Author Patricia McCormick visits Park View

By Rebecca Weller

Park View High School was fortunate enough to be visited by the author of Purple Heart, Patricia McCormick. The author was able to visit due to the library’s One Book, One Community program. This program allows any county-wide resident to receive this book for free. Many students were thrilled to go and listen to what Mrs. McCormick had to say. Jana Gerdes, an 11th grade foreign exchange student from Germany, was one of the students who was picked to hear Mrs. McCormick speak. She explained that one of McCormick’s big influences for writing Purple Heart was her husband who was injured in the Vietnam War with a traumatic brain injury (TBI). Mrs. McCormick visits with families while she was researching for the book also had an influence on her writing.

According to Joshua Landrum, a junior, Mrs. McCormick was very excited to have the opportunity to speak to students and staff at our school. Many students were able to get pictures with Mrs. McCormick and their novels autographed. Mr. Hinders, an English teacher here at Park View High School stated that as part of her presentation, Mrs. McCormick laid out rows of army boots and attached a name to each pair of laces to signify the soldiers who would have filled them. She then laid out a second row of shoes which were to signify the loss of civilian casualties in these conflicts. Lastly, she read a passage from her book and opened the floor to students to ask questions. Mr. Hinders stated that not all authors are great at presenting their work, but Patricia McCormick did an amazing job. She was honest, and she really told the story of why she wanted to write and tell the story of this book, Purple Heart.

Thinking outside the kennel

By Anais Parker

Huge shifts in society have opened new options to people from as long as history’s start. The switch from keeping animals for fun rather than for work was one of those impressive ideas. This transformation began once people had more than enough for themselves, and could afford to take care of an extra creature. For Americans, the domesticated dog quickly became a known classic. They were then followed by cats, fish, and small mammals like hamsters. So, for some, it may come as a surprise that a number of students at Park View High School keep companions off that typical list in their very own homes.

Freshman Isabella Pineo owns a Senegal Parrot named “Fiona.” This African bird is green and 10 years old. Her age is considerably young since this species can potentially live up to 50 years. Isabella’s mother was the one who got Fiona nearly a decade ago. Her mom loves birds, and originally had eight, though, seven of them died from various reasons. That left Fiona, and although she’s had a rough past, she is quite the entertainer. This bird loves dancing to Michael Jackson and repeating clicking noises that Isabella makes. She also enjoys swinging on her swing and chirping all day long. Fiona’s cage stays in Isabella’s room, which has its benefits and downsides, “A lot of times, her chirping keeps me up at night.”

Another unlikely pal is a Blue-eyed Albino Rabbit owned by Ed Pifer, a junior. This white bunny, named “Rocky,” is about three years old. Rabbits are somewhat popular as pets in the US during Easter season. Yet, Ed and Rocky were united around Thanksgiving in 2009. Pifer found him running under and around his neighbor’s car and tried to coax it over with some food, carrots to be exact. “I didn’t wanna leave him just outside like that” said Pifer. A lot of squirming (by the rabbit) and half an hour later, Ed picked him up and took him inside to his cat’s cage. Now, Rocky fits inside a dog cage and eats two cereal bowls full of rabbit food and drinks the same amount full of water every single day!

Aside from flying and furry critters, reptiles seem to be an odd hit as well. Madeleine Ludwick is a freshman who keeps a Bearded Dragon Lizard. This cold-blooded and scaly animal has been given the, even more unusual, name of “Fluffy.” Madeleine got her from a pet store, at the start of this summer, in June. “I just randomly went to a pet store

Kennel continued on page 11
Homecoming 2011

Photos by Emily Mooney, Laura Brawley and Olivia Constanza
What does it take to build a float?
By Megan Karman

What is everyone’s favorite part about homecoming? The parade of course! You can’t have a parade until you make an amazing float!


Each grade had a few things in common while working on their floats. One thing was how they all acquired the money: “Most things we used were from the school, and we also got donations,” said junior Nguyen Nguyen. Another thing that the float builders had in common was the vehicle that the floats and helpers would be riding on: “A flatbed truck with a hitch,” said Robert Hanna, a sophomore. Also, every one worked on the float “Everyday,” according to junior Jordan Hotaling and freshman Katie Cline. Everybody, except for the juniors that worked on the floats thought that they could’ve used more time and volunteers.

All in all, the floats flamboyantly rolled down their usual homecoming parade route through Sterling and dazzled their audiences watching from the curbs. Although all the floats were amazing only one class float got to win and that was the seniors.

Close call for Patriots at homecoming game
By Ed Pifer

Homecoming 2011 kicked off Friday as the Park View Patriots took on the Heritage Pride in the annual Homecoming football game. Senior wide receiver Geoff Apple said that the homecoming game is a “fun home game.” He added, “It’s the last homecoming game of my high school career, got to make the best of it.” Senior tight end Daniel Villalobos said, “I’m hoping it will be another homecoming win….swag.” In the past two seasons I’ve started a varsity spot and never won a homecoming game, so it’s pretty big.”

