



Gearing Up for Bermuda Day

Olivia Costanza

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Park View High School lets loose after mid-terms in a special fashion: a school-wide celebration called Bermuda Day. Happening on February 10th in the main gym, this Park View tradition is an event that everyone is looking forward to. For all the people who don't know what this event entails, here are some things students ought to know about Bermuda Day.

Bermuda Day is an old tradition. It used to happen before exams, as a way to relax. "Now, it's a reward for studying so hard. We are fortunate to have it, because a lot of other schools don't get to have a Bermuda Day," SCA vice-president, Pablo Rivera said.

The Bermuda Day spirit builds up all week, during "spirit days." This year the spirit week contains: fake an injury day, animal day, superhero day, wear pink day, and class spirit day.

"It's going to be great!" Rivera stated. "Spirit days are a lot of fun. It's great seeing everybody have so much spirit," sophomore Justice Colbert said. "People really have fun dressing up," junior Jose Argueta-Abarca observed.

Bermuda Day itself consists of a shortened class schedule, followed by lunch and then an afternoon pep rally filled with games and races between classes and staff. Each race or game earns each class points; at the end, the class with the most points wins the spirit stick. The class of 2012 won last year.

Bermuda Day can be a little confusing for freshmen, but it's a fun activity that sneaks up on them. "Freshman year was fun, but freshmen aren't really good [at the games]." Castaneda commented. Remembering her own freshman year, Colbert adds, "It was fantastic! I didn't really know what to expect, but it turned out great!"

"There was relay races, we played a lot of games, and dressed up like it was summer time. People with the

most energy and who wanted to represent their class went down there and participated." Agueta-Abarca said.

Unique games are always featured such as the crazy cups relay and the rubber chicken game. The crazy cups relay is a relay race where students run to the other end of the gym, grab a plastic cup, bring it to the middle of the gym and start a tower beginning with six cups. Students are in their socks, so it is harder to run; some students cannot steer past the tower, and they end up knocking it down. There is also a game where students throw rubber chickens with an elastic band to the other side of the gym where another student awaits with a net. The class with the most chickens in a certain amount of time gets the points.

Every class wants to win. "It's something I look forward to, and we're planning to win," Firoz says. "I want the juniors to win! We have a lot of energy," Agueta-Abarca said. "The senior class wants to get back at the juniors, but the juniors are going to win this time, we have more energy and more spirit," Rivera comments. "No doubt we are going to win!" Castaneda said. Bermuda Day looks to be another great event. There is already competition building up between the classes, and everybody cannot wait to see who gets the spirit stick.



True Patriots' Blood

Isabella Pineo

One might argue that the best time to give back to your community is during the holidays, which is exactly what Park View High School did this past December. Just before winter break, the National Honors Society (NHS) held a blood drive in the school library to support the American Red Cross. Both faculty and students were allowed to donate, provided that they met the physical requirements. Height, age, and weight all played a role in determining eligibility. Students were recruited during lunch by NHS members and needed a legal guardian's signature to participate. Around seventy students and faculty members volunteered to donate blood, but some were not able to due to high blood pressure, or low concentrations of iron, and other health-related reasons.

On the day of the event, each student donor had an assigned time

slot to come and give blood, while faculty could come at any time. Only four people were able to get blood drawn every fifteen minutes. Each participant was able to donate a maximum of one pint of blood. In total, 46 pints were collected. "The 46 units collected at Park View's blood drive have the potential of saving up to 138 patients in need. These are big numbers," Suzanne Brown, the Senior Account Executive of the American Red Cross said about Park View's donation. Christopher Sanchezconcha, president of the NHS, agreed, calling the collection totals, "Really extraordinary."

Students felt fulfilled after donating blood or after helping organize the event. "I believe that the blood drive did not only impact Park View, but the whole Sterling community," Sanchezconcha said about the events turn out.

Mrs. Rush, Park View's head librarian, had this to say about the blood drive, "It turned out really well. We had a lot of support from students, and we arranged it at a perfect time."

Next year's blood drive will be held around the same time next year. "You always hope to get the same enthusiastic response and collect as much blood as you can," Mrs. Rush stated.

The holidays brought out Park View's giving side, and everyone has high hopes that at next year's blood drive, another "extraordinary" amount of blood is collected.



American Red Cross

Together, we can save a life

Love is in the Air: Valentine's Day Megan Karmen

What does the date February 14th mean to you? For some, it means getting showered with gifts, like flowers and chocolate. But for others, it means a chick-flick marathon with friends. No matter how you celebrate it, Valentine's Day is the time of year where you should make your loved ones feel extra special.

February 14th does not really mean anything to sophomore Cynthia Vu except that she is getting her braces off that day! Vu's favorite part about Valentine's Day is eating boxes of Palmers Chocolate. "Love" is the word that Vu would use to describe Valentine's Day.

