"Property Rites" Wins 3rd Place at VHSL Tournament
by Liana Jackley

"I'm waking up to ash and dust, I wipe my brow and sweat my rust, I'm breathing in the chemicals," were the opening lyrics to the one act play "Property Rites." The lyrics were belted out promptly at seven thirty, in Park View's auditorium on the nights of October 24th and 25th. "The plot was something I've never seen or heard of before," according to freshman Alyssa Wilcox.

The one act play was performed at a VHSL (Virginia High School League) competition; and Park View's drama came in third place away from tying with the two first place winners. This is the drama's first time competing in the VHSL. Padi Goudarzi, a friendly senior, won an award for being one of the four best female actors in the entire VHSL competition.

"It feels awesome to be honest," said Goudarzi. "I'm really proud of the cast; we honestly did better than everyone thought we would," said Technical Director junior Anders Struve. Neill Hensler, Padi Goudarzi, and Kaylyn Karnei all had major roles in "Property Rites."

Hensler was Mr. McManus, a very young and naïve salesman who is selling figures (robots) for investment. Either from lack of maintenance or from irresponsibility, the figures begin to "malfunction" and are becoming breathers, figures that become human. It all starts when Figure 15, played by Karnei, bites an investor's son's finger. This leads to two inspectors coming in and telling Mr. McManus that it is not safe, that they are becoming breathers. Goudarzi, Figure 3, by Liana Jackley

PLAY CONTINUED on Page 02

C-SPAN Bus Visits Park View
by Kirby Struhar

On December 12th, the C-SPAN bus paid a visit to Park View High School, allowing some of the students a chance to have an inside look at the purpose of C-SPAN. C-SPAN stands for the Cable-Satellite Public Affairs Network. The goal of this network is to keep citizens informed on what is happening with the government. Broken up into three channels-C-SPAN, C-SPAN2, and C-SPAN3, the networks covers every issue that involves the federal government, with C-SPAN covering the House of Representatives, C-SPAN2 covering the United States Senate, and C-SPAN3 providing overflow coverage and analysis from both networks. On the weekends, the coverage gets broken up. C-SPAN re-airs coverage from the weekdays and holds Q&A sessions on Sundays. C-SPAN2 airs Book TV, and C-SPAN3 airs shows about American history, including a new show on the First Ladies of the United States that highlights their efforts and contributions to American society.

Mrs. Elizabeth Driggers was the teacher

C-SPAN CONTINUED on Page 05

He Tamed the Wind, Now He Steals
Our Hearts: William Kamwamba
by Emily Mooney and Kirby Struhar

In November, Park View High School was privileged to have a visit from the inspiring William Kamwamba, author of "The Boy Who Harressed the Wind. The Boy Who Haressed the Wind" is about Kamwamba's hunger for learning, drive to make something of himself, and the windmill that changed his community and his life. His parents were famers; they grew corn and had previously grown tobacco. Eighty percent of the crops raised on a farm in Malawi go towards feeding the family. Some food is sold to pay for other needs, and the leftover seed is used to plant next year's crop. "The people of Malawi depend on the land," Kamwamba said.

There was a drought the year he built the windmill. "People didn’t harvest enough food that they were hoping to harvest. We run out of food real quickly – a lot of people were starving to death," Kamwamba said. According to BBC News,
Volleyball Brawl: Faculty Upstairs/Downstairs Battle Ends in a Draw

by Ronald Henriquez

It was that time of the year again. On October 30th, Park View had the legendary faculty volleyball game between the upstairs and downstairs faculty. The prize is a school year’s worth of bragging rights.

Contrary to public opinion, the faculty actually practices before game. “Yes, we do have a morning practice on the day of the game,” Mrs. Jennifer Hiltner, one of Park View’s environmental teachers, clarified. “Which I sadly missed,” she confessed sheepishly.

Mrs. Hiltner fully believed that it was downstairs’ year to win the game due to having more coaches and P.E. teachers on downstairs’ team, though she admits that upstairs had a very good team.

“Especially the people in the math department,” Mrs. Hiltner added. “They are the most competitive people I’ve ever met. They also have a lot of young men upstairs as well.”

“If I had to choose a side on who’s going to win, I would say upstairs because of the math teachers and the young men they have,” said senior Nancy Mongana Valencia.

In the beginning of the first match, the downstairs faculty members dominated with the score of 25-18. In the second match, the game was still in favor of the downstairs faculty until upstairs brought their ‘A-Game’ and were able to turn the odds, allowing them to win the second match in a close score by 25-23, and leaving the entire game in a draw.

“Well I felt terrible that the game ended in a draw,” said Mr. Larry Hinders, an English teacher and volleyball game participant for the downstairs faculty. “It wasn’t that we [downstairs’ faculty] did anything wrong, the second match just shifted, but at least everyone was having a good time.”

