterned sweaters for a preppy spin or pair pastel polos with them for a splash of soft color.

One of the more unusual trends that appeared on the runways were layered jackets. This trend is one that will most likely be used on those chillier spring days. To avoid swelling, layer lightweight pieces. Try placing shorter layers inside with a longer, relaxed exterior. Playing around with texture and color makes this trend very customizable.

This year's spring fashion is very laid back, colorful and very easy to personalize to fit into anyone's wardrobe. Most people have many of these pieces lying around in their closets, making these trends very affordable. Make sure to have fun with your fashion!

Mystery Spotlight

By Josselyn Rodas

No, their favorite color is not green but wait, it actually is, with a dash of blue. The mystery spotlight of the month is someone who is well known to many of the students. They are originally from Leesburg, Virginia. This person actually attended Loudoun County High School, and has been here in the county ever since. Their favorite quote to live by is to, “Treat others like you want to be treated”; this really goes with their characteristic and traits.

Moreover, our mystery spotlight is actually a spring child born on May 11th. Like the sea-son they were born in, their dream place to travel would be Hawaii. Their main hobby is playing golf, which is perfect during the spring and summer time. Even on the weekends, golf is one of their favorite activities, but mowing the lawn is a priority too. During this time, they love not only to play the sport, but to watch golf, while sometimes eating their favorite dish, Fajitas.

Their favorite animal is a horse. In comparison, many of their hobbies and characteristic resemble the warm weather and its activities. Another interesting fact is that R&B is their go-to music genre. Although most of their hobbies are during the spring, the holiday they love the most is Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is a time to spend with ones families. This person spends their thanksgiving with their family. They are married and have one child. The mystery spotlight arrived to Park View High School in 2007, and the best thing about Park View in their opinion is, “The diversity and all of the students here”.

Guess the Mystery Spotlight and leave your answer in the Mystery Spotlight box outside room 207 with your name, and block class, and date. The first person with the correct answer will receive a prize.

Photo by Aliyana Raja

Bohemian style crops tops never go out of season

Pastel colors paired simply with jeans or flowy skirts create trendy, laidback spring fashion wear
The Patriot Press
People
Freshman
Teo Blasquez

Teo Blazquez is a freshman here at Park View High School. He participates in Track and Field, Global Ambassadors, and represents the class of 2019 in the SCA. This year he hopes to accomplish getting good grades and continuing to work towards a successful senior year. Blazquez likes high school so far for the small things such as how much freedom he has now. He dislikes the heavy work load and long term assignments. Blazquez really enjoys his new independence being in high school now, as well as taking on more responsibilities. “As an elective I take art because drawing is one of my favorite things,” he says. He is very in touch with his artistic side. Freshman year for him so far has been great and he can’t wait to finish out the year on a good note. In five years he seems himself in college working towards his career.

Sophomore
Ericka Torres

Ericka Torres, a sophomore at Park View High School, is an easy going person who likes to spend most of her days reading, and spending time with friends. She also loves to watch movies. Her favorite movie is 500 days of summer.

Junior
Michael Sommer

Michael Sommer is a happy Park View student who works extremely hard for what he wants. The highlight of Sommers year was transferring to Park View. Sommers transferred from Potomac Falls High School. The reasoning for his transferring is because of where he lives. Sommers has work hard to keep his grades up and when they started to slip he took initiative to make sure he could get them up. The difference from Park View and Potomac Falls are the people, “Teachers don’t really respect you as much as students.” Sommers did not do any sports and does not plan on doing a spring sport but he does support Park View as much as possible. He plans on trying out for football his senior year. Something that is different at Park View from Potomac Falls is how much spirit we have and how the pep rallies are filled with energy.

Senior
Jailine Correas

Jailine Correas, believes that the best thing about being a senior is the realization that high school is almost over and you get to start your life over. Correas is involved in a club at Park View High School called Educators Rising and is in the Teacher Cadet program. “I love working around little kids.” Correas stated.

Ericka says, “The thing I like most about Park View is the spirit the school has, and how nice the people are.” The only noticeable difference Ericka sees in her sophomore year is the work load. “This year’s work load is a lot more than this years.” Torres is strong in her studies, while juggling AP classes and keeping her grades up. The only tip she has for her fellow patriots to keep their grades up is, “Don’t procrastinate.”

While Ericka does want to go to college she is not sure which college she wants to go to.

Also, she is not sure what she would like to major in, although her passion lies in writing, “I really enjoy writing about different things. My favorite area is non-fiction.” For the summer she plans to go visit New York for her birthday, and go to a lot of concerts, especially to see her favorite band Twenty-One Pilots.

Correas looks at Mrs. Joy Joyner as a role model in her life. She believes that Joyner gives great advice. “She tells you to stick with it,” Correas said. She also says that Joyner is a positive person to have around. Park View High School is a second home for Correas. The best memory she has of Park View is meeting all of the new people and creating friendships. “[Being a student at Park View] made me realize how important school is. I meet a lot of great new people, which is good for me,” said Correas. She loves Park View because of the students in the school. What Correas will miss the most about Park View High School is “The spirit of the school. I love everyone here, I love the teachers and the staff,” Correas mentioned.

