



The Patriot Press

The Woman behind the Scenes Returns to the Audience: Park View Principal Dr. Minshew Retires

by Emily Mooney

As the 2013-14 school year draws to a close, Park View Principal Dr. Virginia Minshew's last days of high school will mark the end of an era as she takes her final bow and retires this summer. She has served as part of the Loudoun County educational system for thirty-three years, but she felt that now it was time for her to move on.

"I've been thinking about it for a while," Dr. Minshew said of retirement. "I'm still young enough that I can go and do other things. I still think I have a lot to give – the time has just come to give it in a different way."

She started her educational journey as an English teacher and then acquired her first administrative position at Farmwell Station Middle School in Ashburn.

"I wanted to just maybe reach more people – more kids. I still see myself as being a teacher; my classroom just looks different



Larry Wharton

Dr. Virginia Minshew receives flowers and waves her "grade wand" at her last pep rally. She will retire from her position as Park View's principal this summer.

than it did," Dr. Minshew said.

After working at Farmwell Station, Dr. Minshew became the principal of Park View. At a time where the demographics of the student body were great-

ly changing, she brought original ideas and programs to help meet the new needs.

"When she came here she brought about lots of initiatives, and the nature of that word means she did what a leader is supposed to

do," said Park View English Department Chair Phil Rosenthal.

At some point Dr. Minshew realized that students would need more from the school community in order to be successful.

"She anticipated what four or five years down the road would bring; we needed to help kids pay for things," added Rosenthal.

"Dr. Minshew and I worked together on Patriot Pantry, a backpack program at our school," said senior Aninder Gill. "She continues to give back to our school in more ways than imaginable, and I think it if wasn't for Dr. Minshew, Park View wouldn't be as welcoming and amazing as it is to our students."

"My goal has always been to help kids see the potential that they have and see the best in themselves," Dr. Minshew said. "The kids are my favorite thing about this school. They are the reason I get up and come to work every morning."

Park View Assistant Principal Jennifer Piccolomini has worked for Dr. Minshew for eleven years. In fact, Dr. Minshew gave her both of her first jobs: her first teaching position at Farmwell Station Middle

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The Grass Will Be Greener: Park View to Get New Turf Field

by Liana Jackley

One million dollars. That is the cost of Park View's new turf athletic field to be completed by the Fall of 2015. Where did this money spring up from and how did it land into the humble hands of Park View? Those are the questions on everyone's minds.

"The Redskins provide \$100,000 and the NFL provides another \$100,000. The Loudoun County Board of Supervisors provided the remaining \$800,000 for the field," stated an ecstatic Dr. Minshew.

The newer high schools in Loudoun County already have the artificial grass for their football, lacrosse, and soccer fields. Tuscarora, John Champe,



Amy Hensler

The check presented by the Washington Redskins Charitable Foundation is displayed in Park View's front office.

and Woodgrove are some of the lucky schools to already have the greener artificial grass.

One concern with artificial turf is if it makes athletes more susceptible to injury. "Some studies have shown more lower body injuries in the ankles, knees, and shins because it's a different surface, but other studies have proven it to not be true," said Park View's Athletic Trainer Ms.

Nirich. On the bright side, the Patriots will have more hours for outdoor practice, making our teams more competitive according to Mr. Jason Testerman.

"I have never been at a school with a turf field before, but every other coach I have talked to that has one has loved it. I have coached on field turf at several away games, and it was always a great surface to play on," said Park View's new varsity football Head Coach Mr. Michael Mullins.

Athletes at Park View are shocked at the news but in a very pleasant way. "It's really cool. I don't know how many high schools they choose, but they picked us out of any other school," junior football player Henry Argueta said.

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Author Matt de la Peña Visits Park View High School

by Kisha Lim

On Tuesday, April 29th, Park View High School was very fortunate to have the well-known author, Matt de la Peña, as a guest. de la Peña spent his time at Park View visiting several English classes and discussing his work with the students.

To start off his day, he visited Mrs. Kelly Revak's first block English class. Prior to the author visit, Mrs. Revak's students had been reading de la Peña's book *I Will Save You*. While de la Peña was there, the students did a couple of activities in order to depict some of the events in the book. The first activity involved imagination; they got the chance to



Candace Rush

Mr. de la Peña asks students about their favorite parts of his book *We Were Here*.

choose their favorite scenes from the book and illustrate it. After all of the creative juices were put onto paper, the students presented their work to de la Peña. Each and every student explained their illustrations, and de la Peña asked them questions about it. The students had to put a lot of thought into the next activity. Mrs. Revak's students selected

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Dare to Dodge

by Ibtisam Tora

On April 26th, Park View High School's SCA held the first few rounds of this year's dodgeball tournament. This was SCA's third year doing the dodgeball tournament. "Hopefully this year's game will be successful like all the other years," said Mr. Jeff Marsh, the SCA adviser.

As the eager spectators started to file into the gym, the fourteen teams were practicing their throwing and catching before the big tournament. Most of the teams wore shirts that were similar to make their teams look neat and organized. Once the referees were ready to start, the first four teams were called off the bracket to the gym floor.

There were six balls for each dodgeball

game. Once the referees blew their whistles, athletes ran to the balls lined in front of them and grabbed them before the opposing team did. Once they returned back to their side of the court, they were not allowed to step on the middle line, or they would be out. That was one of the hardest rules for the teams to follow.

Teams came up with strategies when they were in the game. Some grabbed the ball and threw it to hopefully get someone out while the others were to dodge and somehow not get hit by any balls. The rules allocated for an extra teammate who was not in the game at the time to grab any balls that went out of the court or in the bleachers, but most teams did not know they

were allowed to do such things until the very end when the game began to get more intense.

