THE PATRIOT PRESS

Park View Welcomes New Assistant Principal Ms. Jeanene Sims

by Amy Hensler

Last year, students and faculty were pushing to earn higher SOL (standards of learning) scores so that our school could avoid a
democratic probation. Academic probation is when perfor-
mance falls below the state’s requirements for learning, and it has two years to raise up test scores or else the
government will take away its accreditation. Fortunately, Park View’s students and staff worked hard to make
sure this did not happen, and we saw an overall increase in our SOL scores, especially in math education.

Many people are responsible for Park View’s success, but Ms. Amanda Reiner, Park View’s testing coordinator, is account-
able for many of the SOL accomplishments. Reiner would meet individually with each student who needed to retake
a SOL to discuss their personal needs to fulfill their
goals, and made them work hard to achieve them. Reiner explains, “I made them [the
students] commit to a re-
mediation program before I
would put them into a testing
session. So I really met with
every single kid, and there
was about 150 of them, and
we talked about ‘are we go-
ing or an advanced diploma,
a standard diploma? Do you
really need this SOL?’ If we
are going for this SOL will
you commit to at least four
remediation sessions with
me’? So I think people took
it a lot more seriously.”

Reiner expressed that
sometimes SOL’s are unfair,
so she is looking into other
tests like the Work Keys test
to try and accommodate stu-
dents. “You have to be able
to read poetry. You have to be
able to interpret poetry, and
that’s a really high skill. And
it’s hard enough to do it in
your own language let alone
in someone else’s language.
And it’s not that our kids are
not smart or that they can’t
do it, I just think they haven’t
achieved, but he was also
pleasantly surprised to see
them. “I’ll be honest with
you, all I wanted was to
show an increase. I didn’t
necessarily expect us to meet
the gains that we made, but
because of them, I was so
excited to see all of that hard
work finally come to fruition,
because it was tangible to the
teachers then,” Dolson stated.

Both Reiner and Dolson agreed that while the faculty was a great help at raising the test scores, the
students were the thing that really helped us succeed. The students took the SOL more seriously than ever before,
and their efforts showed at the end of the year. “Last year the teachers said that the culture was really different,
because the teachers re-
ally felt like the kids cared,”
Dolson stated. With retakes
just around the corner, it is
very important to keep up the
same mentality so that Park
View continues to improve.

by Weini Ogbaijorgis

Here at Park View High School, nothing but
eccellency is received when it comes to the overall staff and faculty. This year we
gained a new administra-
tor to add to that list, Asst.
Principal Mrs. Jeannene
Sims. Sims is originally
from Roanoke, VA and is
a graduate from Virginia
Tech University in Blacks-
burg, VA. Prior to becom-
ing a fellow Patriot, she
was an assistant principal
in numerous schools in our
area. Most recently, she
was an Asst. Principal at
South Lakes High School
in Reston, VA. She also
was an Asst. Principal at
George C. Marshall High
School in Falls Church, VA
and at Long Fellow Middle
School in McLean, VA. In
total, Sims has been an
administrator for about 15
years.

Before becoming
an assistant principal, Mrs. Sims was a Span-

ish teacher for nine years. Sims has been in multiple different school systems
and environments. She
used to work in a modified
calendar school, where they
went all year round and the school year started in the
summer. At this elementary
school she got to design
courses that taught kids
about certain subjects in
unique ways, like how she
taught a math lesson by
having her students create
a budget and plan a trip
to Washington D.C. Mrs.

Simms also went on to say
how compared to the previ-
ous high school she was at
the difference in population
size has made Park View
feel like she is at home.

Sims also named
differences between work-
ing in Fairfax County and
Loudoun County such as
scheduling and the ac-
cess to different resources.

“You guys are wonderful.
I have never met more
respectful, nice kids.”

The students have
been one of her favorite
things about Park View so
far, and she has enjoyed the
warm welcome. She also
mentions how her col-
leagues in the front office,
Mr. Kirk Dolson, Ms. Jen-
nifer Piccolomini, Mr. Troy
Washington, and the ladies
in the front office have also
added to her pleasant expe-
rience at Park View High
School.

The staff, teachers,
and parents have also been
just as welcoming. “Park
View reminds me of being
from a small town where
you know everybody.’’

The smaller population has
allowed her to get around
and meet everyone which
she enjoys very much.

Mrs. Sims loves our famous PV pep
rallies. “The school spirit is
even and the noise
uncanny.” Mrs. Sims had
nothing but positive things
to say about Park View and
the Patriot family is very
lucky to have Mrs. Sims as

Graph by Kirk Dolson

Park View High School
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Sterling, VA 20164
The Controversies Surrounding BYOT

Pro

BYOT is also appropriate for our generation because many students are already familiar with using their own technology so they can focus on actually learning with them rather than learning how to use the school computers. With technology becoming more prevalent in today's society, students should be taught how to use it in their everyday lives and not just how to use it for leisure. BYOT will teach kids when to use technology respectfully and appropriately, which can help benefit kids in the future.

BYOT will encourage excitement in learning because students love technology. "I think BYOT is just a more practical way to go," Link stated. "Students are just more likely to bring their devices than a textbook, and I think that will really help to engage students. Being able to use technology in the classroom really makes education better."

For other schools in Loudoun County, "Bring your own technology" means bringing your own personal technology from home to school. Although this is true about BYOT here at Park View High School, there is an additional aspect; loaning out tablets. BYOT makes it possible for tasks to be done electronically and reduces the stress of keeping track of paper assignments and textbooks. Above all of this, there are also many cons to the situation.