The Patriots started the game off slow as the Pride scored off their two first drives. After the slow start the Patriots answered with a 1-yard touchdown run by senior running back Khalil Brooks. The Park View defense, led by seniors Ryan Plowman and Marcus Smith, stopped the Pride for Senior kicker Willy Avila to hit a 29-yard field goal range so they had to throw to the end zone. Quarterback Alec Dombkowski threw a 51-yard touchdown pass to senior receiver Dante Absher with 2 minutes left in the first quarter to change the score to 21-17.

At the start of the second quarter, quarterback Alec Dombkowski hit his main target Ryan McCarter for a 7-yard touchdown to take the lead 24-21. After another good stop by the Park View defense, the offense took control. Senior running back Jonathan Wooten ran for a 2-yard touchdown to increase the lead to 31-21. With a minute left in the second quarter, the Pride scored cutting Park View’s lead to 31-28.

As the fourth quarter began, both teams were pushing themselves to get to the finish. The Park View defense held up against the fast-paced Heritage offense. With three minutes left in the game, the Pride hit a 39-yard field goal to tie the game up. The Pride then got the ball back after a Park View turnover, which gave the Pride great field position. With only 11 seconds left in the game, the Pride hit another field goal to take the lead 34-31. The Patriot offense came onto the field with one goal: score and win the game. Quarterback Alec Dombkowski threw the ball to tight end Daniel Villalobos, who then gave it to Dante Absher, who ran for about 30 plus yards until he was stopped out of bounds with one second left. The Patriots were not in field goal range so they had to throw to the end zone. Quarterback Alec Dombkowski threw a Hail Mary to the end zone for Ryan Mc Carter, but the pass was broken up.

The Heritage Pride defeated the Park View Patriots 34-31. After the game, Sophomore Thomas Carter said, “It’s very hard to lose a game like this, but we will bounce back and learn from our mistakes.” The Pride improved to 4 wins and 1 loss, 3 of those wins were district games. The Patriots record stands at 1 win and 4 losses.
REMEMBERING

Do you remember?
By Megan Karman

September 11th, 2001, was a tragic day in America that will be in our thoughts and hearts forever.

Four planes were involved in the fatal terrorist attack on 9/11. American Airlines flights 11 and 77 and United Airlines flights 93 and 175 were hijacked and averted from their original routes to be crashed into various locations around the U.S. American Airlines Flight 11 and United Airlines Flight 175 took off from Boston, Mass. and crashed into the World Trade Center in New York City, N.Y. American Airlines Flight 77 took off from Dulles International Airport in Dulles, Va. and crashed into the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. United Airlines Flight 93 took off from Newark, N.J and was headed toward Washington, D.C., but crashed in a field in Pennsylvania due to the bravery of its passengers who tried to regain control of the plane.

Unfortunately, all of the passengers on the four planes were killed; as well as thousands of people working in the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

Where were you during 9/11/01?
By Isabella Pineo

As the tenth anniversary of 9/11 has passed, one reflects on the lives lost and the numerous people affected. When such tragedy occurs, one often remembers where they were and how they felt at the moment.

Mrs. Feng-Chaio Li, Park View’s library assistant, was in her store on that fateful day. She later learned that a friend’s husband had been a passenger on Flight 77 and was killed when it crashed into the Pentagon.

Mrs. Tammy Smith, Park View High’s secretary, was preparing to leave for a doctor’s appointment when the event occurred. Smith never expected the twin towers to fall.

“I was amazed because I was watching The Today Show, and Matt Lauer was saying how one plane had crashed into a tower,” Smith said. During the show, she witnessed the second plane crash into the South Tower.

Most students were at school when the event occurred. “I was so little so I didn’t understand what was going on...” said freshman Kat Baran. “At the time I was very scared but very angry,” said sophomore Bijan Keya.

Even though senior Janea Drayton did not realize the importance of 9/11 at the time, she understands it now. “It just made me realize to keep my loved ones close and not take life for granted,” Drayton said.
It’s important to recognize, however, that the Towers were not the only spot targeted on that day. The Pentagon, in our nation’s capital, was also attacked. On September 11, 2011, a special service was also held to remember when the tragedy struck there as well. Family and friends of the victims were invited from all across the U.S. to this ceremony, all sharing tears of sadness as they mourning and praying at the sight of the name or names of their loved ones.

Now, in hopes of bringing more comfort to those who lost someone in this attack, a memorial has been built where the Towers used to be. This memorial contains a beautiful fountain that pours down into the holes that before held the Towers. Along the top of these fountains, the names of all the people who lost their lives are engraved into a marble structure that is used as a border for the fountains. On the tenth anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, this memorial opened and the families and friends of the victims came, remembering and praying at the sight of the name or names of their loved ones.