To get into the semifinals, you had to win at least two out of three games against the team to which you were assigned. The most unexpected wins happened during that time, making the crowd cheer uncontrollably.

One by one, teams were losing their only chance to get into the semifinals, but finally the final four had been decided. The Crusaders and Go Getters will be competing for first and second place, and the Firing Squad and Average Joes will be competing for third and fourth place. On May 29th, the true winners will be decided in front of the entire school.

Park View's PRIDE System: Changing For the Better

by Thy Dao

In most movies about high school, study hall is typically seen as a place to goof off and socialize with friends, but at Park View, study hall is known as PRIDE: Patriots Receiving Instruction Direction and Encouragement.

According to the mission of PRIDE, "students are expected to work with teachers when requested and engage in academic activity throughout the PRIDE block." This supports student learning and provides access to remediation and resources that students may not have access to outside of the regular school day.

Last year, PRIDE classes were large (80-150 students) and took place in the cafeteria and auditorium. Each PRIDE had several study hall monitors to watch over the students. Although there were a few smaller PRIDE classes, mostly for freshmen, most of the students were in the large classes. Additionally, there was not a structure set up by which students could acquire math or reading help from teachers.

It was clear that these study halls needed more structure, so a new PRIDE committee was formed to determine this new PRIDE system at the end of last year. The committee, made up of about 10 teachers and a member of the school counseling staff, was to decide what goes on during the PRIDE classes, along with how the Learning Lab was to be organized. They also had the responsibility of deciding how the pass system, daily To-Do lists, student improvement contracts, and grade monitoring were to be done.

This year's PRIDE system has everyone in classrooms, each assigned with a teacher. In addition, a majority of the students have their PRIDE at the same time as the other students in their grade so they can help each other with their work.

Dr. Virginia Minshew, Park View's Principal, created the master PRIDE schedule with most of the freshmen having PRIDE at the start of the day (1st and 5th block), sophomores next (2nd and 6th block), then juniors (3rd and 7th block), and finally seniors at the end of the day (4th and 8th block).

Mr. Neuser, one of Park View's math teachers, is a part of this PRIDE committee. He is stationed in the Learning Lab during 2nd

block to help students with their schoolwork.

"I believe it is a great improvement," Mr. Neuser said, comparing this year's PRIDE system to the system used in the previous years.

Despite the need for more teachers and unoccupied classrooms, the teachers seem to appreciate the new system.

"I like it, I think it provides more structure and allows the PRIDE teacher to have more of a connection with a student as opposed to being a study hall monitor in a PRIDE of 150 students," said Mr. Neuser. He believes that many of the students are more focused and use their time more wisely than in previous years.

Chris Ulloa, a freshman, likes the fact that most of his fellow freshmen have PRIDE at the same time as him, but does not like the way that everyone is grouped. "A lot of the people in my PRIDE don't have the same classes as me," said Ulloa.

The seniors of Park View seem to have benefited by the scheduling of the 12th grade PRIDEs during 4th and 8th blocks. Students that qualify for early release may be granted a waiver from their study halls to leave school early.

This is for students who have jobs earlier in the afternoon, but that is not all. Students can go home early and just work on their homework there, instead of remaining at school. However, this is a privilege that can be taken away if students do not keep their grades up.

In order to have early release, the seniors had to apply for it with Dr. Minshew. They had to meet a certain grade requirement in order to be given the privilege. If they were found eligible and received their early release privilege, they dropped their PRIDE class from their schedule.

"At some point during the year, grades of seniors with early release were checked, and there were some were not meeting their end of the bargain," said Mrs. Letina, a member of the PRIDE committee and a Spanish teacher here at Park View. Dr. Minshew met with these students and revoked their early release privilege, placing them back in a 4th or 8th block PRIDE.

Charlotte Rothman, a senior, likes the early release

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"I'm super excited about it; we finally have a better field. When it rains games won't be canceled, the ball goes faster, and honestly everything seems to go faster," explained freshman Priya Varma, a varsity soccer player.

This turf field will be the place where dreams are made and come to life. Most coaches are looking forward to the new field and are very grateful for the Redskin's Charitable Trust [Organization] and the NFL Grassroots Field Grant for aiding us in becoming a more renovated and higher spirited school.

Yes, some will miss our beloved Bermuda grass, but with the new turf installed we have a whole new future looking at us, hopefully one with more head-turning wins and memories.

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a character in the book and had to ponder about what they would purchase for that character.

Mrs. Kristie Browne's second block English class also had the chance to meet and talk to de la Peña. As the students walked in, Mrs. Browne assigned them to their discussion circles as they awaited de la Peña's arrival. Two of the groups were reading de la Peña's books *I Will Save You* and *We Were Here*. de la Peña asked many questions and explained to them the real meaning behind his books and what the sources of his inspiration were.

"Your book is one of the few books I have read, and I really liked it," said junior Oliver Martinez. Many of the other students had the same response. de la Peña shared with the students that when he was younger he also neglected to read books. He advised them to give a book and the author a

few weeks before putting it down.

"It's all about finding the book you're in to," says de la Peña. The students also did an activity that involved making connections to the books they were reading and scenarios they were given. de la Peña sat down and helped the students refer to both real life experiences and situations in their book.

At the end of the day, several other English classes came together in the auditorium to meet de la Peña. de la Peña talked a lot about his early adult years and really had the crowd on his side. As he finished speaking, the whole room applauded him for visiting Park View High School.

"I will not forget you guys," says Mr. de la Peña while gathering his belongings.

de la Peña's visit was just as enjoyable as reading one of his books.

A Time to Say Goodbye



Emily Mooney

Editor-in-Chief

Four years. 1,461 days. 35,064 hours. A quick snapshot in timeline of life, but an eternity in the lens of an adolescent, yet I approach the finishing line with mixed emotions as I look back at this roller coaster ride known as high school.