BYOT does indeed help teachers out, but there is a slight difference with the freshmen and sophomore class having tablets. English teacher Ms. Beata Bui, teaches the class of 2019 and has reached some complications with the tablets. When the class first received the tablets, Ms. Bui had to take time out of her class time to instruct some of her students on how to use the tablets. Teachers feel that they need more training with the tablets and that the students should be taught some techniques about the tablets as well.

Technology resource teacher Mr. Steve Norman believes that there are some cons that goes along with the freshmen and sophomore classes receiving tablets. Personally, it is difficult for Mr. Norman to diagnose the tablets due to various applications being downloaded by the students. With that said, more complications might pop up due to unknown applications being downloaded.

The internet connection lagging is also a con to BYOT. Now that everyone is bringing their own devices, everyone is bound to be on the internet, and with that, everyone is connected to the same internet server. Junior Colin Mills brought up the point of the risks to BYOT. "I worry about taking the risk of my laptop breaking in my backpack," said Mills. The school is not responsible for devices being stolen and lost. For the freshmen and sophomores, their tablets come with insurance. When they break/lose their loaned tablets, they do not have to pay the school back. Although, the downside to this is that the school will not provide them a new tablet; the students get one chance.

BYOT is an advancement in learning, but there are also various cons. With great privilege comes great responsibility.

by Aliyana Raja

National Hispanic Heritage Month is from September 15th to October 15th; it is a time when Americans recognize Hispanic culture, heritage, and contribution. This celebration can hold different meanings to different people. Ms. Eneida Headley, a Spanish for Fluent Speakers teacher here at Park View, expressed that Hispanic Heritage Month is a time to, "Acknowledge and recognize the struggles that many have endured and to acknowledge the achievements attained to break through from minority into leadership into our society."

People can celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month in their own ways, especially in the classroom. Ms. Headley celebrates Hispanic heritage and culture in the classroom every day, not just during Hispanic Heritage Month. "I affirm my ESL students to continue learning English to advocate linguistic usage of Spanish for heritage speakers in an educated matter," she said.

Ms. Headley said that her mom, her grandma and her great grandma inspired her to embrace her heritage. "They always said beauty and wealth may fade away, but what you learn, no one can take away," stated Headley.

Ms. Headley says that it is important to embrace your heritage because it is the solid foundation to propel you to take solid steps in the future. "It's like a tree. You need deep roots to grow tall." She says that you should take pride and honor in your heritage.

Hispanic Heritage Month can be a time when you learn to embrace your roots. It can be a time when you learn new things about where you come from. Hispanic heritage can be celebrated by anyone, during anytime, especially during Hispanic Heritage Month.
Students Gain Perspective through German Exchange

by Liana Jackley

Touching down in Reykjavik, Iceland after hours of being cooped up in an airplane to cross the Atlantic, 20 patriots began their summer vacation to Germany. “I want to go back every summer now. Oschersleben is like my home away from home and my host family is my other family,” reminisced Maggie Love, a junior here at Park View.

From Iceland, they went to Homburg, Germany, took a bus to Magdeburg, and finally, to Oschersleben. 16 students from Park View went on this trip and stayed with host families part of the time they were there. Their host brothers and sisters were still there. Their host families part of the time they were there. Their host families part of the time they were there.

The Patriot football team was the first to experience the brand new turf fields. It took nearly all summer for the fields to be finished, but many said it was worth the wait. Evan Pittard, Junior, states, “I think we play ten times better on the turf fields, and the record shows.”

The football team has won more games this season than in the past 2 years combined. Michael Hernandez, senior, says, “Personnally I know I am a better player on turf fields.”

There are many pros and cons to installing a turf field. The biggest difference to many is that on a regular field the grass is hard to get your footing, but with a turf field one can run faster. Although, some studies have shown that turf fields cause more injuries but Junior, Nikolai Hopkins, says, “The only negative thing I’ve had with the new fields is turf burns.” Due to the fact that the turf attracts so much heat it can result in turf burns, which many athletes have encounter and are not looking forward to in their upcoming seasons.

One positive is not only how it affects how the teams play, but it also affects how long the teams can play. Due to weather teams are unable to play on a regular grass field, but with the new turf fields all the sports teams can play in rain or snow. Last year many games were cancelled in all of the sport seasons, especially the spring sports.

Whether you agree or disagree on which is better, turf or grass, the new attention of turf can change how a player plays. It something new, and thanks to the Washington Redskins, NFL, and the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors, we get to experience it.

A couple of students believe it’s a great idea that midterms are no longer required but think that final exams should still be mandatory. “Cancelling midterms was a great idea since they end up being cancelled because of the snow days, but I think we should keep finals. Stated Sophomore David River. He believes that by midterm and finals being cancelled students will not stay on track with their work.

If a teacher does decide to have their students take an exam it will not count for 20 percent of a student’s final grade. Teachers will be able to see how the students are doing with the material without it having a major impact on their grades.

Teachers who decide to give out exams have to make accommodations, so that no student is taking multiple exams in one day. This also means that the high school shortened exam week will no longer be in place. The eight days of early release for high school students after each semester will now be regular full days. “I think they should give us half days for the last week of school. Most of the teachers do not do anything, everyone gets lazy. Towards the end of the school year both the teachers and students are just as eager to get out of school, especially on the last days,” said junior Chris Yanes.

Students are relieved that final exams and midterms will not have such a big impact on their final grade. Although there will be no more shortened exam weeks, students are mostly excited that they no longer have to take any big tests.