Sophomore Kiran Aslam also does not celebrate Valentine's Day; although, she recalls passing out valentines to her class when she was little. According to Aslam, "Movies, 'Be My Valentine' cards, and sales" are some ways that the media has taken advantage of the day of love. Aslam describes Valentine's Day as "Lovely."

How is sophomore Emily Ashton going to celebrate Valentine's Day? In a word; cards. She and her boyfriend, Brian Martinez, will enjoy a low-key Valentine's Day, exchanging cards and spending time together. She thinks the holiday has gotten too commercialized and suffers from media hype. The best part about this holiday, she says, "is spending time with people you like." Her word for the day? What else, "Sweet."

Long-term sub Ms. Wray is all about Valentine's Day. She and her husband exchange cards every day from February 1st until the 14th. "We did the long-distance thing for a few years, so exchanging cards and letters has always been an important part of our relationship. We try to be creative about it. Sometimes we hand-make our cards. Sometimes we buy them, but we always include a long note in each one." What about other traditional trappings of the holiday? "Yup," says Wray, with a smile. "Chocolate, roses, champagne. We get pretty silly."

Valentine's Day is all about showing someone how much you care about them. Whether through gifts, love letters or just in person, be sure to let that certain someone (or your loved ones) know how much you care about them.



Where's That Music Coming From? Anais Parker

If you've walked past the library on a Thursday morning this month, odds are you've heard the unusual playing of music. Thinking the library is a rather odd place for loud melodies, you might have poked your head inside to see what was going on. Seeing the people who were playing, you might have recognized one or two of them but were not quite sure why they were there.

Well, they are actually part of a music class called World View taught by Dr. Miroslav Loncar. They're a musically talented multicultural performance group that celebrates the cultural diversity at Park View High School through musical performances.

The musicians play various acoustic instruments and sing a variety of songs from different countries in a number of different

languages. Some tunes come from Asia, Latin America, and even the Middle East. "We play all sorts of different songs from almost everywhere," says junior Ryan Duncan. "We've played songs in Spanish, French, Arabic, even Croatian," says junior Pablo Rivera. They also use a wide array of instruments from bongos to ukuleles. Even more awesome, most members of the group play more than one instrument. "We switch around sometimes," says junior Leslie Rodriguez.

World View music class performs at school and all around Loudon County. In the past two years they have played at Sterling Fest, the Loudoun County Public Library Young Musicians Series, Claude Moore Autumn Fair, Leesburg First Fridays, Earth Day Loudoun, and of course, the PVHS library. November

Notes and Guitars on the Go are World View's free month-long performances. November Notes happened every Thursday morning during November and was open to all. Guitars on the Go has the same format and is happening right now in February. World View also has also played twice before at Zeïtoon, a Mediterranean grill, and they are hoping to perform there again.

Dr. Loncar has very interesting views on his class. He decided to start the class so "Students of various ethnic backgrounds could play music from different parts of the world, and perform in the school and the community." Asked what his philosophy of teaching is, he says, "It's very simple. I want to teach the music to make the world a better place."

Old and New Places in Sterling: Laser Nation and Rebounderz Megan Karman

Laser Nation and Rebounderz are two popular hang-out spots for Park View students. Both places tend to get pretty crowded with fun-seeking people of all ages on the weekends.

Laser Nation (formerly Ultrazone) is a laser tag venue and one of the few original attractions of Sterling. The building itself has been around for a while; it was an old movie theater in the 70's.

Bekah Mellick has been working at Laser Nation since October. Mellick has seen kids from only three years old to people in their seventies having a blast playing laser tag. The appropriate attire for laser tag is anything black; however, some people come in special attire. "A group of teens came straight from homecoming and played while they were still in their dresses and suits!" Mellick said.

Sophomore Catherine Vu went Laser Nation last year. Her favorite part about Laser Nation is that you "get to run around with lasers in the dark with loud music and club lights."

The 'new kid on the block' of Sterling attractions is Rebounderz. Rebounderz is an increasingly popular indoor trampoline arena that has

been in Sterling since August, 2011.

"Rebounderz is a giant trampoline place where you jump around like idiots," junior Kathy Tran shared. Tran was able to visit Rebounderz in November. Tran's favorite part about Rebounderz was chucking dodgeballs at referees, but she dislike the rules and time limits.

Rebounderz employees are called referees and their uniforms consist of shirts, shorts [for boys], and yoga pants [for girls]. Senior Estefanny Ramirez has been working at Rebounderz for three months. Though her favorite part of working there is interacting with the kids, she also works as a party host and sometimes part of the clean-up crew.

This year's Project Grad – the all-night celebration given by the parents of Park View for the graduating class the night of their graduation – will be held at Rebounderz.

If you are looking for something fun to do with all your friends on a snow day, during the summer, or anytime, try checking out Laser Nation or Rebounderz!

Are Video Games Really Hurting Our Brains? Michelle Rosado

Whether online, on a desktop, or on a console, almost all of us have played video games. It has long been argued that nothing good can come from playing them: video games – they say – rot our brains and pull us away from the educational activities our parents wish we were pursuing. But is that fair? Yes, there are a number of games with zero intellectual value, but that doesn't apply to every game out there. Even the silliest or most addictive games can be educational.