Over these past four years, I have gained friends, and I have lost them. I have laughed, and I have cried. I lost naivety and gained wisdom and knowledge. I entered a

a teenager and prepare to leave as an adult. However, the scariest obstacle I have yet to face – more frightening than that Calculus test, AP exam, and SCA election – is saying goodbye to my beloved friends, teachers, and faculty; my Park View family.

It does not seem so long ago that I first walked through the doors of Park View High School, yet in just a few weeks I will be walking out of them for my last time as a high school student. I am not going to lie; as a student very much afflicted with a serious case of senioritis, I have been looking forward to that day most of this year.

However, as the day approaches closer and closer, the finality of graduation becomes a little frightening. No matter how dependent

I will be on my parent's financial and emotional assistance during college, I will still be an independent adult in the eyes of the world: old enough to make my own decisions and old enough to reap the consequences. While I welcome this freedom, I am hesitant and occasionally filled with melancholy over the thought that I will no longer have those that have been my rock throughout high school beside me every day.

College and a career will be exciting parts of my future, no doubt; but, nonetheless, I still find it difficult to say goodbye to the past. I have learned a multitude of things here at Park View. I have seen that a diverse student body brings a greater variety of experiences and beliefs that facilitate a richer culture. I

have witnessed the ability of one person's passion for learning create a likewise passion in others. I have been taught that with a hard work and a lot of love, any barrier can be removed. People are more than what is on the outside, and it is the inside, the hearts and souls, of the students and faculty here at Park View that has made this school home.

My fellow seniors, I thank you for joining me for this ride. Remember and be thankful for the times we have had here and continue to live by the ideals that we have been taught. I wish you the best of luck with whatever your future holds.

Juniors, take advantage of your last year of high school. Be an active participant in all events and do not look forward

to graduation so much that you forget to enjoy these last moments in high school.

Sophomores, enjoy your role as rising upper-classmen. You are now the leaders of Park View; the freshmen will look up to you next year. Be proud Patriots, and please teach them how to cheer at pep rallies.

Freshmen, you will no longer be the babies. Work hard and strive for greatness. Do not be too hard on the incoming freshmen; you were in their shoes less than a year ago.

It is now time to say goodbye Park View. Adios mi amor, my dear friend and home. It is now time for me to go and pursue those dreams you fueled in me while I was here.

One Last Night to Remember - Prom 2014



Kirby Struhar

Associate Editor

It is a topic that has transcended time in a way: something that our generation, our parents' generation, and even our grandparents' generation have experienced: prom.

Like it or not, the topic always comes to focus in April and May. For some, it is an exciting time spent with friends or significant others. While for others, the whole thing causes unnecessary headaches, heartaches, and dwindled bank accounts.

For a lot of people, couples especially, prom is made out to be this unforgettable evening and expected to be the best night of your life. I am not afraid to admit that I have never had that stereotypical "date" experience with a girl at a high school dance.

However, it has been tough to watch at times when all your friends are excited about whom they are taking or going with when you are that guy without a date. Truth be

told, it is something that I have struggled with in the past.

Junior prom was difficult for me. I was going through some family stuff during the week leading up to the dance and ended up not getting home until the day before. In a way, I missed out on the feelings of anticipation and excitement, the "butterflies," mainly due to the fact that I was not in the best of places mentally. However, I decided to go, to have fun with my friends and enjoy an "important" night of high school.

Getting into a car accident on the way to prom is not an ideal start to a memorable evening, or at least a night you want to remember. Neither is showing up to the dance at ten after talking to police and worried parents for two hours. Since reflecting on the way that night went, I have realized that those experiences have made me even more cynical about the idea of prom and what it was supposed to be versus how it actually went.

However, senior prom is different. For starters, it is the last night you are going to get to spend with all of your friends before graduation. On top of that, it is the last night where you can truly be a kid

– pretty soon, most of us will be off at college, working, or serving our country in some fashion. Like it or not, prom is something that all of us will remember to a certain extent, regardless of whatever circumstances we find ourselves in.

The main goal of prom and high school, in general, is to enjoy its experiences and to embrace the life lessons you may learn from those experiences. There is no need to be stressed out with whom you are taking, where you are going to go to dinner, or what color your dress or tuxedo will be. Soon, most of those things will be a distant memory that you will struggle to recall. However, spending an evening with all of your friends and getting the opportunity to make memories that, for better or for worse, you will always remember? That should be what is important, because at the end of the day those are the things you will want to remember.

Reflecting on last year's prom, I wish I had enjoyed it more. I wish I had more fun, had not worried so much about what the night was supposed to be, and maybe I would not be so disappointed looking back on it now. It disappoints me that one of the

Summer School: Canceled!



Kensy Maradiaga

Staff Writer

Panic and distress is felt through many Park View High School students with the news of the cut of the summer school program from the Loudoun County Public Schools budget. Surprisingly this is not the first time this has happened in Loudoun County. In 2010, summer school was also cut from the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors' budget.

"I think one of the big impacts is going to be students who need summer school to stay on track like ELL students and students who want to go to Monroe and still want to get an advanced diploma. It's also going to affect people who failed a class because they aren't going to have a chance to get that credit," Guidance Counselor Michael Isner said.

"The other thing is that Dr. Minshew raises a lot of money from the snack bar for summer school and now that we do not have it, that is money that we usually have that we won't have next year," Isner said.

I am personally affected by the cut of summer school, as are a lot of other students.

As a student who was looking to graduate early, I am unable to graduate with an advanced diploma and graduate early with if there is no summer school for me to take the classes I need to advance. It took me months of planning and thinking to come up with the perfect plan on how I was planning to accomplish this goal I had set out for myself.

I had every class for every year and summer sorted out and arranged in a manageable way that I knew I would be able to succeed but still have a social life. Now my whole plan has completely died out because now I have one unusable summer and it throws every thing out of proportion.