A scenic shot of the streets in Germany.

Photo by Nicholas Balanc

Left: Teacher Nicholas Balanc takes a selfie with the students who went on the exchange trip. Right: A couple of students take a selfie with the students who went on the exchange trip.

Students were able to see what typical everyday life was like. Love shared, “One day a lot of hosts who were also friends got together at someone’s house and we hung out, ate snacks, and went to a soccer field to play football and then we had a campfire going. I think that’s one of the best memories I have from Germany because that’s when I actually got to speak German and have fun; I’ll remember that day forever.”

After a month in Germany, from June 17th–July 10th, it was time to head back to the homeland. This trip had not only an educational effect on them, but also brought out another side of people. “I got out of my shell...” said Rahe, “I was really shy but by the end of the trip I was able to go up to people and start conversations.” To say the least, everyone is hoping Park View will make this the start of many life changing trips.
Students Gain College Credit through New Dual Enrollment Program

by Rebecca Thibang

Recently, Park View High School has decided to open its doors to a new Dual Enrollment program. This gives students the opportunity to receive some college credits for completing two semesters of English 12 Dual Enrollment. These semesters are equivalent to ENG 111 and ENG 112 in college. Unlike AP classes, the Dual Enrollment program allows students to earn six guaranteed college credits instead of taking a chance when taking the AP exam at the end of the school year. However, students are still expected to maintain a C grade or higher for both semesters in order to receive their college credits. While the course is in a high school environment, the goal is for the course to have the same standards and rigor as a college level course.

Noneetheless, this information did not deter the 19 seniors that have signed up for this course.

Unlike an ordinary English 12 class, students do not have classwork, or read many novels. Instead, they learn how to enhance their writing and analyze a lot more. Students will also continue to learn about different issues and perspectives on immigration; in addition, they will do some interviewing and possibly do a full-scale presentation. Argumentative, classificiation, and compare & contrast essays are what the seniors will learn to write in this class as well. Students in the class have already started learning to write resumes, good college essays, and improve their use of rhetoric. Each day, students already know what to do in class because of their syllabus, which has been completely mapped out for the entire school year. Ms. Meghan Pierce, the English 12 teacher who teaches both Academic and Dual Enrollment, is encouraged by the way seniors have responded to the new program. “I am really impressed that many of the students in my class send in work ahead of time. Everyone is really motivated,” said Ms. Pierce.

While students enjoy the class, they admit that it can be quite time consuming. “We have to write essays every day. For homework assignments, we are given an outline, check out a few books at the library, and write an essay,” said Senior Mark Land. In addition to these assignments, students sometimes have to watch videos and figure out how to write a response. This assignment is given with little to no direction from the teacher. “I really like to see how the students’ though process is when they watch the video and what their response,” Ms. Pierce explained.

Students who are taking the course enjoy the benefits of this program. “I really like this opportunity better than AP because this course offers more credits and jumpstarts your college classes,” said Senior Alyssa Glasgow, “I feel that English is really important in any career.” By focusing on rhetorical styles, methods, and voice focus, students believe that these transferrable skills they are learning will help benefit them in the long run. Senior Jaianna Henderson said, “In Dual Enrollment, you actually learn skills that you can use in life.” Upcoming seniors are definitely encouraged to take English 12 Dual Enrollment next year as it offers amazing benefits and opportunities.

Dungeons and Dragons Draws Attention as New Club on Campus

by Weini Ogbagorgis

The newest club addition to our variety of clubs at Park View is the action filled Dungeons and Dragons Club. This club was started by freshmen twin brother Bran- den and Kundan Khushu. They were originally inspired to create this club in middle school and decided to continue the legacy of it into Park View. One of the common goals the two brother’s had for their club is to get more people involved, and to show people what Dungeons and Dragons is all about. For a long time the brothers have enjoyed playing this game on their own so they wanted more people to join in on the fun. Both Branden and Kundan described Dungeons and Dragons to be a table top Fantasy role playing board game. This game is first started by the Dungeon Master laying the basic foundation of the game and then from there its creatively made by the rest of the players. “You can either make the game up as you go along or create a pre written one.” Branden explains. Branden and Kundan love the game so much because the players can be or do anything they want and the creative aspect is what really makes the game come alive in their opinion. The club is sponsored by Mr. Peck who is new to the game but is very enthusiastic to help the two brothers accomplish their goal. “I’m very open to new things and helping people reach something they have been working for” Peck says. The club meet ups will consist of playing the game and doing other fun activities as a club together in order to get to know each other. Lastly Kundan and Branden are pleased with the amount of people who signed up at the club fair and they are very optimistic about the upcoming year.

Peer Tutors Open New Writing Center

by Josselyn Rodas

The Writing Center is a new option available to students this school year. Writing Center is useful for writing but it does not limit itself just to that. The teacher for the class is Ms. Laura Gray, a Reading Specialist. When the Writing Center was introduced, it was believed to be another alternative to typing center.

However, it is actually a class one takes to collaborate with students that are struggling with writing. Writing Center is a great opportunity for the tutors. It is about helping students out, and they planning to get its name out for next year.

The Writing Center is a class not only to help the students coming in but it is also a great learning opportunity for the tutors in the class. The class consists of a minimum amount of people it only operates for one block. The class is located in the new journalism and yearbook’s classroom, Lab 207. Although the students taking the class are meant to teach, they are learning more about writing themselves. They are learning more writing techniques, how to have a better structure, and how to teach others.