Take *Angry Birds*™ from Rovio for example, a game where the player uses the number and type of birds given per level to destroy green pigs and knock over blocks of wood and stone. It may not sound like the most interesting thing in the world, but it gets addictive pretty quickly. It might not be obvious how this game could relate to education, but if you look closely, you will see it: math. Geometry, to be more specific, is key in this game, whether you realize that you are using it or not. To launch the birds successfully, you have to accurately aim a slingshot, so every time you fire you are calculating an angle. How's that for making learning more fun?

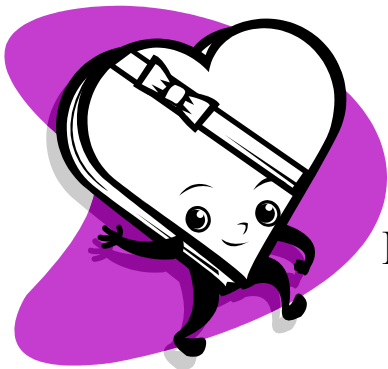
Some videogames are made for primarily scholastic purposes. CoolMath.com is a website that contains games and even some tutorials on math and literature. Some of the math games on this site include Bloons, The Timernator, Crazy Taxi M12, Fraction Splat, and many more. If you are looking for a website that focuses on math alone, take a look at MathisFun.com. This website offers many kinds of games and puzzles that are surprisingly enjoyable, but help the user learn math concepts.

Not all games are harmful to the brain as so many have convinced themselves. Video game designers have purposely made many games that are so entertaining, the player does not realize that they are actually teaching themselves. Teachers, you can check out these websites too; they might even give you some ideas as to how to create new, interactive lessons for students.



Dear Lil Sissy,

I love you so much, Breezy! You are my best friend and best sister ever! I love your crocs! Sweetheart, you're ready. Let go!

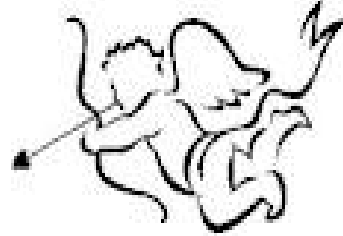


Love, your Big Sis
Cailey aka "Bailey"

Dear Isabella,

You make my heart glow like the blaze of an eternal fire. Everytime i'm near you i can hardly control myself. You are the light of my life and my reason i get up in the morning. Will you please, please be my valentine?

Love, Your Secret Admirer



Dear Ms. Little,

We miss you lots and lots!
Congratulations on the birth of the wee baby Logan! Come back to us soon.

Love, the Newspaper Staff



Dear Evelyn,

You are amazing! Your eyes sparkle like the sun and your smile brightens up the room. I love you!

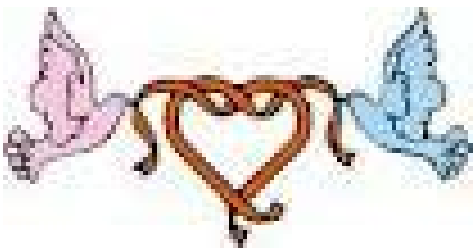
Caramel



Dear Anais,

You're awesome! Hope you get lots of candy! Bye!

Your Friend,
Anonymous



Dear Justin,

You are the coolest guy ever! You are strong, funny, athletic, smart and kind. I am so proud to call you my brother! I love you bro!

Love, Your Sister,
Emily Mooney



Dear Erica,

You are so beautiful and sweet!
You always dress so nicely and have the best style!
Keep on being the gorgeous girl you are. :)

Emily Mooney



Dear Rebecca,

You're the smartest person we know! School wouldn't be the same without your energy... We wrote a song for you. I'M ALL OUT OF LOVE, I'M SO LOST WITHOUT YOU!!!! I KNOW YOU WERE RIGHT BELIEVING FOR SO LONG!!!

Love,
Michelle and Laura



Google Unwrapped

Laura Brawley

ENTERTAINMENT

Many people think that Google has been around since the Internet was invented in 1957, but Google wasn't actually launched until 1998. Originally called "BackRub," Google's inventors, Larry Page and Sergey Bin, created a search engine by using links from certain web pages to determine the importance of individual web pages. In 1998, they revamped it so that it offered searches that included forms of advertising and web applications and changed the name from "BackRub" to "Google."

Google uses an organized system to get its users the information they need. Before they ever enter a query into the search box, Google traverses the web with software programs called crawlers. A crawler visits a page, copies it, then follows the links from that page to other pages and keeps repeating this process over and over. Then Google processes the pages and creates an index. So when one types a query into the search box, the query is sent to servers that compare all the documents stored in their index to identify the most relevant matches. The system prepares a list of the most relevant pages and determines the relevant sections as well as text, images, videos and more.