My future and education is very important to my parents but they refuse to pay an excessive amount of money for one class that I could get for free the next year. Even if my parents would agree to pay for the online class, I feel as if I would not be as successful as I would be at Summer School. It is summer and it is beautiful outside, curfew gets pushed back because of no school, everyone goes on vacation like it is almost impossible to motivate yourself to sit down in a computer for hours every day to take one boring class. It is a system

Park View Promposals

by Kisha Lim

It is that time of the year again: prom season. The students of Park View High School are showing off their creativity and are beginning to seek dates for prom as the time winds down. Prom is a night full of dancing and memories, but what goes on before prom is a whole other story.

Boyfriends, girlfriends (yes, girlfriends), and even friends are putting in the work to create a memorable promposal.

Katie Cline, a junior, asked her boyfriend, junior Henry Argueta, to the upcoming Prom.

"He was supposed to ask me, but I beat him to it," says Cline.

Cline's Promposal was very out of the box, literally. Cline surprised Argueta with a pink box that read, "I'll ask you to prom when pigs fly! PS: Open the box!"

Little did Argueta know that two pink balloons that looked like pigs were going to float up into the air (referring to "pigs flying"). Argueta said yes and he will be Cline's date to Prom.

Senior Charlie Claeysen asked his girlfriend, senior Lindsey Turner, to

prom. Claeysen took advantage of a gloomy and rainy day and creatively asked Turner to prom with umbrellas that spelled out "PROM" with a question mark painted on the fifth umbrella. Claeysen asked five of his friends to hold out the umbrellas outside as they waited for Turner.

Turner saw a promposal coming from Claeysen, but did not have a clue to how he was going to ask her.

"When it happened, my heart just dropped, and of course I had to say yes," Turner said.

Emly Maradiaga and Sam Onyeador, both seniors, will be each other's date to Prom 2014.

"Sam and I are really good friends, but I didn't expect him to ask me to Prom," said Maradiaga.

Before the Promposal went down, Onyeador did a lot of stalling for his promposal to be a success. As he distracted Maradiaga, a couple of Maradiaga's lacrosse teammates were helping him by spelling Prom out with their lacrosse sticks outside. When Onyeador's friend saw Maradiaga coming, they gave him a signal. Onyeador walked

out from his hiding place with flowers, and a huge smile appeared onto Maradiaga's face.

"It was super cute, and no one at our school has asked anyone like that, so it was creative," Maradiaga said.

Harman Singh and Katie Thornton, also seniors, are another pair of friends that will be going to prom together. Thorne is a part of Park View's Lacrosse team so Singh had an idea right away.

Singh had a hard time with his promposal because he could not find lacrosse balls, so he improvised and used tennis balls.

He asked one of his friends to put a bunch of tennis balls, flowers, and a poster into her gym locker.

The poster read, "I'm sorry I didn't have the balls to ask you in person but Prom?" Thorne was unable to refuse the punny promposal.

After all of the effort, everyone was rewarded with the night of their lives at Prom 2014 on May 16th.



Junior Katie Cline asks boyfriend junior Henry Argueta to go to prom with the theme "when pigs fly."



Senior Charlie Claeysen asks girlfriend senior Lindsey Turner to go to prom with him using umbrellas on a rainy day.

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two proms I will get to go to in high school went the way that it did and that I had as bad of a time as I did. But at the end of the day, it is the things we go through that make us who we are and the experiences we have that shape us. Hopefully, this year's prom is one that all of us will want to remember and will be a night that we all will enjoy for all of the right reasons.

My senior prom was the complete opposite of my experiences a year ago. I went with a great group of friends, had a great time at the dance, and even had the honor of being named the prom king, which was unexpected and meant a whole lot to me. It was an unforgettable night that I will always hold in high regard. I think the experience I had this year showed me that the past means very little if not anything at all whether you are talking about sports, school, or even something like a high school dance.

The past is gone, and has no effect on how things go in the present, which was true for me this year. I think that is a great idea to apply to life in general. Regardless of where we have been or what has happened, we have opportunities every day to make each day the best it can be.

It seemed like everyone had a great time this year at prom. I know I did. It felt good to be able to move past the "cynicism" that I had felt and to be able to enjoy it as much as I did. It truly was a night to remember.

Where do You Hang Out?

by Amy Hensler

After a hard day's work at school, many students unwind by visiting their favorite hangouts. Park View Patriots love spending time with their friends and family as they relax after a stressful day.

Patriots love to hang out at places like the mall, Chipotle, Sweet Frog, and the library. "I like to go out with my friends and do a lot of different activities. I'm not really a stay at home type person; I like to go out," stated sophomore Alyssa Link.

Most students enjoy hanging out at place where you can eat. "I love food so I like to go to places like Subway or any other types of restaurant," stated Link. "Restaurants are also a good place to just sit and talk with friends too, so it's a win-win situation."

Junior Sara Pendley also agrees that restaurants are a good place to hang out. "We have a tendency to go out and eat at restaurants because we are all big fans of a lovely thing called food," Pendley said.

While some students like to go out, some students prefer to stay at home and relax with friends. "I am a very boring person. I am perfectly content with staying home and watching my favorite show, The 100, or going on car rides with my best friend," stated Pendley.

Junior Bryan Walser enjoys going out with friends and enjoys a relaxing day at home. "When I do go out, I like to go to Claude Moore to hang out with friends, but I normally just go home and do mass amounts of homework or I like to watch YouTube because it is both fun and relaxing," stated Walser.

All students can agree that hanging out with friends is the best way to go.

"Going places just isn't fun without your friends. As long as they are with me, I don't care where we go," stated Walser.

"Friends make everything better so it is really fun to hang out with them," said sophomore Kim Decena.