If a student who is struggling with their writing skills and techniques needs assistance, they would head to the Writing Center. Since the Writing Center only consists of one block, it is only available if a student’s Pride class is taking place simultaneously. They would be able to go to the classroom, take out any homework that consists with writing, such as English and any other elective and ask for the help of other students in class. The students of the class will help to the best of their ability while learning teaching skills. Amera Saber, a junior in the Writing Center says, “You are learning more and more, and you are helping so not only the person that you are helping is learning but you’re learning from them too.” It benefits both of the students while one is teaching and the other learning. The students in the class enjoy being a part of this new addition in writing. Moreover, they are hoping to spread out the word. The Writing Center is hoping to rename themselves to “The Patriot Writing Center” to show their PV pride. The class is hoping to advertise more for the upcoming school year. They wish to reach out more to students who may be struggling with their writing. Not many people know further detail about the class. Overall, the Writing Center is trying to become a much bigger learning environment.

As a result, the Writing Center is a class helping out tutors, helping out students, and trying to spread its word. It is a great opportunity for everyone to know of. It benefits the English department severely, and should be more known to the student body. It is a good class for future educators and for those who would like to improve their writing ability. The Writing Center will most likely appeal to every grade level and will help in many ways.
by Katherine Majewski

This person is a very active student who also finds time in his day to play some soccer. He is a senior at Park View High School. Messi is his inspiration to play soccer every day.

He cannot wait to graduate in eight months. Over the summer this person visited Virginia Tech and he loved the way it felt and it gave a good vibe. He would like to attend Virginia Tech and he would like to study Engineering. If he does not get accepted into Virginia Tech he plans to attend Northern Virginia Community College.

He always finds time in his day to do his homework and study for any upcoming test. Over the summer he got accepted into an Engineering program called Hispanic Institute.

In ten years he sees himself owning a huge house and working as an engineer. He has a part time job at IHOP, he has worked there for two years and he loves his job. If he could choose any place to eat it would be Chipotle because it’s delicious. The reason why he plays soccer is because it’s a family tradition and he just love the sport. His dad is his role model because he works hard every day.

This person listed two different kinds of music, he likes hip-hop rap and all kind of music and he doesn’t have a favorite artist. A song he loves to listen to is “Young and Beautiful” and it by Lana Del Ray. His friend describes him as a “sweetheart and he has big heart.”

Fall is here, which means that it is time for Pumpkin Spice Lattes, fall festivals, and fashion. Fall is the season where all of the cool colors start to come into play. From outfit ideas, the types of shoes and what perfumes or colognes will be popular for this time of the year, there are many choices to choose from. According to the Pantone Fashion Color Report, the color scheme for girls in fall, fashion fall in autumn includes mint/army green, navy blue, rose pink, blue-green, light orange, and blue grey.

Denim will also be a big trend this season. Boyfriend style and distressed jeans are going to be very popular among girls, especially for those that are fans of the ‘street’ fashion. Denim is not only confined to jeans though. Denim jackets and denim overalls are also a staple piece to wear this time of year. Another popular trend this year is color-blocking, the method of wearing multiple solid colors in an outfit. This can be done with the colors red & cream, grey & black, yellow & cream, and turquoise & navy blue.

Accessories for girls include leather biker boots, booties, and funnel scarves, which are similar to infinity scarves but look less bulky. As reported by Vogue Hommes Paris Fashion Week, popular fall fashion for guys this season will include the colors: olive, navy blue, forest green, cadet blue (blue with a tint of grey), and yellow. Staple pant pieces include jogger pants and skinny chino pants. According to Banana Republic Fall-Winter 2015 Men’s Collection, parka jackets along with button down shirt jackets will be popular articles to see this season.

Sweaters are also a great trend for guys, especially textured sweaters and ones with a rolled crew neckline. Fall accessories for guys include desert boots as well as beanies, which can be shared amongst girls and guys. A great outfit idea for guys could possibly include: Sherpa-lined cordury trucker jacket, short-sleeve curved hem tee shirt, and sprinter jogger pants finished with a pair of vans authentic wool low-top sneakers.

Winter is fast approaching which means there is a limited time to dress in a stylish way without looking like an Eskimo. Fall is a time for wearing enough clothes to feel warm but still able to look fashionable, whether it is a girl or guy. It is possible for anyone and everyone to look and feel in style for the season while still feeling comfortable with the cooler temperatures outside.
I am confident that readers will enjoy the story and will appreciate the satisfying ending. This book is recommended for all readers wanting more, yet I do feel that the ending left something to be desired. Keeping Gamers Up Until Dawn

When eight friends become trapped on a remote mountain top, they realize that they are in serious danger. The stakes are high, and the players must make difficult decisions in order to succeed.

The Last Thing I Remember

The Last Thing I Remember is a novel by Andrew Klavan, which tells a story about a boy named Charlie West. Charlie is a rebellious teenager who frequently gets into trouble with the law.

The book is written in the form of diary entries, and Charlie's thoughts and feelings are expressed through his writing. The story is told in a first-person narrative, allowing the reader to experience the character's experiences as they unfold.

The Last Thing I Remember is a compelling story that keeps the reader engaged from beginning to end. The characters are well-developed, and the plot is full of twists and turns. The book is a great read for anyone looking for an exciting and thought-provoking story.

The Last Thing I Remember is a book that I highly recommend. It is a story that will keep you on the edge of your seat, and it is worth reading for anyone who enjoys young adult fiction.
Have We All Become too Sports Crazy?