Today Google workers use more than two hundred signals to

order websites and update their lists of web addresses on a weekly basis in order to make sure their data is correct. Google was first launched with twenty-five million pages in its index, but today it spans billions of pages. In 2007, Google introduced Universal Search.



Universal Search makes searches more comprehensive by integrating images, videos, news, books and other media. When Google was first invented, crawlers only searched the web every three or four months, leading to often out-of-date information; but today everything is updated every few minutes or seconds.

Google is described by creator Page as the "perfect search engine," and also as something that "understands exactly what you mean and gives you back exactly what you want." Google truly has changed the way people experience the Internet by helping them find information about things they want to know in seconds.

Out With the Cold, In With the New Shows

Deborah Wimmer

Everybody has different preferences on which qualities in a TV show interest them. "Qualities that interest me would be an interesting plot and anything that's entertaining," revealed senior Tanner Williams. Many different genres of television shows, such as reality shows, sitcoms, and dramas, are created to entertain.

Many are buzzing about the return of *American Idol*. "I feel like *American Idol* is the best show ever made, and it is a show I live my life by," said junior Tony Staszak. *American Idol* is a reality show in its eleventh season and is a singing competition in which contestants audition and then compete to be pop music's next superstar. Randy Jackson, Jennifer Lopez, and Steven Tyler are the judges. "I like to watch *American Idol* because I think it is funny when

they [contestants] go to audition and can't sing," stated sophomore Nikki Rodriguez.

Pretty Little Liars is another returning show that airs at 8 pm, Monday nights on ABC. *Pretty Little Liars* is a show that is about four friends that all have secrets, which an anonymous person knows and constantly threatens to expose, after the mysterious murder of their best friend. "I watch *Pretty Little Liars* because it is suspenseful," said Rodriguez.

There are also new shows coming out for 2012 including *Rob*, and *Alcatraz*. The TV show *Rob* debuted on January 12th on CBS. *Rob* is a comedy about a man who went to Las Vegas and got married to a woman named Maggie. By doing so, he became part of her strict Mexican-American family. Maggie's family is very suspi-

cious of Rob and questions whether he is good enough for Maggie. To witness how Rob and Maggie's marriage turns out, make sure to watch the show.

Alcatraz premiered on January 16th and plays 9 pm, Mondays on FOX. *Alcatraz* is a TV action and drama series that will keep viewers on the edge of their seats. Imagine being a detective assigned to a homicide case in which the lead suspect was pronounced dead decades ago, but proves to be alive and roaming the streets. That is what happens to a detective named Rebecca Madsen. Tune in to this show to uncover how she solves the case.

There is a show out there for everyone to enjoy, whether one likes mystery or comedy. So cuddle up, tune in and chill out.

Park View Swims Up to Districts

Ed Pifer

Claude Moore Recreation center hosted the annual district swim meet on Friday, January 27; every Loudon County high school, including Park View, participated in the event. Senior Jonathon Thurston said "It's exciting. We've worked hard and now is the time to make that hard work count."

The girls placed in the top 12 in the 200 medley relay as the team of sophomore sisters Cynthia and Catherine Vu, freshman Shelby Whitmer, and sophomore Kelsey Huppert timed in at 2:08.03. Catherine Vu placed in the top 12 in the 200 free with a 2:08.59 time. The Vu sisters both placed in the top 12 in the 200 IM. Catherine Vu placed in the top 10 in the 100 fly with a time of 1:03.65. Catherine Vu placed in the top 12 in the 500 free with a time of 5:47.67. The team of Senior Sierra Zentz, sophomore Kelsey Huppert, and

freshmen Shelby Whitmer and Erin Bradley placed 12th in the 200 free relay with a time of 2:02.90. Cynthia Vu placed 9th in the 100 back with a time of 1:04.78. The girls finished strong by placing 10th in the 400 free relay as the Vu sisters, Shelby Whitmer and senior Julia Chelar came in with a time of 4:13.44.

The boys placed 12th in the 200 medley relay as the team of seniors Jonathon Thurston, R.C. Castaneda and Zack Strickland, as well as sophomore Kory Kerico finished in a time of 2:03.57. The same team finished 12th again this time in the 200 free relay with a time of 1:50.29. The boys finished 12th in the 400 free relay with a time of 4:09.37.

Both the Patriots' boys and girls swim team scored over 100 points more than last year's district meet. The Vu sisters punched their ticket to Regional's and will continue

their swimming season.

Both the boy's and girl's swim teams here at Park View have dedicated their time and given everything they had for a good season. The Patriots still have hopes in gaining a state title as the Vu sisters will attend regionals. *The Patriot* congratulates all of the PVHS swimmers and wishes the best of luck to the seniors in their future endeavors.



Left to Right: Kelly Herrera, Amanda Godby, Jessica Chelar and Rachel Braddock

Park View Wrestling Faces Off Against Potomac Falls

Ed Pifer

The Park View wrestling team traveled to Potomac Falls High School on January 5th to face off against Tuscarora and Potomac Falls. Wrestling is a tough sport that involves hard work and skill. Junior Jose Rodriguez said, "The training process is tough, but with the dedication it makes it all worth it."