It’s important to recognize, however, that the Towers were not the only spot targeted on that day. The Pentagon, in our nation’s capital, was also attacked. On September 11, 2011, a special service was also held to remember when the tragedy struck there as well. Family and friends of the victims were invited from all across the U.S. to this ceremony, all sharing tears of sadness as they remember that day and hope they will be able to move on after all these years.

Finally, in Pennsylvania, there was one final plane crash, which resulted in forty deaths on Flight 93. It has been suspected that the hijackers’ original intent was to eventually turn around and head for either the White House or the Capitol building, as if they had not done enough damage to break the hearts of Americans. This plane never made it to either building due to the bravery of those passengers on board, who sensed that there was something wrong and worked together to take down the hijackers. At the crash site, a huge boulder has been placed so anyone can see where the plane went down and where they can leave flowers for the passengers. In addition, a memorial was also made: a huge fence stands there covers with belongings and gifts for those who died on Flight 93, as well as benches, each with the name of one of the many heroic passengers. The entire U.S. hopes a tragedy like 9/11 will never happen again. It will never be forgotten and no matter what age we all were, we will always remember that day, for that memory is scarred into our minds for the rest of our lives.

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A birthday and a tragedy: September 11th

By Emily Mooney

For six students at Park View High, September 11th is more than just an anniversary of a tragedy that occurred in 2001; it is a birthday. Freshman Sandy Mai was in Canada on vacation when the first tower was hit on September 11, 2001. She knew the date would never be the same; “I was like, ‘Woah! It’s on my birthday. Things are going to change,’” Mai said.

At the “special table” in her kindergarten class, sophomore Michelle Bridgeman was eating cupcakes when the catastrophe occurred. Sophomore Bryan Villatoro was in his first grade classroom during that fateful day. “My teacher was crying, and I was like, ‘Why?’ Villatoro said.

In their experience, many people associate their birthdays with death and sadness. “Everyone’s sad, and I’m trying to party,” Villatoro said. “I just can’t announce [my birthday] anymore—it’s annoying.”

“It made everybody feel sorry for me. It’s like ‘When’s your birthday?’ ‘September 11th.’ ‘Oh, that sucks.’ No it doesn’t that was ten years ago!” Bridgeman said.

It is hard for freshman Franklin Amaya to really celebrate his birthday. “People are so down on that day; it doesn’t feel like it’s my birthday,” Amaya said. “They don’t want to party because it’s a bad day to.”

Mai is okay for the most part with the association that comes with having her birthday on September 11th, though sometimes she wishes she could change it. “It’s cool, but at the same time people think differently about it. They’re like ‘Oh your birthday is 9/11, that’s so bad,’” Mai said.

“Sometimes I go out to eat—it’s that’s it,” Amaya said. “[My birthday] is like it’s any other day, doesn’t make me feel special.”

Sharing their birthday with the anniversary of a tragedy can impact their friends too. “I almost feel guilty for being happy for her because it’s a sad day, and it is supposed to be a day of remembrance, but it’s her birthday so it’s supposed to be happy,” said Kaylyn Karney, a friend of Bridgeman.

One of Bridgeman’s and Villatoro’s friends had both parents die during the attack of 9/11. Because of that, Villatoro feels like he could never celebrate his birthday with him. “I just don’t bring it up,” Villatoro said.

Sharing their birthday with the remembrance of a tragedy has changed some of the students. “I feel bad for the people whose lives were lost,” Mai said. Mai believes that she is now better motivated to help the community. “It makes me think about what’s really in the world today; realize the world isn’t so nice,” Bridgeman said.
Patriots turn up the heat
By Matthew Morley-Hillen

As the sky darkened on September 16th, 2011, and the temperature dropped, the lights illuminated the field; it was time for some Friday Night Football. The PVHS varsity football team came marching down the road like soldiers, the Patriots were going into their fourth game of the season 0-3 with high hopes for their chances against Woodgrove High School. In order to make a statement to the rest of the district this was a must win game for the Patriots. “I think tonight’s game is a huge opportunity to prove what Park View Football is all about….” said wide receiver, senior Geoffrey Apple. “I think we have a good shot of winning the Woodgrove game,” said another wide receiver, senior Brian McManus.

Despite the Patriots high hopes, the Wolverines came out and took a quick 10-0 lead in the first quarter. Less than a minute later a 25-yard run, and 40-yard pass to wide receiver Dante Absher by senior quarterback Alec Dombkowski put Park View on the board with a touchdown.

The next series saw Dante Absher intercept a pass from the Wolverines leaving the Patriots with great field position. On 4th down, wide receiver Ryan McCarter caught a 23-yard touchdown pass giving Park View a nice 14-10 lead at the start of the 2nd quarter.