It is no surprise that Americans are crazy about football. Of the 25 most-watched fall television programs last year, 23 of them were NFL broadcasts, so whatever your opinion on the subject is, we all have to agree that the amount of influence sports programs have on the average American citizen is crazy. It is no wonder that our vision can sometimes get a little hazy when it comes to sports related controversy. While there are multiple controversies that could be addressed with a heated opinion, one of the most important and underated issues is that of the derogatory and offensive name of the Redskins football team. I will admit that I have a very biased perspective towards the whole issue. I could not care less about

what team wins or loses, if someone fumbles a ball, or do I really have a sense of pride for any one team. But saying that, I think I can come at these heated issues with a pretty level mind and open-mindedness that someone who cared about football more than I do would not necessarily have.

Part of the reason we do not like to shed negative light on football is because of the popularity of it. According to a survey conducted by the Harris Poll about America’s favorite sports, football has been ranked number one for the past 30 years. No one likes to bash something that they love, and for good reason. When you get a group of people together who all love one common thing, it can be a really uplifting force that unifies a group or people, but more often than not, it can also really degrade and disrespect some.

The Washington Redskins’ offensive name has been around for about 82 years now, and many fans have turned the other way to escape the violence; these freedom fighters have gradually traveled to places that would take them in, but the countries who do not want to take any responsibilities for these people are the oil-rich Countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates). Hungary has made a 115-mile-long fencing at the border to detain and capture anyone trying to sneak it. Even if some do succeed, finding a job and learning the language of the people there is almost impossible. Many refugees end up dying on the streets due to hunger from being unemployed. The question on all their lips: “Why are they treating us like this?” The world is failing to meet the needs of the refugees and the countries hosting them.

In order to host these families, they need countries to provide money to set up camps. In year 2015, about 6.5 million Syrians where displaced from Syria, also including the 4 million refugees residing in Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, and Iraq. Some countries are refusing to allow refugees in their countries such as Saudi Arabia, one of the richest countries known to man with all their oil. Some countries say that if they allow too many people in, the unemployment rate will go up and less jobs will be available for the people who grew up in these countries. If people knew more about this world problem, they would take more action. Not just students should search this up the internet or watch the news, but teachers should be even more aware to bring enlighten to their classrooms filled with open minded, young adults.

Millions of deaths have been occurring since the year 2011 but most people like young adults, are not aware of these terrible actions and events that are occurring consistently. To make any change at all, teachers and students should be concerned with everyone in our world. With our devices upgraded to look everything up with the touch of a finger, we should be able to take 10-15 minutes of our time out of the day to look over news articles. Even if you can not do anything to stop the killing sprees, educating yourself with current events can make a huge impact.
The Patriot Press

Sports

Athletes of the Season

Running Alongside Allison

by Nabeela Ahmed

Freshman Allison Armstrong is this year’s Cross Country athlete of the season. “Ally has that innate, natural talent, when combined with her excellent work ethic, results in a very impressive athlete,” says sophomore and teammate Kelly Schaefer.

Armstrong was quite excited, but a bit shocked when she found out the news. “We pick the athlete of the season based on dedication and hard work,” says Coach Matthew Poth. “It isn’t always the loudest or most outgoing person who steals the spotlight, sometimes a person simply stands out by hard work. They put their head down, don’t say much, but work harder than any two people,” Poth stated. Armstrong always looked good running and had run a few races before. “I’d like to get better,” she says. She placed first in a Varsity race and had also placed top five in her races so far.

“It’s hard sometimes when you’re in a race, and while you’re running, you just want to give up and quit,” Armstrong stated. Meets can be fun, but exhausting as well. At times when a runner would have to get up at six, they would usually get home around one or two. “Sometimes I feel accomplished if I did well, but sometimes I feel like I couldn’t have done better.” Managing her time can get slightly difficult, but she manages it well.

Armstrong perseveres as she runs in a cross country race.

Running and nothing else. “She doesn’t talk much but is always looking and learning from those around her, and is a great runner,” Coach Poth says. When necessary, Armstrong is willing to work really hard and push herself to the limit, but will not hesitate to set herself at a slower pace in order to keep the team together.

Williams Brings Dedication and Heart to the Cheer Team

by Chloe Hilliard

Williams is an outstanding athlete who leads with quiet confidence. Williams is reliable, determined, and sacrifices her time for her team to succeed. Williams is the epitome of sportsmanship who has enough heart and drive to push her entire team to victory.

Williams Captains the Ship for Patriots

by Meagan McDaniel

Colin Mills, a junior at Park View High School, is a valuable player on and off the field. He has been elected team captain for the varsity football team for both his sophomore and junior year of high school. He believes that the most valuable traits a football player should have are toughness and resilience.

“Things will always happen that don’t go your way,” says Mills. Mills has been a hard worker and a vocal leader for the varsity football team. He pushes his team to be better. He thinks football is all about discipline and teamwork. “Football takes more than one person,” says Mills. He thinks that winning is also important when playing football. Colin Mills began playing football in sixth grade. “I wasn’t really that good, but I really worked at it. High school made it real a lot faster and more fun,” said Mills. Football has helped Mills grow as a person by giving him the skills he might not have had otherwise. These skills include leadership, taking criticism and putting others before himself.

Other players and coaches find Colin to be an asset to the team. “Colin is a great kid. He is a great kid on the field, he has a positive attitude, I just love him like a brother,” says Kevin Lopez. Another student, Evan Pittard, says “If you get into trouble, he talks to you even before the coaches do. He makes sure everything is okay. I think he’s a good athlete, too.”