The Patriots started off against Tuscarora. Junior Jose Rodriguez got the first pin in an amazing 47 seconds. Seniors Tanner Williams, Henry and Wilbur Machado, Mike Ocampo and Filemon Ceballos all scored pin. In addition to Jose Rodriguez's, Zach Chastain, Ivan Hernandez, Ronald Cruz and Christain Tarrío got pins for the juniors. The final score of the

match was 69-12, Park View.

The Patriots went on to face Potomac Falls. In the first match, junior Ivan Hernandez lost by pin fall. After a series of losses, junior Bryan Barahona got a pin fall in 1 minute and 30 seconds. Junior Ronald Cruz won with a score 9-0. Junior Jose Rodriguez won with a score of 7-4. The Patriots fell to the Panthers, 13-53.

Ronald Cruz had this to say after the match. "I felt we did well tonight. We competed well and gave it our all." Ronald Cruz, Bryan Barahona, and Jose Rodriguez were the only wrestlers to go undefeated that night.

The Park View wrestling team showed

true hustle and grit against both Tuscarora and Potomac Falls. As the Patriots get ready for districts, there is only one thing on everyone's mind, something everyone works very hard for, something every athlete dreams about: a state championship!



In this photo: Jose Rodriguez

Most students at Park View spend their free time doing activities they truly enjoy and benefit from. Many play sports, participate in clubs, play instruments, perform in plays, or have a job. Other common activities involve some form of an electronic screen, such as watching TV or hanging out online. A few exceptional students, however, break both traditional and unhealthy afterschool molds by spending their time on unique hobbies.

Junior Aaron Movius found his passion for juggling early in childhood when his uncle introduced it to him. Shortly after, his mom bought him a couple of kits to supplement his newfound skill, and Movius worked even harder. In eighth grade, his uncle introduced new aspects to his juggling: fire and knives. “He just said to be careful,” Movius said.



Aaron Movius

As would be expected, his hobby has cost him a few minor burns (his least favorite part) but never any serious injuries. Movius’s favorite part of juggling is fundraising for his church by performing at children’s events. Movius plans to juggle as long as he can.

Freshman Elizabeth Ryan started sewing in the fourth grade when her aunt taught her the skill. Ever since then, she has been snipping, stitching, and trimming her way through pillowcases, messenger bags, and even clothing alterations. “I can fix zippers, or anything you need, no problem,” Ryan said. Occasionally she charges for her services but only to refund the cost

of the supplies used. “I’ve already had to buy a new sewing machine because I dropped the first one in a driveway,” Ryan said. Despite that minor setback, Ryan still loves sewing. The hardest part is gathering the materials and cutting them out, “It’s very time consuming,” Ryan said.

“It’s not just fabric and thread,” Ryan said. Ryan plans to continue with her hobby forever.

Junior Cory Left has been a fishing fanatic since infancy; his first fishing trip occurred when he was three months old. The first time Left remembers fishing was with his dad in Florida around the age of five. Left will always cherish those memories: “I think it was an amazing way to spend time with him,” Left said. More recently though, Left casts lines with his friends, normally at a certain spot named Goose Creek. Left’s favorite part about fishing is, “The feeling you get when you finally catch one.” According to Left, anybody could learn to enjoy fishing; it just takes patience and, “Good friends and family to share the experience with.”



Cailey Barker

Senior Cailey Barker shows a different side of hobbies with her collection of memorabilia spoons. The hobby began when her family thought it would be fun to start a collection. They wanted to collect something unusual and interesting, so they set a goal to gather a spoon from every state and fun place they visited. “We did a lot of road tripping,” Barker said. Memorabilia spoons are not like those used for eating. “They’re smaller and usually have little figurines on the ends,” Barker explained. So far, she and her family have obtained spoons from nearly 20 different states. Barker hopes to have a spoon from each of the states. Her favorite spoon is one she obtained from Disney World. “It has little Mickey Mouse ears on the end and it was one of the first ones I got,” Barker said. Spoon-collecting is something she will take with her wherever she goes.

Aside from the usual sports, clubs, rehearsals, and jobs it is fun to have a hobby – whether you’re creating, catching, or collecting it.

Emily Mooney

It has been thirty-five years since Park View High School first opened in 1976. Needless to say, a lot has changed since the seventies, but some habits and attitudes remain the same in the beloved high school.

Mrs. Harris and Mr. Simms are two of the three original teachers at Park View who still teach here today. “I had a chance to coach and teach at the same school,” Mr. Simms said. He coached boys and girls basketball at Park View for several years.

As decades have passed, much about Park View has changed. Now the AP Psych teacher, Ms. Bartow was a student at Park View, class of ‘87. “When I was a student, Park View was the newest high school,” Ms. Bartow said.