Woodgrove came back with a 16-yard touchdown run and two point conversion to give the Wolverines a 18-14 lead.

After an incomplete pass, senior running back Khalil Brooks sprinted for a 22-yard run to leave the ball on the one yard line. During the next down, the Patriots handed it back off to Brooks, and he walked into the end zone to get his first touchdown of the night, which also happened to be his birthday. As the quarter was ending wide receiver Ryan McCarter had a 14-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Alec Dombkowski bringing the Patriots to a 28-18 lead at the half.

On their opening series in the second half, the Patriots were stranded on their own 4-yard-line due to the Woodgrove punt. A 42-yard play action pass from quarterback Dombkowski to wide receiver McCarter, and a 54-yard run by running back Khalil Brooks put the Patriots up by 17 in only two plays.

Later in the third quarter, Brooks had a 10-yard touchdown run earning a hat-trick of touchdowns. The last score came by the Patriots on the opening drive in the 4th quarter, when junior Ben Stanton ran for an unbelievable 49-yard touchdown. The game ended 49-18 Park View. To top it all off Park View kicker Willy Avila went (7-7) with extra points.

“I think that it’s one of the best performances we have had, I was proud to be a part of the team because of our attitude towards the other team and our performance,” Brooks said.

McCarter said, “I feel like we played very well and I was very satisfied with my performance.” As a fan it was good to see the seniors step up to the task of being leaders and winning the game for the team. The Patriots came out with a well-deserved win.

Volleyball gives it their all
By Matthew Morley-Hillen

Even though Park View gave it their all in a volleyball match against Heritage, they still came up short.

Senior Abbie Thorne noted, “We put in blood, sweat, and tears into every practice leading up to this game.” She added that they came, “to play hard and win.”

After a spectacular performance by seniors Ricky Duncan and Lexy Holz from Persuasion, who sang the National Anthem, it was game on and Park View won the toss and decided to serve first.

After scoring the first point it just got tough to score another one with the power and height at the line from Heritage. Park View managed to score its highest points in the first set with the final score being 10-25 Heritage.

Senior Shannon Fanning explained, “My favorite thing about volleyball is getting the opportunity to play a sport that I love.” She added that her strategy for the night was “to focus, play hard, and to never give up.” Even though they weren’t able to get the win, the Park View volleyball players never gave up.

Senior and captain of the volleyball team Lindsay Kenepp played this tough game on her birthday, but she enjoyed it anyway. “It feels great,” Kenepp said of being captain. “I feel honored to be chosen. It makes me feel like a real leader.” She echoed many of the sentiments of her teammates about her goals for the game. “My goals for tonight are the same for any night, to go out with a positive attitude and just play hard. Since this is my last year every game counts so I have to bring my A-game and play 110%,” Kenepp said.

The third set was a must win for the Patriots to have a chance to win. Park View came out strong in the third and it was a tough battle against a powerful, strong Pride.
PVHS football players help give out school supplies

By Laura Brawley

During the summer, our football team volunteered for the Kids R First program to help hand out school supplies for students who need supplies to get through the school year. About sixty of our football players came to help out the program and donated their time to do so. The Kids R First program helps raise money from businesses and associations that are used to purchase school supplies. Kids R First provides school supplies to low-income students that can’t afford to buy school supplies. It helps the kids get everything they need to succeed in the school year.

“We went to the middle school and loaded up school supplies for students who need supplies. It was something nice to do, to give back to our community and our whole football team went,” said Ryan Duncan, one of the football players who participated in this event.

“They recognized that living in this community, times are tough so they wanted to help give back to our community,” commented Brandon Wheelbarger, one of the football coaches who was there to help as well.

Kids R First has been around for about thirteen years. People from all around donate to the program to help these kids in need. About 115,000 children have received new school supplies since it has been founded. There are 85 schools that Kids R First has helped out in Northern Virginia including those in the cities of Sterling, Ashburn, Reston, Herndon, Chantilly, and Centreville. Kids R First is a non-profit organization that is big in helping shape many students futures.

The distribution of the supplies took place at Langston Hughes Middle School. Our football team came to the middle school to help pass out pencils, markers, binders, notebooks, and many other school supplies to help students get the supplies they need before they start the 2011-2012 school year. They spent the day volunteering by unloading the many trucks that held the school supplies. One of our English teachers, Mrs. Liz Driggers was also there with the team to help volunteer her time as well. So was one of the varsity football coaches, Brandon Wheelbarger who was also there to help out his team. It was a great way for them to spend their time doing something that helps others.

We got spirit, how ‘bout you: Park View hosts Spiritfest

By Katie Pope

The Park View High School cheerleading squad received sixth place at the Park View Spiritfest on Saturday, October 1st.