The players on the varsity football team have positively impacted Mills’ life. “They push me to be better whether they know it or not,” says Mills. When asked why Mills was chosen as Football Athlete of the Season, Coach Mullins said, “On the field for us this year, he played some vital positions and did a great job with both of them. He leads us in practice; he leads us at the games, he leads when we are off the field. He is one of the best leaders I’ve ever had the pleasure of coaching.”

Photos by Victor O’neil

Left: Mills blocks the opposing team to prevent them from scoring a point. Right: Mills and teammate celebrate after scoring a touchdown.

Photos by Victor O’neil

Williams Cheers for the Football Team from the sidelines.

Williams is a strong base, and has a lot of dedication, of the only tumblers, and is a captain”. Henderson said that she works very hard. “She wants to get things done, always goes full out even when she doesn’t have to, has a positive attitude. She’s very fun and bubbly.” Williams always try’s to make people feel better.

“Williams is a strong base, and has a lot of dedication, of the only tumblers, and is a captain”. Henderson said that she works very hard. “She wants to get things done, always goes full out even when she doesn’t have to, has a positive attitude. She’s very fun and bubbly.” Williams always try’s to make people feel better.

Colin Mills began playing football in sixth grade. “I wasn’t really that good, but I really worked at it. High school made it real a lot faster and more fun,” said Mills. Football has helped Mills grow as a person by giving him the skills he might not have had otherwise. These skills include leadership, taking criticism and putting others before himself.

Other players and coaches find Colin to be an asset to the team. “Colin is a great kid. He is a great kid on the field, he has a positive attitude, I just love him like a brother,” says Kevin Lopez. Another student, Evan Pittard, says “If you get into trouble, he talks to you even before the coaches do. He makes sure everything is okay. I think he’s a good athlete, too.”

The players on the varsity football team have positively impacted Mills’ life. “They push me to be better whether they know it or not,” says Mills. When asked why Mills was chosen as Football Athlete of the Season, Coach Mullins said, “On the field for us this year, he played some vital positions and did a great job with both of them. He leads us in practice; he leads us at the games, he leads when we are off the field. He is one of the best leaders I’ve ever had the pleasure of coaching.”

Photos by Victor O’neil

Left: Mills blocks the opposing team to prevent them from scoring a point. Right: Mills and teammate celebrate after scoring a touchdown.

Photos by Victor O’neil

Williams Brings Dedication and Heart to the Cheer Team

by Chloe Hilliard

Athlete of the season, Hidayah Williams has been cheering since the 7th grade. There are many reasons why she cheers. She cheers because it is keeps her active, it is family oriented, and she enjoys “flipping around.” Her favorite qualities about cheer is preforming at competition because everyone gets to see your hard work. Some things she does not like about cheer are morning practices and the very exhausting schedule. In Williams opinion the cheer team is a good size and they have a lot of opportunity with the size that it is.

Senior, J.J. Henderson is a teammate of Williams. Henderson said that Williams is an outstanding athlete who leads with quiet confidence. Williams is reliable, determined, and sacrifices her time for her team to succeed. Williams is the epitome of sportsmanship who has enough heart and drive to push her entire team to victory.
Riverside High School located in Leesburg VA, opened for the school year of 2015-2016 because of need for more space for students.

Due to overflowing students in Tuscarora HS, Broad Run HS, and Stone Bridge HS, there was a need for a new high school. The school took about two years for the school to be built and opened its doors to students this year. However, the school is yet to be finished. Mr. Doug Anderson, principal of Riverside HS, says that it might be one more year until the whole school is fully open.

The new principal states, “It was tough seeing the students upset since they did not come with their friends, because he always wants to see the students happy.” It was not hard to find adults that would want to become staff members, Mr. Anderson said. He interviewed about 500 adults, and of the 500 only 80 got hired. They are working on the Bring Your Own Technology digital citizenship and issues on Wi-Fi that still will not work but students are allowed to bring their own devices like smartphones, laptops and tablets.

The administrators and the staff members of Riverside HS are holding activities to keep the students happy such as spirit days, and mini pep-rallies. The students have a voice to make decisions about what they want the school store to be named, as well as writing their school song. Seniors and juniors of the three schools got to choose whether or not they wanted to transfer to Riverside HS. The freshman and sophomores had a small voice in whether or not they wanted to change schools, due to the fact that many students were transferred from other schools.

Mr. Anderson said the one advantage of being a principal of a new high school is that he was able to choose the new staff, the bell schedule, and other important decisions. The only disadvantage that Mr. Anderson acknowledges is the students and staff do not know him yet. It will take time for the students to trust them.

lcps.org/riverside

Joe’s café
Joe’s café is an American style café that serves breakfast and lunch!
45665 West Church Road
Sterling, Virginia 20164
703-444-1118
Mon-Sat: 7:00 A.M. - 10:00 P.M.
Sunday: 8:00 A.M. - 9:00 P.M.

Joe’s Pizzaria
Joe’s Italian Pizzaria serves lunch and dinner, including the popular buffet option that runs Monday through Friday.
Joe’s Pizzaria also provides the pizza we sell every Friday in the school foyer!
22360 S. Sterling Blvd.
Sterling, Virginia 20164
703-444-9500
Freshman

Giacomo Macchiavello

The freshman spotlight, Giacomo Macchiavello is very excited for his years to come at Park View High School. He is on the cross country team and may be joining the swim team in the winter. “I really enjoy cross county because I’m very close with my team and it gets you super fit,” says Macchiavello. Macchiavello has also made some new friends because of cross country including Bryan Zepada (grade 10), Daulton Roach (grade 11), and Mathew Anaya (grade 11). He is also planning to join STEM club or Global Ambassadors. “My favorite thing about high school is that there are so many options for afterschool activities and clubs,” says Giacomo.