Park View was the state champion for gymnastics several years in a row and was also good at football, softball, and baseball.

“We were pretty darn well known throughout the state in all the major sports. The sports were

very popular and competitive. Being a member of the team was an honor back then,” Mr. Simms said.

Technology has made this generation different than any other before. Some changes are positive. “I think kids today have many more opportunities. The world of technology has really opened up things to them that weren’t available thirty-one years ago,” said Park View’s principal Dr. Minshew.

“Getting the students to buy into education is important today; we are in a situation where students are not as concerned about their future as they were,” Mr. Simms said. According to Mr. Simms, Park View had an upstairs and downstairs library back in the day.

“I don’t see them as focused on just school,” said Ms. Smith who came to Park View in 1979. “I don’t think the parents are as involved, and I don’t see as many kids realizing that the decisions they make their freshman

year will affect their college and stuff.”

According to Mrs. Harris, the fact that students have more options for how they use their time nowadays can lead a student to use less of their time towards academics. “There was a greater involvement in both academics and extracurriculars. Now that has changed – especially academics,” Ms. Harris said.

The biggest challenge Dr. Minshew faces in getting kids to realize the importance of earning their diploma. “I would like to see students understand that anything worth having is worth working for.”

Overall, students at Park View do have a lot to be grateful for besides the legacy left for them. “I hope that the kids here at Park View really appreciate what they have because this is such a rich school, a rich community [culture-wise],” Dr. Minshew said. “Sterling is really the community that I think best represents the world.”

Forensics: Not a Science Olivia Costanza

Forensics is the art of speaking and argumentation. Ms. Karen Lieb is the sponsor of Park View’s Forensics team. “I love sponsoring the Forensics team! I was very involved with theater in high school and have missed it as an adult. Forensics is my way of remaining involved in the arts,” Ms. Lieb said.

“In forensics we work with public speaking and drama. There are several categories that students can participate in,” Ms. Lieb commented.

Story telling is a category in which a student memorizes a children’s story and then has to perform it in front of judges, using the voice and body language that they would use for an audience of kindergarteners.

Another category is interpretation, where two students perform a scene from a play without using props, touch, or even looking at each other.

There is also impromptu speaking. In this category, a student is given a list of terms or quotations that they have never seen be-

fore, then, in seven minutes they must plan and deliver a persuasive speech about one of the objects or quotations.

Students on the Forensics team participate in competitions against other schools. Each competition has three rounds. There are three levels of competition: districts, regionals, and state. Districts took place on January 30 here at Park View. Park View students Michael French, Keaton Crowe, and R.C. Castaneda placed at districts and will be moving on to regionals.

The judges score the individuals based on criteria unique to their categories. After the students have performed, they receive written scores and feedback from the judges.

“This is the perfect event for students that are too busy or too shy to try out for a school play, because the practice schedule is very flexible. Each event is individual, so you don’t have to worry about other cast members or schedules. Also, if you think you want to try acting, this is a great opportunity to see if you like it, and to perfect your skills!” Ms. Lieb said.

Patriot Spotlight

FEATURES

Casey Barker

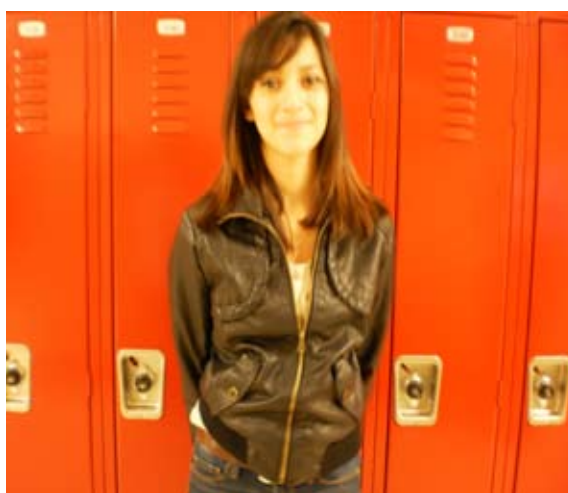
Students



Freaky, freaky freshman, Grace Perra, is proud to be here at Park View and out of middle school. Her favorite subject is Honors English with Mrs. Bowles because, “I don’t know, I’m just good at it and I understand it well I guess,” Grace says with a laugh. Her first year here at Park View, Grace was on the freshman volleyball team and is looking forward to trying out for lacrosse in the spring. Grace’s biggest accomplishment in life so far, is being on the Honor Roll throughout middle school all the way up to now. Her favorite thing about Park View is, “How diverse it is

and the many cultures that are mixed together,” she says with excitement. Her biggest ambition? “Definitely graduating from college. I’m thinking about being a doctor, although I’m not good with blood so I don’t really know,” Grace explains. She describes herself as, “A very nice person. I’m shy but once you get to know me, I’m crazy.” Outside of school, she loves to read and hang out with her friends.