The Sound Of Music Comes to Park View

by Ibtisam Tora

On May 8th, the opening night of *The Sound of Music* had finally arrived. First performed in 1959, this hallowed show was now going to be acted out on Park View High School's stage.

For the past few weeks, the students who were involved in the play had been staying after school practicing for hours to perfect their roles. "In the beginning, we were all stressed, but as they days went by we all got excited for the day to come," senior actress Padi Goudarzi stated. "I think it's going to go well," said cast member Paul Rieck before the play.

The play was well organized; it caught my attention immediately. The music was beautiful especially since everyone in the play had wonderful voices. The story had a bit of humor and a tad bit of romance.

It was about a woman named Maria who wished to be a nun very much, but the other nuns wanted her gone because they thought she was not fit to be one. The mother, who was the head of the church,



Larry Wharton

Maria, played by senior Padi Goudarzi, prepares for her wedding as her friends from the abbey assist.

sent Maria away to a home with seven children cared for by a their single father who was seemingly emotionless as he still struggled to recover from his wife's death.

She taught the children how to sing, dance, and enjoy life once more. Maria, the children's nanny, unexpectedly finds herself developing feelings for Mr. Von Trapp, the father; and the exhilarating story continues as Nazis, nuns, and socialism play into this newfangled romance. This play has everything one can want.

The hard work of

the actors and stage hands was evident as all enjoyed the show. Friends, family, and even teachers came out to support the actors at opening night.

The play had a warm feeling to it since the music was positive, most of the time. The actors made the dances look so simple and easy to do, but several of the students had a hard time learning it during practices after school.

Park View successfully entertained their audience. The drama club hopes they can perform more plays similar to *The Sound of Music* in the future.

A New Era of PV Lacrosse: Game Against Trinity Ends in Loss, But Brings the Team Together

by Ronald Henriquez

Park View has had many great sports teams over the years, but there is probably one sport that is not as well known: lacrosse. What is lacrosse you ask? Lacrosse is a mixture of football, soccer, and hockey. Each team plays with ten players on the field: a goalkeeper, three defenders in the defensive end, three midfielders free to roam the whole field, and three attackers attempting to score goals in the offensive end. Each player carries a stick with a net to carry a small white ball that you pass to one another in attempt to score a goal within a time limit of twelve minutes per quarter.

As a player, sophomore and midfielder, Michael Hernandez Ortiz stated that his responsibility is “helping players play better if they don’t know the game very well.”

For captain Mark Brooks, a senior who plays offense, believes his responsibility was to keep everyone focused and motivated. If he did not do this, everyone



Victor O'Neill Studios

Park View goalie, sophomore Chris Claeysen, gets ready to block a shot by Trinity's offense.

would be focused on doing their own things on the field. Because of this, Brooks was able to help the team to achieve their first win in many years.

On May 5th, Park View boys' lacrosse varsity team fought off against Trinity School's varsity lacrosse team at six o'clock.

“They're getting better and faster than last year,” said Dara, a sterling resident who came to cheer on the lacrosse team. Before the game she believed that the boys' varsity lacrosse team had a fifty-fifty chance of winning their match against

Trinity.

After saluting the American flag the game started with Park View starting strong by playing defense and preventing Trinity's Tempest from intercepting the ball and making them run out of bounds, but the Tempest team was able to at least score one point at the end of the first quarter, leaving the match 1-0.

During the second quarter of the match, the boys' varsity team defense weakened as the Tempest was able to score two more points, leaving the first half of the game to 3-0.

The Patriots were able to score a goal in the third quarter; however things went downhill for them as the Tempest team was able to score six more points in the quarter ending the match with a score of 09-01.

“It's kind of disappointing, but at least I can see my friends play,” Trevor Andrus, sophomore, said after seeing the how game ended.

Though they lost, the boys' varsity team were able to do their best out there in the game they played and brought their Park View spirit.

Boys and Girls Track Teams Hold Their Own at Dominion

by Kensy Maradiaga

On Wednesday April 9th, Park View Track and Field made their way to Dominion High School to run against Dominion and Heritage. As soon as the first shot from the starter pistol was fired, the runners bounded from the starting line, and the intense meet began.

“It was an enjoyable track meet. Track overall is fun, but in order to get good it takes a lot of practice,” shared junior Justin Mooney. Mooney, who received 4th place in the boys long jump, 1st place in the boys triple jump, 2nd place in the boys 200 meter dash, and his 4x400 meter relay team received 1st place.

There were a total of thirty-two events. Certain events took place at the same time, but everything was fast paced and hectic. There were only seconds in between each transition from one event

to another. Participants and coaches could be seen scattered all over the field warming up, running, jumping, and throwing.

“It was exciting to earn points for our school; they were a couple people who I was worried would score better than me. It's been an exciting year, and I've made a lot of improvement,” explained senior Sarah Villalobos.

Villalobos received

1st place on the girl's discus throw and 3rd place on girl's shot put.

Each participant put 100 percent into their event—nothing could get in the way of their determination to be the best. Even the worst of pains was not enough to stop these determined Patriots.

“The downside was I still had shin splints, but I knew that I had to do my best, and I gave it my all,” exclaimed sophomore Belinda

Addae. Addae received 4th place on the girl's 100 meter dash, and her 4x100 meter relay team received 3rd place.

“I ripped my track spikes during the long jump so I wasn't in a very good mood but I was still able to do well in my main event that being the 300 hurdles and also the 4x4 so over all it was a pretty good meet. As far as my thoughts on track, I love it. The fact that it's you vs. yourself is appealing to

me and helps feed my competitive nature,” stated senior Juan Rivera.

Rivera received 1st place in the boys long jump, 1st place in the 300 meter hurdles, and his 4x400 meter relay team also received 1st place.