“We pushed ourselves to the best of our ability on Saturday,” said senior cheer captain Janea Drayton. “My favorite part after competing is walking off those mats and having the feeling of knowing we did the best we could.”

“You guys have come so far this year. Last year you weren’t even at this point at Districts,” cheer coach Victoria Wu told the team after the competition.

The team is working hard to place higher for districts. “I think we can improve as a team by working harder and setting our hearts to winning,” said Uyen Tran, a main flyer for the competition team. “A way that we can improve is PRACTICE. Practice makes perfect,” Drayton said.

Other schools at the competition inspired the Patriots. “After watching the other teams that competed, it made me want to strive to be a better cheerleader,” Drayton said.

“The schools that we were competing against were very competitive, which encourages us to work so much harder to represent Loudoun County Schools as well as the other schools represent their counties,” Tran said. Tran admired Stafford High School’s five stunt groups’ perfect performance of a tick tock into a liberty stunt which involves switching feet in the air and then raising both arms while bending the left leg at the knee.

With the support of their coaches and parents, as well as a reenergized passion to succeed, the competition team is delighted that all of their hard work has started to pay off.
PVHS has a club for everyone
By Olivia Constanza

Park View’s Club Fair, held on September 16, was a great opportunity for students to see all of the clubs the school has to offer. Held in the Spirit Lane hallway, tables were assigned to different clubs with signup sheets and a student to give an overview of what the club does. The object of this event is for clubs to gain more club members. Students had a lot of options from Literary Arts and Creative Writing to Multicultural Club and Extra Mile.

Haley Rodgers, a sophomore, said she signed up for Literary Arts and Creative Writing or “Literary Magazine, basically.” Haley said the reason behind her design was that, “It looks good in college applications after you’ve been in a club for a long time.”

Senior Anna Iszard joined Battle of the Books, Extra Mile, and Anime Club. She noted, “I’m interested in what they do.”

Justice Colbert, a sophomore, joined the French Club and Patriot Pals. “I joined French Club because it helps me better understand the French language and I joined Patriot Pals because I feel like it’s a good way to help people.”

Others, like junior Michael Slobodnjak joined clubs, “Because I just love to be involved in the school community.” While others such as Vivian Nguyen, 10th grader signed up, “Because of friends.”

Chris Tran, a 10th grader, signed up for Multicultural Club and was the representative at the table. He noted that, “There’s more ethnicity and spread of culture to learn about.”

Junior James Castro was representing the French club and said people should join, “Because the French club gives you some of the cultural experience of France.”

While another representative, sophomore Kaylyn Karnei, represented the drama club, and said that people should join this year because, “Last year it was a lot of fun, and this year, its going to be way better!”

Job Journeys: A peek into the real world
By Olivia Constanza

Students are welcome to participate in the new project, “Job Journeys” during this school year. Created by Mrs. Elizabeth Driggers and a group of teachers the point of Job Journeys is to expose students to possible future careers, and to increase their understanding of the importance of high school grades and their goals.

Job Journeys’ group of teachers, referred to Mrs. Driggers as “The Steering Committee,” includes: Mrs. Driggers, Mrs. Hatcher, Mrs. Rush, Mrs. Fisher, Ms. Kidwell, Mrs. Revak, Mr. Wharton, Ms. Pendleton, Ms. Robinson, Dr. Banks, Mrs. Doiron, and Mr. Washington with the support of Dr. Minshew.

Park View’s principal is on board with this project, “Dr. Minshew is very supportive and excited!” Driggers said. She also shared how the teachers coming together to make this happen are also very excited to get this show on the road.

To start their journey, students will take a survey that will help the teachers separate them by career interest. This survey will be distributed to the English teachers to pass out to their classes. Based on the survey results, the people interested in the same thing will go on a field trip to local businesses, meet people from the career they are interested in, and learn about what it takes to succeed in that career. Afterwards, students will do a follow up on their visit by creating a Job Journeys portfolio and sharing their thoughts on the career, the field trip, and their experience.

The field trips will have chaperones, corresponding to the career they are learning about. For example, a career that is all about science will have a chaperone that teaches science in order to help the student have a better understanding about their career of interest.

The Job Journeys teachers had a logo contest, where Monroe students submitted pictures representing Job Journeys, and where one picture, seen below, was chosen for t-shirts and to represent the project.

For more information, contact Mrs. Hatcher in the career center in guidance.
**Fall fashion trends**
By Emily Mooney

The first day of school outfit can sometimes take an hour to choose, as one never seems to be able to choose the perfect outfit without some trouble. With the help of this guide to the 2011 fall fashion trends, things should go smoother the next time you get dressed.

The major new theme this season is bright, bold colors. Neon blue, orange, yellow, pink, raspberry, and green were used in a color-blocking technique on models at New York & Company, Charlotte Russe, Style.com, Elle, H&M, Express, Teen Vogue, and Us Weekly. Red, however, was the major color and was used for high-waist pants and shorts.