Super, super sophomore, Robert Embling is a proud Park View Patriot. His favorite class is band because, “We have the chance to express ourselves, and I’m good at it.” One of his biggest accomplishments in life was placing a 2 (a rather good score), at Solo and Ensemble Festival last spring. Robert’s favorite thing about Park View is, “How diverse the culture is.” Being a true Park View Patriot, he has participated in band for two years, jazz band, symphonic band, marching band, and winter guard. Robert’s biggest ambition is, “To get into James Madison University, because the band program is amazing and I would love to be a part of it one day.” He describes himself as being a rather avid reader, and outside of school you can find him playing video games, specifically: *Halo*, *Call of Duty*, and *Shooters*.



This jammin’, jammin’ junior, Sheila Jimenez, describes herself as a nice, non-judgmental Park View Patriot. Her favorite subject in school is science because, “It’s easy to me and I get it.” Sheila has been an AB honor roll student for two consecutive years. Her favorite thing about Park View is “How diverse it is. The people aren’t judgmental here, unlike other schools.” Throughout her years here she has participated in cross country and track and is currently a part of the New Wilderness Club. Sheila’s biggest ambition in life is, “To make money, and

ultimately live a good life.” In her spare time she likes to hang out with her friends and her boyfriend.

Mighty, mighty senior Ricky Duncan describes himself as a quiet, easy-going, chill, likes-to-have-fun type of Patriot. His favorite subject is history because it is, really fascinating. Getting into University of California Berkeley would be one of Ricky’s biggest accomplishments in life. His favorite thing about Park View High is the people. They’re fun to hang out with; it’s rather a good assortment.” For all four years at Park View, Ricky has participated in band, chorus, and persuasion. Ricky says his ambition in life is to “be famous, a musician, put on a show for thousands of people. Just to know that people came to hear my music.” Lastly, in his spare time he likes to hang out with his friends and play music. “My mom was a music teacher; I love it because I’ve always been around it.”



Veteran and New Teachers



Mr. Hollowell is a terrific teacher here at Park View High. Mr. Hollowell describes himself as an easy-going, patient, and happy person. He started as a teacher assistant at an elementary school in Reston, where he worked for two years, and has been teaching here at Park View for nine years. The hardest thing about being a teacher, according to Mr. Hollowell is, “Time management. Trying to juggle my schedule, being the best teacher I can and balancing [that with] spending time with my family.” Mr. Hollowell has taught all history classes, including World History 1, World History 2, US History, and Government here at Park View High. When he was in high school he played on his school’s baseball team. In his spare time, Mr. Hollowell loves to hang out with his family. When asked what inspired him to become a teacher, “After the Navy, I had a job in southern Florida working with children that lived in a facility [because they had] mental health issues due to trauma they had suffered. I fell in love with working with kids, but I needed a job that paid more than a few dollars an hour to make a career. So, I moved to Northern Virginia, got my Master’s degree at George Mason, while working at an elementary school and then got a job here. The rest is pretty much history!”



Mr. Miller is Park View’s new easy-going social science teacher. He teaches Pre-AP World History/Geography and Government. He tells us, “I was a student teacher in Michigan, and it was tough. Teaching here helps a lot!” Mr. Miller majored in interdisciplinary studies in social sciences and minored in political science at Michigan State University. He is currently helping out with the forensics and Anime club here at Park View High. Mr. Miller explains that, “It’s hard to manage time, especially with grading, preparing lessons, and helping with clubs.” When he was in high school, he was on the baseball team for two years. He says, “I just moved out by the metro in Vienna, so I hope to go into the city more in my free time.” Mr. Miller loves teaching, especially government because, “Being close to D.C., it’s easy to hear and talk about current events.” He says that his inspiration for teaching came from his own experience as a student: “Having great high school teachers going to school, and seeing how they interacted with students and their passion for teaching.”

Gymnastics Captain Advances to Regionals

Rebecca Weller

The Park View High School gymnastics team is made up of ten girls who are constantly practicing to get their routines down to perfection. Twelfth grade gymnastics captain, Stephanie Cox, was able to see her hard work rewarded when she qualified for regionals this year.

In gymnastics a perfect score is a 10.0, but these are rarely seen as there are so many opportunities for deductions. To qualify for the regional competition this year, gymnasts had to earn an 8.1 on floor, 8.3 on vault, 8.1 on beam, and 7.0 on bars. There are usually three judges per event that evaluate everything from technique to creativity.

Cox knows all about these statistics as she has been a part of the Park View gymnastics team since her freshman year. This year Cox qualified on floor, beam, and vault. Cox has loved being a part of Park View's team. "I've enjoyed bonding with other gymnasts while also improving my skills," Cox said.

Cox's favorite event is floor. "I like the dance aspect of it," Cox said. Floor includes moving in time with the music while performing tumbling tricks such as handsprings, tucks, and back flips. If a timing mistake occurs, a score deduction is made; hence, the floor competition can be very difficult.