In the end, the Park View Track and Field girls scored a total of 26.50 pointed putting them in 3rd place, and the boys scored a total of



Victor O'Neill Studios

Runners sophomore Caitlyn Payne and Belinda Addae sprint down the track towards the finish line, trying to pass runners from John Champe High School.

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Malia Nelson



Kirby Struhar

PHOTOS BY VICTOR O'NEILL STUDIOS



Sam Onyeador



Micah Hotz



Isam Shaban

A Player's Choice: Seniors Commit to Play Sports in College

by Ronald Henriquez

Each player has to perform an important task not only in his or her game but also in their life. Isam Shaban, Kirby Struhar, Micah Hotz, Emilee Pierson, Sam Oyendor, and Malia Nelson are senior athletes at Park View High School who were given a great offer that many athletes work for: a chance to

play collegiate-level athletics.

Emilee Pierson, who was being recruited for volleyball, did not know where to go until she was offered a spot on the volleyball team for Virginia Wesleyan.

"I love the location. It's right beside the beach," Pierson stated. Pierson loves Virginia Wesleyan's coaching

staff and the other volleyball players and really enjoys the overall feel of the campus. Pierson plans to study and play hard for Wesleyan while working towards a career as a teacher.

Malia Nelson, the shortstop on the girls varsity softball team, made the decision to go to her first-choice

school Dowling College in Long Island. According to Nelson, Dowling offered her both an athletic and academic scholarship. Nelson loves everything about the school, though she probably wouldn't have known about it if they hadn't recruited her to play softball. She is planning to study aviation management to

become a pilot.

Kirby Struhar decided to play golf for Randolph-Macon. "It was somewhere I can see myself," he said. Ever since he was little, Struhar has dreamed of playing college golf, and he was so delighted that he could not describe how he felt when Randolph-Macon

CHOICE CONTINUED on Page 7

Park View's Athletes of the Season

Stride for Stride with Kayla Beale and Ajmal Alami

by Kirby Struhar

Seniors Kayla Beale and Ajmal Alami are this year's Athletes of the Season for Park View Track and Field. Both Alami and Beale are exceptional athletes and leaders.

Track Coach Bryan Gallo, himself a former Park View athlete, thinks very highly of the leadership they both possess. "They both have a strong work ethic," Coach Gallo noted. "They're both determined to succeed and have everyone else succeed as well. They push themselves at practice and push others as well."

For Alami, running was something that happened almost accidentally. "I found out soccer wasn't my thing and someone told me to try track," Alami said, reflecting on how it all started.

Alami, who has run track all four years and cross country his sophomore, junior, and senior years, talked about how his sophomore year cross country team is what really got him interested in running in general.

"Sophomore year cross country is what started my whole running thing," Ajmal stated. He noted how his teammates that year is what really peaked his interest in running and how that got him to becoming more involved and dedicate more time to it.

Ajmal is known by his teammates as a true captain that is

very knowledgeable about his sport. "He always takes charge of stretching and warming up [at practice]," said sophomore Caitlin Payne.

Senior Juan Rivera, himself an accomplished runner as a first-year member of the Patriots, said that Alami is "very dedicated and insightful, and a great teammate. I've learned more about running than I knew the first three years of high school. His mental toughness is admirable," Rivera said.

For Beale, excelling at track runs in her family, according to teammate and senior Micah Land. "Hopefully, the freshmen will want to be at her level when they get to our age," Land stated.

"Kayla's someone who can have fun while working hard," Alami noted. "She knows how to enjoy the little things and make the best of them."

Sophomore Caitlin Payne thinks that Kayla is the teammate that helps to make everyone relaxed while at the same time working hard. "She's always making us laugh and enjoying the time [at practice]."

Both Kayla and Ajmal are tremendously hard workers who always give their best effort. "They both work their butts off to get better at their events and make sure that other people are working hard to," Payne said.



Victor O'Neill Studios

Junior Cody Wooten runs down the field, lacrosse stick in hand, ready to cause some action on the field and score yet another goal for the Patriots.

Clashing Sticks With Cody Wooten

by Liana Jackley

The jersey number 21, the feeling of his lungs burning while his legs are pumping hard to go faster, and the distinctive sound of a whoosh as the ivory ball hits the back of the opposing team's goal, is nothing new to junior Cody Wooten. Wooten has been playing the exhilarating sport of lacrosse since his freshman year and has shifted from being on defense his freshman year to a midfielder as a sophomore year and now the leading attacker, scoring-wise, this year.

"First time I met him he was in a stretched out white tank top and was extremely boisterous, with no substance to back it up except for his great potential. Once he bought into the idea that in order to redefine Park View Lacrosse we needed to start by becoming better people and hard-working individuals first, he flourished as a lacrosse player," said varsity boys lacrosse Coach Mr. Matthew Casey.

When looking into the quickly approaching future, Wooten pictures him-

self playing lacrosse at the collegiate level at a school such as Syracuse University or the University of Maryland.

"He's a good role model; he sets a good example at practice and helps people by telling them how to play because most of us are new," said sophomore Giovanni Lopes. His experience and stability shine through Wooten's leadership as a captain of his team.

Sophomore Chase Jefferson, a midfielder, said, "Cody has really improved from last year, and he's very positive. He doesn't let people down, and he has good sportsmanship." Wooten also leads the team with his impressive scoring résumé. "I scored six goals, and that's an improvement from last year when we scored a total of six goals that whole season," Wooten stated. Coach Casey responded with, "We've won more than one game for the first time in 10 years, we've scored the most goals in 10 years, we've already had two individual school

records broken (with more to come)-I'd say we're doing ok."

Overall, not only is Wooten rising up to the challenge, but the rest of the boys lacrosse team is too. "They all put in a great effort," said Wooten fondly. Wooten credits part of his success to Coach Casey.