Snakeskin and leopard prints are also hot this season. Used as either accents on shoes or as a statement blouse or pants, these animal prints are something you want to add to your closet.

Faux fur vests and coats were displayed in Us Weekly, H&M, and Style.com. Teen Vogue even modeled a faux fur vest dyed with various neon colors.

Sweaters are coming into the fashion scene with a new twist. “Sweaters are stepping up the game with the help of lace inserts, cool cuts, and fresh embellishments,” writers at Teen Vogue wrote.

Leather jackets, booties, and purses were featured in Elle, H&M, Teen Vogue, and Us Weekly. “Whether you pair yours with lace or spiked studs, you’ll have trouble making it through fall without a leather jacket,” writers at Elle wrote.

Some trends continue to remain on the scene. The feminine styles of lace, polka-dots, pastel pinks, and pearls stay a staple this season as well as florals. Layered statement jewelry is also in along with skinny jeans still being the jeans of choice.

Whether these trends join the clothes in your closet is a personal preference.

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**Fall television shows blow Patriots away**
By Casey Barker

Fall is finally here! That means trick-or-treating, raking leaves, and celebrating holidays. It also signals a new season in television shows. Looking forward to a TV show can be a heart-pounding feeling. Students anticipate these shows all day; wanting school to end to go home in time for the show to begin.

Patriots mentioned some of the TV shows that they’re looking forward to. Freshman, Nicole Harris, is looking forward to the MTV hit Teen Mom. “It teaches lessons and it’s very interesting,” Harris noted. The show focuses on the lives of four teenage mothers and the struggles and triumphs they encounter.

Senior James Kincaid, is looking forward to Two and a Half Men. Kincaid said, “Charlie Sheen was very funny when he was still in the show and I want to see if it will still be funny without him.”

Suburgatory is another anticipated show premiering this fall. Junior Claire Foote states, “I’m looking forward to Suburgatory because it looks like modern day. It’s a show I could relate to.” This ABC comedy series is about a teenager girl who moves from the city to the suburbs. Suburgatory first premiered on September 28, 2011. Last but not least, The X Factor is the most talked about show for the fall season. Simon Cowell and Paula Abdul are judges on this show; it brings the same excitement as American Idol. This is an American version of the hit UK show where Simon and his judges are determined to find a singer who has the X Factor.

According to Patriots throughout-out Park View’s hallways, these are the latest and greatest fall TV shows. Get ready to be entertained!

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**In theaters now...**
By Deborah Wimmer

Walk in to the theaters and the smell of the buttery popcorn dispenses around the room. Moviegoers are surrounded by posters advertising all the movies out right now. All of a sudden, the time has come to make a decision on what movie to see. Everybody has different preferences on movies, whether it is the actors or actresses in it, the story line, or the genre. These days, there is a medley of different movie genres for everyone, such as: action, comedy, romance, animated, and many more. The last movie freshmen Nicole Harris saw was Rise of the Planet of the Apes. “It was fantastic, and my favorite part was when the monkeys talked,” she noted.

Rise of the Planet of the Apes was based on the original Planet of the Apes which came out in 1968. This movie is classified as action, drama, sci-fi, and thriller. During opening weekend this movie brought in $54.8 million. It is about genetically enhanced chimpanzees that help lead their fellow apes to freedom.

Science Fiction is not for everybody. Not to worry, the movie theater had many different kinds of movies for the month of September: movies including Contagion, The Lion King 3D, and Abduction, which is an action film, just to name a few.

“I would like to see The Lion King in 3D so I can see Simba’s big beautiful eyes in a whole new way,” said junior Tony Staszak.

The Lion King 3D, is still the original Lion King, just with a 3D twist. This was released in theaters on September 16th, but only played in theaters for a limited two week release. It is a musical about a lion cub whose father is the king, he just wants to live in his father’s footsteps, but he will be faced with many difficult obstacles.

Junior Claire Foote said, “I would like to see Abduction because I would like to see Abduction because Taylor Laughtner is in it, and he is beautiful.”

Abduction was released September 23rd. This movie stars Taylor Laughtner and actress Lily Collins. The movie is about a teen that makes a shocking discovery about his childhood, finding out that the adults that were raising him were never his real parents. The movie features his journey to uncover the truth.