Although Stephanie has been very successful in this sport, she does not plan on continuing it in college. She plans to focus on academics, but will never forget the times she has had.

Lady Patriots Narrowly Defeated

Matthew Morley-Hillen

The Lady Patriots hosted the Tuscarora Huskies at PVHS on Wednesday, January 25th. Team captain Kylie Himmelberger had this to say before the Tuscarora game, "Tuscarora has good outside shooters and guards, so this past week in practice we have been working on closing out quickly and man defense." The main focus in the game tonight, "Is to play hard and hustle throughout the whole game," said Senior Yorkie Torto. Yorkie also mentioned key members of the team, "I think we've all had an important role, but definitely Kylie Himmelberger, she always helps us to stay focused and to keep our heads up."

Tip off came at 7:30.

The ball was tossed up and won by the Patriots who did not hesitate getting down the court and scoring. Freshman Randi Snead caught a quick pass for the easy layup. It was an end to end sort of game, with each team taking advantage of their opponent's mistakes. The 1st quarter ended 16-13, Tuscarora.

The 2nd quarter started off slower than the first, with

both teams showing great defense. It took a couple of nice shots from Yorkie to keep the game close, but the highlight of the 2nd quarter was the inbound pass from Kylie over the heads of everyone to an unmarked Yorkie for an easy layup to level scores to 22-22 with a minute to go in the half. The Huskies surged ahead to take a four point lead going into the interval 26-22.

The half-time entertainment was the EBLB girls teams, Swagg and the Sixers, battling it out in a 5-5 tie.

Coming into the 3rd quarter, the Patriots knew what they had to do and they came out determined; going on 8-2 run. Then the Huskies sent out fresh legs and regained the lead, that carried them into the fourth quarter.

Trailing by a few baskets, a pep talk from Coach Kitchen must have done something to the Lady Patriots. They fought harder than ever, chasing down loose balls and following every rebound. They made shots that hadn't fallen earlier in the game

As the Lady Patriots pushed for more baskets, their defense suffered and the Huskies took advantage. In the last seconds, the Huskies put the game to bed with a final score of 41-49.

"In the beginning of the season we were losing our games by less than 5 points. So far, for the second half of the season we're looking to make those losses wins. We want to be in the middle of the pack for the district tournament," said Kylie Himmelberger, explaining the team's goal for the rest of the season. It was a great performance by the Lady Patriots that didn't pay off this game, but there's always next time.



Matthew Morley-Hillen

SPRING SPORTS TRY-OUTS COMING UP FAST!

Spring Sports try-outs are scheduled for Tuesday, February 21st. All athletes are reminded to make sure that their paperwork is in, and that they are ready to try out. Good luck, everyone, and go Patriots!

Unlucky 13 for Patriot Boys' Basketball

Matthew Morley-Hillen

The Park View Patriots took on the Heritage Pride on Friday, January 13th at PVHS. It was teacher appreciation night, and the bleachers were jam packed. The atmosphere was electric, as everyone waited for the tip off. Leading up to the game, team captain Dan Laub had this to say, "With the loss of two key players, each player has different roles. We are going to need different players to step up. I still have full confidence that we can get the win." The game started off slow with both teams missing opportunities to hit some easy baskets. Then a steal by Dan Laub set Dante Absher up for the easy layup that set the pace going into the 2nd quarter with the score at 15-15. Coming out of the break, the Pride started off with a few quick baskets, going ahead by six points, but a determined Park View team was not going to go down so easily. With two layups by junior Cody Horvath and a three pointer by Absher, the Patriots got right back in the mix of things, going into half-time trailing by just two points, 36-34.

The crowd was on its feet at the start of the second half, trying to give the Patriots a renewed confidence. With guns blazing, Park View took a seven point lead. But as the crowd got quieter, the lead got thinner, and in a matter of seconds Park View was trailing by more than they have all season. At the end of the 3rd quarter, the score was 51-41, Heritage.

The 4th quarter started off slow with sloppy shots and nothing going for either team. But it only takes one individual to spark a team and that's what Senior Brian McManus did with a three-point play. Coming down to the wire, the Patriots were only two points behind. However, shots would not fall for PV and in the end, it was just too much for the Patriots to come back from. The final score was 61-55 Pride.

"I was disappointed in how we played as a team but it gives us an incentive to work harder for our next game," said an upset junior Cody Horvath. It will be great to see what the Patriots do in their next game after showing so much hustle and grit in this one.



Photo by: Matthew Morley-Hillen

In this photo: Ryan McCarter and Dante Absher

Winners of the 2012 Winter Sportsmanship Awards

Boys Basketball - Brian McManus and Michael Huynh

Cheerleading - Diana Mejia and Barbara Addo

Girls Basketball - Kylie Himmelberger and Sarah Villalobos

Gymnastics - Charla Faulkner and Shannon Faulkner

Swimming - Rachael Villalobos, RC Castaneda and Jonathon Thurston

Wrestling - Tanner Williams, Henry Machado and Wilber Machado



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