He enjoys being the youngest of the school again because he has a lot to look forward to. He dislikes how teachers are a lot stricter about little things. “My teacher was so picky about my project,” says Giacomo. He is very excited about the tablets this year. He feels like the tablets are going to make school work easier.

Sophomore

Xyra Maranan

Sophomore, Xyra Maranan is a known for her bright smile and sweet personality at Park View High School. Her favorite thing to do during her free time would be tennis. “My favorite sport would be tennis.” She also plays tennis for Park View’s tennis team. “I play with my friends all the time.” Not only is she good at playing tennis, she also plays the piano at home along with other musical activities such as Park View’s marching band.

“I cannot stand biology,” Maranan specified. “My two favorite classes would be Math and Band.” She finds her math class very interesting and fun to figure out the problems on her own. “I find math fun for some reason,” said Maranan. This year, Maranan chose to take Mandarin Chinese. “It is my first year taking it and it’s pretty cool.” After school, she usually just goes out and hangs out with her friends instead of watching TV. “I really don’t watch TV anymore. I don’t like any shows either,” she stated.

Maranan stays active in school activities with her school friends. She always busy doing something productive throughout the day with her free time. She is known for being very friendly and considerate towards.

Junior

Angel Garma

Jammin’, jammin’ junior Angel Garma is enjoying his third year at Park View High School. Garma has been playing guitar since his sophomore year after his friend convinced him to join. Miroslav Loncar, the guitar teacher says, “Angel goes beyond what is required. He plays music out of joy. He is an inspiration to other students and me because he is so joyful.” Garma is one of the best in his class because he is always on top of things and he is excited to learn new music.

Garma’s favorite thing about Park View are the pep rallies. Garma says, “I love the pep rallies here because they are fun. You get to be loud and try to beat the other classes.” He is still getting over the excitement of winning the most recent one. He loves Park View because he gets to hang out with his old friends and meet new ones. After high school, he plans on working with computers. Although he is not quite sure what college he wants to go to. Outside of school, Garma spends his time playing soccer. This defender plays soccer with his friends for fun. Another thing he enjoys is playing FIFA, the videogame.

His biggest accomplishment in high school so far is when he played in a small group in a guitar concert sophomore year. He had a really big fear of stage fright but he overcame it and played the song, Gerudo Valley perfectly.

His best friend, Jeovanny Gonzalez says, “Angel is a funny person who sees the good in people.” Gonzalez sees him running a business or being in a top position when he gets a job. Garma is a positive, uplifting person who is sure to go far in whatever job area he goes into.

Senior

Amina Hussain

Amina Hussain is a Patriot here at Park View High School. Amina is a very caring person. She is outgoing, easy to talk to, and has a lot of Park View High School spirit. She says “I’m loving my senior year and loving all the new doors that are opening for me”.

Amina would like all of her friends to describe her as a caring and a genuine friend. This senior thinks that Park View has a lot of spirit and is proud of all her friends and peers”. She says “I hope my friends will remember me as an optimistic person and someone who always kept them entertained. Amina is in the debate club, “In the debate club you get to argue and it helps release pent up anger”. She is also on varsity tennis and runs cross country. When asked what one of the biggest things she was going to miss about Park View High School Amina said “The teachers, faculty and staff because of how caring they are about all Students of Park View High School”.

by Alexandra Poindexter, Ibtisam Tora, Casey House, Kevin Acevedo
Ms. Yorde
Biology

This is Ms. Rebecca Yorde’s first year as a teacher at Park View High School. She teaches biology, and loves it because of her past experiences, and the variety the field has to offer.

Ms. Yorde said her favorite part of being a teacher is getting to inspire and helping kids who need it the most. She said she was not scared or nervous being a teacher, but more proud. She also seems to be getting along with the staff pretty well and payed Principal Kirk Dolson a few compliments as well. “Principal Dolson is a great supportive encouraging leader,” says Ms. Yorde.

If teaching and coaching the cheerleading team outside of school isn’t enough, she is also planning a wedding. Which she also admitted is going slowly because, “work comes first right now.” Ms. Yorde also believes in less homework because it’s easier to guide and work one on one with the students her favorite spirit day was pajama day. In the end she described Park View as proud, loyal, diverse, respectful and successful.

Mr. Peck
Social Science

Mr. Gerritt Peck is a new teacher at Park View High School. He is a freshmen football coach, World History and Economics teacher. He enjoys outdoor activities like hiking and camping. Growing up, Mr. Peck wanted to be a solider and then went to be a teacher. He spent 28 years in the U.S. army, serving as a paratrooper and infantryman. Mr. Peck graduated from Herndon High School. He went to San Diego University for his undergraduate degree and The George Washington University for his graduate degree. He is married and has two kids who are 24 years old and 18 years old.

His advice for all students would be to be resilient. “Never give up, and if you get knocked down get right back up,” Mr. Peck stated. “I have always loved history; it is all I have ever wanted to teach.” His favorite topic to teach would be American History. As a Park View teacher, he would like is to help students see opportunities that they probably did not know were there, sometimes you have to “suck it up and drive on.”