Correas wishes to major in education after high school. She is in the NOVA Pathways Program to assist her in college. “I’m going to NOVA for two years and then transfer to George Mason, because it’s convenient, cheaper, and closer to home.” Correas said. Correas has some advice for students who are not graduating from Park View this year, “Take school very seriously. Freshman year is no joke,” according to Correas. “Stay in school… it all pays off in the end. said Correas.

Patriot Spotlight
by Quinn Williams, Zion Wallace, Chloe Hillard, Meagan McDaniel
Ms. Horton

Ms. Amanda Horton is a first year physical education teacher at Park View High School. She teaches 10th grade PE, health, and drivers education. This past season Horton was the assistant varsity volleyball coach at Heritage High School, and is currently coaching her third season of softball there. Ms. Horton’s favorite sport is softball, and she played softball for Loudoun Valley High School, Fire and Ice travel league, and played two years in college. “If my students learn anything from me, I hope it’s to take responsibility for their actions and become better people. I want my students to become productive, hardworking members of society that positively contribute to their community. I also want them to be safe, law abiding drivers,” says Horton.

Some interesting facts about Ms. Horton are that her favorite color is orange, she hates chocolate, but loves bagels, and her favorite holiday to celebrate is the Fourth of July. Her favorite things to teach about are driving because it is a necessary everyday skill, and recreational games and sports. Amanda Horton plans on positively impacting Park View by supporting her students. “I want all of my students to know that my door is always open and I will always accept them with open arms. I’ve learned very quickly that Park View is a family and I’m honored to be a part of this community,” said Horton.

Ms. Britto

Librarian

Librarian life for Ms. Kathleen Britto is fast-paced and ever-changing. “Everyday we’re off the races, as they say,” said Britto. “Something I really like about the job is that it’s different every day.” Britto is now in her second year as a librarian at Park View, though she previously worked with Loudoun County Public Library for six years. She explains that school librarians fill many different roles in the school. On a daily basis, she can be found setting up for events in the library, working with classes, or planning different roles in the school. On a daily basis, she can be found setting up for events in the library, working with classes, or planning

Britto believes that reading and writing go hand-in-hand. “If you like reading and you like words, you can take a sort-of boring prompt and have fun with it,” said Britto. She is always available in the library to lend some help on your paper or help you find a book you will love.

Ms. Ayala

ELL

Ms. Melissa Ayala has been teaching English language learners for over five years. She was inspired to become a teacher because she has always wanted “to help others see their potential and have a chance at success.” Though she is enjoying her time at Park View, she was not always a high school teacher. “I used to teach adult education,” said Ayala.

The college Ms. Ayala went to was George Mason University. She studied linguistics and has a master in Lang. Ayala attended George Mason University and holds a bachelor’s degree in Spanish and master’s degree in Linguistics/TEFL. She is also currently working her third master’s degree in Curriculum and Instruction with an ELL focus.

Ayala describes herself as “an art and music person.” Though she does not currently coach any sports, she did participate in swimming in college. She enjoys traveling in her free time and would like to be able to go to Turkey. Ayala describes herself as “ambitious and strong.” Other activities she enjoys outside of school include riding her bike and spending time with her son. Overall, Ayala has enjoyed her time at Park View so far and wants to continue to be a part of the Park View family.

Ms. Krug

Fine Arts

Ms. Krug is a teacher here at Park View High School and is the orchestra teacher. Ms. Krug was a student at the University of Miami for Undergrad, and Penn State for Grad school and this is Ms. Krug first year at Park View High School. Ms. Krug said, “I like a lot of things about PVHS. One aspect which has stood out is how welcoming everyone has been. The administration is appreciative, supportive, and helpful. The Arts Faculty are ready to answer any questions I have and treat me as an equal colleague. The students are open minded to my way of teaching and eager to learn. Everyone has created a very pleasant environment.” Ms. Krug stated that, “It’s not just teaching for me. It’s sharing the subject I love with others in an organized way.” “I love music and I love interacting with people. I love creating music and talking music. So teaching others how to ‘do’ music and helping them become enthusiastic about it is a thrill,” said Ms. Krug.

Ms. Britto

Librarian

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Britto said that she did not always plan on being a librarian. “I wanted to be an actor and then I wanted to be a playwright,” she explains. Britto even majored in theatre arts in college and received her undergraduate degree from Virginia Tech. She worked in theatre for a year before returning to school to become a librarian. She enrolled at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill and received her master’s in library science there.

Outside of school, Britto enjoys reading, as well as hiking and traveling; even traveling to France over our extended snow week. “I spend too much time online and I’m trying to get better at cooking,” Britto explained with a laugh.

Britto believes that reading and writing go hand-in-hand. “If you like reading and you like words, you can take a sort-of boring prompt and have fun with it,” said Britto. She is always available in the library to lend some help on your paper or help you find a book you will love.
Spirit Week led up to the long awaited Bermuda Day, where faithful Patriots dressed up in summer attire despite the freezing weather outside. On February 12, students gathered into the main gym and then the games began. The heated competition between each grade level and faculty was tangible as the activities progressed; the crowd roared cheers of encouragement for their classmates which could be heard from outside the gym.

The importance of Bermuda Day and the days progressing up to it are very personal for the Sterling community. Seventy-five percent of the money raised went to United Way, which accumulated to $4,407. Three hundred and fifty dollars went to Park View’s VSCA State Project and over one grand was raised on Bermuda Day going towards the Patriot Fund.