"My coach Matt Casey, he's a professional player. He's a great motivator and enthusiastic," Wooten said.

Wooten admits that playing lacrosse can be rough, but when it comes to game time "nothing else matters." For players looking into improving their game, Wooten advised, "Keep working hard and don't give up."

Wooten plays lacrosse not to just play but to compete. He is compassionate about the game, and it shows every time he steps onto the field. Wooten's mind has learned to live by a saying his coach gave to him during practice one time: "We're going to do it until we get it right."



MileStat.com

Senior Kayla Beale clears a hurdle, far ahead of her opponent and posed to win.



Victor O'Neill Studios

Senior Ajmal Alami races down the track, hoping to grab a spot on the podium.

Park View Seniors Commit to Colleges and the Military after Graduation

California University of Pennsylvania
Ajmal Alami

Canisius College
Erin Everhart

Christopher Newport University
Michelle Bridegeman

The College of William and Mary
Samuel Onyeador
Bery Montenegro

The Culinary Institute of America
Michelle Salazar

Eastern Mennonite University
Jennifer Del Cid

Dowling College
Malia Nelson

George Mason University
Van Do
Anees Raja
Charlotte Rothman
Catherine Vu
Cynthia Vu

Harvard College
Christabel Narh

Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Rachel Braddock
Erin Bradley

James Madison University
Mark Brooks
Justin Chaphiv
Justice Colbert
Jacob Colville
Christopher Wood

Longwood University
Katie Thornton

Marymount University
Rabia Firoz
Bobby Vu

Milligan College
Alyssa Bartlett

North Carolina A&T State University
Kamara Anais Parker

Northern Virginia Community College
Jonathan Avendano-Gonzalez

Cristian Bardales
Emely Callejas
Rosa De La O Vasquez
Olivia Constanza
Robert Embling
Padi Goudarzi
Kelsey Huppert
Hajran Inam
Khadeeja Inam
Michael Pittinger

Ohio University
Paul Rieck

Old Dominion University
Thomas Carter
Shenyce Hutchins

Radford University
Aden Ahmed
Tatyana Hawkins
Bryan Martinez
Sean Pittard
We'chika Thach
Hunter Wolf

Randolph-Macon College
Kirby Struhar

Salisbury University
Kaylyn Karnei

Seton Hill University
Molly Ryan

Shenandoah University
Isam Shaban

Shepherd University
Megan Karman

University of Virginia
Tina Chiu
Siwakorn Chusuwan
Tina Le
Emily Mooney
Christine Olson
Daniel Tschinkel

University of Mary Washington
Norhan Darwish

United States Army
Harshanie Bandara

Virginia Commonwealth University
Seif Mawla
Andrea Rodriguez
Kelly Stuart

Virginia Wesleyan University
Alex Gallant
Emilee Pierson

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
Aninder Gill
Ashley Long
Emly Maradiaga

Waynesburg University
Micah Hotz

West Virginia University
Lindsay Turner



Amy Hensler

Seniors Padi Goudarzi, Dan Tschinkel, Neill Hensler and Kelsey Huppert kiss the stage good bye after they perform for their last time at Park View.

Final Curtain Call: Saying Goodbye to the Seniors in Drama

by Amy Hensler

The Park View Drama Department is home to many amazing talented students, but this year we are sadly saying goodbye to the department's senior class.

Drama is home to many interesting personalities and people, one of them being senior Robert Hanna. Hanna has been participating in drama for four years and has loved every minute of it.

"Drama seemed like a good fit for my boasting personality," stated a laughing Hanna. His favorite show would have to be the one act show he did his sophomore year.

"It was my first lead role in a show, and I got to play a drunken guy so that was fun. It was a fun character to play," Hanna said.

Another bubbly senior is Padi Goudarzi who has also been in drama since her freshman year.

"My first show was *Macbeth*, and I started drama because I saw the slideshow for auditions on the announcements. I didn't know anybody so I was terrified to audition, but I made friends," Goudarzi stated. This entertaining senior enjoyed being in the show *Fiddler on The Roof* and knows that the Drama Department is always there for her.

"After a stressful day I look forward to being with all of my friends and doing what I love to do," Goudarzi stated.

Neill Hensler and Kaylyn Karnei are two more fantastic seniors to whom the department is saying goodbye. Both seniors have been doing drama for four years. Hensler's favorite show was his sophomore show *The Bald Soprano*.

"I made all of my friends in this show, and I started to become the person I am today," Hensler stated.

Karnei loved doing the show *Macbeth*. "It was when I really became friends with everybody, and it was my first big role," Karnei said.

All of the seniors agree that the best part of drama is the people in it. Senior Jimmy Lay loves that drama is filled with many different classes.

"You get to meet all of the people who aren't in your grade that you probably wouldn't have talked to," Lay stated.

"We're a family. Everyone recognizes and cares for everyone. There's no one left out, everyone has their own little part of Park View Drama," Hensler stated about the program.

Family is a perfect way to describe the department, and everyone will be greatly disappointed when these wonderful additions leave. Park View Drama will never be the same without these bright faces greeting you every day at rehearsal. The department will miss them all.

PRIDE CONTINUED from Page 2

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senior, likes the early release but does not like the fact that the PRIDEs are in a certain block. "It restricts the students' schedules," said Rothman.

Mrs. Letina, however, thinks that the new PRIDE system has been "very successful in terms of creating a more structured environment to better support student learning."

She believes that there has been much more student productivity than years past, and students are receiving more personal support by working with their PRIDE teacher to improve their grades and performance. Mrs. Letina teaches PRIDE 2nd block and has mostly juniors and seniors, along with a couple of sophomores.