The Lion King 3D had the highest weekend gross profit, on the weekend of September 23-25, bringing in $22.1 million. Close behind was Moneyball bringing in $20.6 million. Dolphin Tale was third with $20.2 million, and fourth was Abduction with $11.2 million.
Students

Mighty, mighty, senior Ryan McCarter is seventeen years old and has been involved in sports throughout his whole life. McCarter has been on the varsity football team here at Park View for three years, has participated on the varsity basketball team for three years, and is looking forward to his last year playing basketball this winter. He has been a member of the track & Field team for one year. His favorite subject is science. “I like it because of all the earth and life,” McCarter says. If he could play any sport in the whole world it would be professional kickball. He also mentioned that “Back in elementary school, we would play it all the time and get all competitive. It was the bomb back then.” McCarter commented, “My most prized possession is my beautiful girlfriend Gaby Martinez, who I have been dating for over a year now.”

Janeen Hammond is a jammin, jammin’ junior here at Park View, and is 16 years old. Hammond has run Track & Field for two years, is currently on the JV cheerleading squad, and is competing with the varsity cheerleading squad. Hammond’s favorite subject is chemistry because she enjoys doing a lot of the experiments. “If I could be anything in the world I would be a basketball player. That’s my favorite sport, but I can’t be since I’m 4’11.” Hammond said that the freedom, the dress code, and being able to chew gum is something Hammond enjoys about high school rather than middle and elementary school. Hammond says, “The most important thing in my life is my boyfriend. I plan on him being in my future.”

Thomas Carter is a super, super sophomore and is enjoying being here at Park View. This fifteen year old is the starting defensive end on the varsity football team here at Park View. His favorite subject is history because, “The teacher is cool and learning about the past is interesting,” Carter says. If he could play any sport in the world it would be soccer. “The school is very soccer oriented and it would be a cool way to fit in,” Carter mentions. His favorite thing about high school is that it starts later which means more time for sleep, unlike elementary and middle school. The most important person in Carter’s life is his mother. Carter describes himself being the “class-clown.”

Nicole Harris is a freaky, freaky freshman here at Park View, and is fourteen years old. The only sport she plays is volleyball, which Harris plays year round. Harris is currently on the freshman volleyball team. “If I could be anything in the world I would be a pro volleyball player because it’s my favorite sport.” Harris lives and breathes volleyball. Harris’s favorite subject is history because it’s very interesting to her. Harris enjoys the freedom and that there are “less rules” at Park View rather than in middle and elementary school. “There’s not as many young kids in the school like there was in middle school. I actually enjoy being in the younger grades here,” Harris says. Harris’s most important thing in her life would be her family. Harris says, “They mean a lot to me.”

Veteran/New Teachers

This is Mr. Adam Sheppard’s sixth year teaching at Park View. Currently teaching 10th and 12th grade English, the hardest thing Mr. Sheppard has to deal with involves students who want to succeed in school but outside circumstances prevent them from performing well. “I am most proud when students that I have taught that have left for college come back and see me and ask what’s up,” Mr. Sheppard says. There is a specific reason why Mr. Sheppard chose to teach English. “I hated my English teachers in high school; I never wanted to be like them so I’m trying to be better than them,” Mr. Sheppard said. Mr. Sheppard is a huge Penn State fan. Originally from New Jersey, he got his B.A in English from The Pennsylvania State University followed by a Master’s Degree in Secondary Education from American University located in Washington D.C. Mr. Sheppard also serves as a Co-facilitator for CAMPUS, a program that pushes students to go to college, and a co-advisor for the academic competition team, It’s Academic. Mr. Sheppard is also the varsity baseball coach.

It’s Mr. Brandon Wheelbarger’s first year at Park View High and he loves teaching his 9th and 11th grade English classes. Mr. Wheelbarger previously taught for two years at Freedom High School in South Riding. He attended Broad Run High School and Frostburg State University, playing football throughout all years of schooling. Continuing his love for the game, Coach Wheelbarger is a varsity assistant coach with the Patriot football team. The hardest thing Coach Wheelbarger has to deal with is handling students that don’t do any work. Having had bad teachers during his time as a student, Mr. Wheelbarger was inspired to become a better teacher than he ever had. He wants students to realize reading and writing isn’t “nerdy.” His proudest moment as a teacher occurred when he taught a student at Freedom High School who had recently failed twice in English, and ended up getting a C in the class. “This showed that the kid wanted to do work for me, not the other teachers,” said Mr. Wheelbarger.
Kennel from pg. 1

with my friend one day, and I thought it would be really cool to have a pet lizard,” said Ludwic. Fluffy is around three years old and spends her days running around her glass cage. She even traces Madeleine’s fingers with her tongue. This rambunctious lizard adds even more work to her busy day since she also has her hands full with a dog, two cats, and a few fish!

Peter Hackett, a junior, brings more abnormality to the list with his Pot-Bellied Pig! He is nearly one year old and weighs 70 pounds (the size of the average German Shepherd dog). This swiney fellow answers to the name “Bacon” and sleeps in Hackett’s garage. So, how does one come across a pig? In September of 2010, Peter’s family was in North Carolina and stopped by a farm, “My sister is the one who picked him out, she’s always been obsessed with pigs.” And not surprisingly, Bacon snores constantly when he waddles around. Although, this little piggy isn’t all so sweet; when getting picked up, he screams and even bites, no matter who it is!