Mr. Peck will be sponsoring the Dungeon and Dragons Club and FEL lowship of Christian Athletes (FCA). “Anybody can join these clubs,” he said, “make sure to check those clubs out.” Mr. Peck is very excited for this football season. The coaches will be teaching a new rugby style of tackling in football. It will be safer and prevent injuries, a lot less concussions will be occurring, and many other schools have switched to the rugby style tackling as well. There will be a lot less freshmen boys getting injured during games this season, which Mr. Peck is very relieved about.

Mr. Peck loves sports and has played a few in his high school years. He used to play rugby and was a part of the cross country team. He was also part of the jazz band and choir. If you see Mr. Peck around, be sure to welcome him to Park View.

Ms. Lough
Reading

Ms. Christine Lough is beginning her first year at Park View High School. She arrived to Park View because she heard great things about the community. She says that Sterling Park is a nice, diverse area, and has great restaurants. Ms. Lough loves what she does as a special education teacher. Ms. Lough has been teaching for 16 years. She teaches 21st-century literacy as well as a wide variety of media. “The reason I wanted to teach music is because I love music; it is what got me through school,” she said, “Music makes me happy.”

She has exactly three degrees. “I have one in music education, special education and a reading specialist.” If she could be anything she wanted it would be to become a teacher at a college, although she does not have a specific college yet that she would want to teach at. Her experience with teaching elementary, middle, and high school are very different from each other. “You have more freedom here, instead of walking students to lunch, students can walk themselves.” She loves working with kids with a little more struggle. There is always a need for special education teachers.

She has two kids, Emily who is eight and Gary who is ten. She says that the students here at Park View are respectful and the teachers are helpful. She came from Belmont Middle School and also taught at Sanders Corner Elementary in Ashburn. A quote she follows every day is to “never let the little things get to you.”

Mr. Wheaton
Physical Education

This is Mr. Jeff Wheaton’s first year teaching at Park View High School. “I really enjoy Park View so far for the simple things such as the diversity and the different cultures here.” he says. Mr. Wheaton takes pride in teaching the freshmen class because he says, “It’s a good transition from the elementary school I used to work at.” His favorite part of teaching physical education is sharing what he loves with his students. Considering it is his first year teaching here, a few goals he has are to have all of his students succeed in physical education, health, and to become a part of the Park View community.

Mr. Wheaton is excited to try new things and share all of his ideas here at Park View. His favorite activities to teach in P.E. are basketball and floor hockey because he feels confident and knows the most about these two sports. He loves coming to work every day because he genuinely loves what he does to help others. If he could coach any sport at Park View, it would be baseball; he grew up playing and coaching a team in New York. Some improvements he would like to make this year are overall fitness of students and bringing up our physical fitness test scores as a whole. In five years, Mr. Wheaton sees himself still teaching physical education and maybe even working toward becoming an athletic director. Something he always wants his students to know is, “Anything in life is possible, it just depends on how hard you work for it.”
Combine a mass crowd of teenagers, blinding lights, thumping upbeat music and excitement everywhere and what do you get? You get Park View’s 2015 Homecoming. With this year’s theme being the roaring 20’s, decorations pertaining to the theme nicely decorated the main gym where the dance was held. This year’s homecoming, just like the past years, did not fail to make the students of Park View have a great time.

A lot of effort goes into making these types of events happen. Thanks to the SCA members, it is possible for all of this to come together. Decorating the walls of the gym, making hundreds of tickets, as well as posters, takes a great amount of effort from everyone to make homecoming the best it can be.

The tenth grade class president Jennifer Nunez would know. “We have to have a lot of people,” emphasizes Nunez. “You have to be organized. You have to have a lot of volunteers and you have to find a DJ. There are certain people that do certain jobs like putting decorations on and tables and walls.” Jennifer affirms that no matter how small the job, it all goes into making it a great dance.

With this year’s homecoming being earlier than usual, more stress was put on the SCA council, including Mr. Vereb, who is the head of the SCA this year. There are many preparations that make homecoming a difficult process. “You have to go through a lot. PO orders and emails, which are time challenging. In the end it is very fun to do,” Mr. Vereb stated. As mentioned before, homecoming is an event that takes a great deal of energy from everyone so with that in mind, arrangements have to happen as soon as possible. “This is my first year in SCA so I started the very first day of school,” Mr. Vereb said proudly. Three weeks straight of preparations. Didn’t even learn names I just told the SCA kids that we were doing it right away.” Said Mr. Vereb.

Having the homecoming at such an early date affected many students. Preparations and decisions for homecoming had to be made early and quickly. This put pressure on the female students at Park View to quickly select a dress on time for the dance. Accessories and shoes were also something the female students had to rapidly make a final decision on. On homecoming night, dresses of all types and colors were present, showing how the females of Park View prevailed through and were able to end up with stunning dresses.

Aside from looking forward to the dance, students also looked forward to the football game. Many questions pass through a student’s head. One of them is why people hype up the homecoming football game more than any other game during the football season. “It’s because of spirit week,” Destini Thompson, a junior and one of the varsity cheerleaders, explained. “People get more into it and they want to see if our teams win,” Thompson elaborates. This year’s homecoming football game was played against John Champ. Even though we sadly lost our homecoming game, the amount of support received and given was great. Red, white and blue was seen all over our stands, proudly supporting our patriot football players. Many factors could affect why we tend to be more pumped for our homecoming football game, but one sure factor is the dedicated spirit for our school and events Park View patriots have.

Excitement for Park View’s 2015 Homecoming dance and game were very present. Students had the option of doing many activities besides attending the homecoming dance and...