Ms. Rose, Park View's attendance secretary, thinks that the seniors really take advantage of the early release and that the new PRIDE system is a big help to students who need extra time for homework or makeup tests/quizzes.

In the end, despite the fact that it could use some minor changes, Park View's new PRIDE system has benefited many and has definitely changed for the better.

offered them a spot on their golf team. Struhar stated he wanted to go to Randolph-Macon was because it just "felt right." When he visited other schools, he did not feel the "it factor" that he felt when he visited Randolph Macon. Struhar plans to enjoy his time at Randolph-Macon and is looking forward to his experiences there.

Micah Hotz, a starting linebacker on the varsity football team, has committed to Waynesburg University in Pennsylvania.

"They offered me an offer of twenty eight thousand even though the tuition is twenty one thousand," Holtz explained. He accepted this offer in order to get a better deal financially, athletically, and like Struhar, what felt right. He also accepted the offer due to the fact that a teaching degree in Pennsylvania is accepted in a school system in almost any state. Hotz hopes to become a teacher one day and feels like Waynesburg can help him get there and ultimately accomplish the goals he has for his future.

Isam Shaban, a starting middle linebacker on Park View football's tough defense, has chosen to continue his football career at Shenandoah University. "It's because the school is small, and it's closer to home," Shaban said, talking about the advantages that Shenandoah offered. He also spoke highly of the coaching staff and the

faculty at Shenandoah, whom he met when he visited the campus. He plans to study in business information and technology at Shenandoah, with hopes of becoming a government contractor.

Sam Onyeador, the starting goalie of the boys' varsity soccer team, was accepted to The College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia. However, unlike the other athletes, Onyeador got into William and Mary in a different way.

"The schools I was talking to [for] soccer weren't [as] high academically that I wanted, so I decided to apply to schools regularly," Onyeador explained. However, the head soccer coach at William and Mary knew Onyeador, and offered Sam a spot in the team if he got accepted. Fortunately for Sam, he did.

"I really got the best of both worlds." Though he is not sure what career path he wants to take, Onyeador will be studying economics and psychology at William and Mary next fall.

All six athletes were given the opportunity to play college athletics at great schools; however, the choices they made were all completely different from one another. Now these six students are waiting for next fall to come around to begin their collegiate careers, all the while using the lessons they learned in their time as Park View Patriots.

My Favorite Memory : Unforgettable Moments of the Class of 2014

by Thy Dao

As you go through high school, you are bound to make some good memories along the way. A person's favorite memories can be anything – whether it is a certain football game that ended in their school's favor or even just being in class with their best friends.

Memories are something to look back to in the future; something someone should never forget. The seniors have definitely come up with a few good memories of their own in their past years here at Park View.

"We're like a family now," said senior Tausif Islam, explaining her relationship with her AP Chemistry class. Her favorite high school memories were made in Mr. Goff's science classroom. Islam stated that everyone is able to really get along and lift each other's spirits when someone is down and that she and her classmates support one another. Sometimes, that is all it takes to make one's high school experience enjoyable: good friends.

Senior Van Do's favorite parts of high school consist of Friday night football games and pep rallies. Her favorite football game in particular was the homecoming football game this year. She had fun supporting Park

View, cheering, and just being spirited. "Those are the moments that only happen in high school," said Do. She shared these memories with her tennis team and her closest friends.

Senior Noah Nicholes expects his favorite high school memory to be graduation but at the moment it is passing AP Psychology. He has found the course challenging at times, but enjoys it because of the fun way his teacher, Ms. Bartow, teaches. He feels that the massive weight off his chest and feeling of completion and relief he got was a reward everyone should get when they are a senior.

Not everyone's favorite high school memory occurs during their senior year. Sam Onyeador's took place during his sophomore year. It consists of a penalty kick at a soccer game versus Heritage High School that brought his team to regionals. "It was really big of us to win the game," Onyeador said.

Sometimes, your favorite high school memory takes place during your first year of high school. Senior Molly Ryan's favorite memory was with her lacrosse team during freshman year when they won their first district game. It was important to her because the team had never

won a district game until that year.

Being in the marching band has given senior Dan Tschinkel so much to remember, but his favorite memory happened when he was a freshman. That was the year the marching band won state championships and advanced to nationals. It was his first impression of doing

something in a high school group. "It's something that not everyone gets to do and means a lot," Tschinkel said.

Even as seniors prepare to leave and say their final good-byes, they reminisce, with smiles on their faces, about the people they have met and the memories they have made throughout their time here at Park View.



Photos by Larry Wharton



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MINSHEW CONTINUED from Page 1

School and her first administrative position at Park View.

"I am incredibly sad that she won't be here next year, but at the same time, I'm extremely happy for her – she deserves it," Ms. Piccolomini said. "She's been a mentor, a good friend."

"Dr. Minshew is genuinely a great person. She cares deeply for the Sterling and Park View community. She always goes out of her way to make sure Park View is a great place for everyone to be at. She's definitely a proud Patriot," said senior Rabia Firoz.

"I've only attended Park View for a year, but it's clear she has had a tremendous impact on Park View as a school and as a community. She refuses to let Park View High School be viewed as less than an honorable and exemplary school. I am saddened that Park View is losing an awesome principal next year, but I have no doubt her efforts and hard work will have an impact on Park View for many years to come," said senior Juan Rivera.

"She's here every Saturday, every Sunday, every night. She's here in the morning. She deserves her break after thirty years in the trenches. She does it [lead as principal] with a smile." Mr. Rosenthal said.

As she prepares to say goodbye, Dr. Minshew reminisces on her time here with a grateful heart. "I want the Park View community to know that these last nine years have been such a great experience at looking at kids and schools in very different lenses. This is in many ways my favorite job that I have ever had. This is a family, and you get that feeling when you walk through the door," Dr. Minshew said. "I just hope that I have given as much as I've received."