Sarah Paquette wraps up this roll because she drives minds wild with her Albino Hedgehog. This senior adores her four year old named Mike, who holds the nickname “Spiker Man.” “My friend’s little sister was German and called him that,” said Paquette. Sarah got a hold of Mike about three years ago when a mutual friend was going off to the military and had to leave him behind. This bizarre buddy loves to take baths in the sink and even get scrubbed by a toothbrush. He also eats cat food (kitten food to be exact) and chicken!

From birds, to rodents, to reptiles, to swine, various students at Park View have more than just the average American pet. Less than a century ago, keeping any of those animals just for amusement seemed very odd. So it’s a wonder to think which creatures kids will be keeping in the very near future.

New beginnings
By Anais Parker

As another summer ended, another school year began. Although heading right back into essays, quizzes, and projects might not seem ideal, it is also a chance for a fresh start, a new chance to make better grades, meet new people, and make this school year the best year yet.

Even in its early stages, the 2011-2012 school year has packed in loads of events that suit many students. In the first week the majority of students took their photo for the yearbook, participated in the year’s first pep rally, and fall sports teams were already practicing and competing. Students were already preparing for homecoming.

There are always those classic feelings that go along with major changes. For most freshmen, they are ecstatic just to be out of middle school. “High school is a lot different,” freshman Oliver Martinez noted.

“There’s more time to get to class,” freshman Becky Sessou added.

“The teachers are the biggest difference,” said Richard Rubio, a freshman. “There’s more chances to get in trouble; teachers don’t notice things as much.”

This year’s seniors see big shifts too. They finally get the privilege to use the senior courtyard, senior lunch line, and get an early release.

“I like getting used to the new things I get to do as a senior,” said senior John Smith. “It’s just a lot to take in.”

“I feel like the big dog,” remarked Natiya Searles, a senior.

There are other things affecting all students and staff.

Previously an administrator at Battlefield High School in Prince William County, the newest Assistant Principal, Mr. Troy Washington, sparked some interest, joining Park View in his eleventh year of education.

“He does his job well; he’s not as aggressive,” senior Natiya Searles mentioned.

Although sophomores and juniors are not going through as much of a drastic change, they still have bumps in the road.

“Being in a higher grade brings a ton more work,” sophomore Yei Ly Guardado said.

Extracurricular activities, like sports and clubs, have become very popular. “I just joined the science club; I wasn’t able to join last year; I’m glad I’m in it,” sophomore Khadeja Inam revealed.

“I’m trying to make the JV soccer team this year,” junior Eric Portillo noted.

All-in-all, it would be safe to say the beginning of the year has gotten off to a good start. It will be interesting to see how the rest of the year turns out.

Is Park View doing enough about bullying?
By Rebecca Weller

Bullying has become a big issue regarding young people who have been injuring themselves due to harassment, which brings up the question: Is Park View doing enough about bullying? According to Stephanie Talboo, 9th grade counselor at Park View, “Bullying is a serious issue that needs to be addressed.” Every year incoming freshmen are given a presentation on the seriousness of bullying. Administrators give them simple steps to follow if bullying occurs:

Step 1: Stop responding to the person doing the bullying/harassment.

Step 2: Report the bullying to a staff member.

Step 3: If it continues, go to an administrator or any adult in the building and it will be handled appropriately.

Park View High School has a zero tolerance policy for students who bully, and those who do will be rightfully disciplined.

According to the media, there have been doubts from parents that bullying is a serious issue. They simply think it is a right of passage that everyone goes through. “This is a myth,” says Talboo.

No kid should feel unsafe in a school environment. Many states are against bullying and a law was put into effect in 2006 called “The Safe School Climate Act” which ensures student safety in school. However, Virginia does not currently have this law, though Talboo believes that it should.

Bullying is not only face-to-face, it has gone cyber creating harassment on facebook, text messaging, Twitter, blogs, and many other internet sources which is called cyber-bullying. One example of cyber bullying occurred in 2006 in which a 13-year-old Megan Meier committed suicide because of posts on her MySpace account. Park View currently has no rule on cyber-bullying because it usually happens outside of the school environment. If Park View can become more educated about the consequences of cyber-bullying, it may be able to decrease the amount of bullying that students endure.

Luckily, Park View has little-to-no reported cases involving bullying. The school gives students access to help and gives them the security they need. Students have been taught how to recognize when bullying is taking place and then take the appropriate action to address it.

Parents, as well as students, need to learn the seriousness of bullying and be well educated on the subject in order to prevent these horrific outcomes that have been reported in the news.

Park View is a safe school and students, teachers, and parents hope to keep it that way for years to come.
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