Even though they were forced to end the game in a draw this year, the Park View faculty is determined to have a winner next year.

Guidance Counselor Mrs. Stephanie Talboo spikes the ball over the net to the upstairs team’s side. Talent such as this was the reason that most students thought the downstairs team would win.

On December 12th, the Park View choir put on their annual winter concert. The theme for this year’s winter concert is “The Light of Peace.”

“The theme of peace unites almost all cultural celebrations during this season, and we hope to musically honor that idea,” said sophomore Marion Smedberg.

“Since lights are a universal thing and most cultures use light as a form of unity, we hope to connect to the audience in that way,” said senior Padi Goudarzi.

“After we memorize everything, it’s really just a lot of practice to make everything perfect,” said Principal Dr. Virginia Minshew.

“I thought it was really good. They all had their moments, and they blended together well. It was fun!” said Park View alumnus Johnny Nigh.

The chamber choir was also very impressive; all of their voices sounded very elegant. They did a very good job harmonizing and really flowed together.

The show ended with Persuasion entertaining us with their singing and dancing. It was a great change from the previous choirs. They looked happy to be performing for us as they closed the show.
Mr. Poth Don’s Turkey Suit in Annual Can the Teacher Contest

by Thy Dao

From November 11th to November 26th, the students of Park View High School brought in canned goods and nonperishable food items to donate to the Patriot Pantry. However, instead of just dropping their donations in a plain, old donation box, they put them in the shopping cart of the teacher who most wanted to see wearing a sparkly turkey costume. The participating teachers included Mr. Leckie, Mrs. Rose, Mr. Washington, Ms. Amanda Smith, Mr. Poth, and Mr. Pruden.

This is the first year that the food will be kept for the Patriot Pantry. “For over a decade, it’s been going to the Lou-doun Interfaith Relief, but this year, instead of sending it, we’re keeping it for the Patriot Pantry,” said Mr. Jeff Marsh, math teacher and sponsor of the men’s Varsity A.C.A. Mr. Marsh was hoping to see Mr. Pruden wear the turkey suit, which had been bought online, but knew that Mr. Poth would have the most fun with it. The shopping carts, which had been located in the cafeteria during the event, had been donated from Big Lots.

Years ago, SCA used little carts, but since the event became more popular and more goods came in, they upgraded things. Since its start, the most food ever collected from this event had been 1,200 lbs; the least was around 250 lbs.

On November 26th, Mr. Matthew Poth, history teacher and cross-country coach, was seen bringing in the halls in a turkey suit; his shopping cart had got the most food. Students and other teachers had been laughing all day. Mr. Poth had not really wanted anyone specifically to wear the turkey suit, just anyone but him. However, he was not surprised at the least to know that he had won.

“I’ve been threatened for weeks by both students and teachers alike,” said Mr. Poth. He had consented to be a part of the Can the Teacher event because he was a “team player.”

His least favorite part of wearing it was that it made him suspect that many people would like to eat him. It was also hot and uncomfortably tight-fitting and made for a woman. The best part of wearing the costume was the sparkle brought out in his eyes. “I was hoping that my first reaction to her history teacher wearing a turkey suit was that it was really funny. ‘Can he take the embarrassment,’ she said.” Hessler also felt that Poth was in a bit of a better mood that day, although she would not ever agree to wear a turkey costume herself.

“It would have its ups and downs… it would be really embarrassing but funny at the same time,” Hessler said.

Another one of Poth’s students, Mack Reiley, thought that his teacher was not wearing a turkey suit and pretending that he was not wearing a ridiculous costume when the students entered the classroom.

Reiley said that Mr. Poth handled wearing it pretty well. He, himself, would not wear a turkey suit for a day because it would be “a missed opportunity to wear a better kind of suit.”

This event, which has been going on for about a decade, occurs every school year. Students should be sure to participate next year and see their teacher of choice in a turkey suit.

Park View is Army Strong

by Lizzy Sammy

Once students become juniors, they have the option of taking Advanced Physical Education. In Advanced P.E., students do a wide range of different sports every month, but there is one thing that makes taking the class special. The Army, although not many know, sends two soldiers to Park View’s Advanced P.E. class twice a year.

These two service members help students realize what it is like to stay fit in the army where you always have to be on your feet. The goal is “motivating weakness to leave your body.”

“They showed us some really helpful ways we could do work outs at home,” said junior Aracely Corvera. “They get a really good work out and learn different ways to do fitness,” said P.E. teacher Mrs. Koscinski.

In the boot camp, they show students how tough and strong they have to be. One thing they teach the class is endurance – one has to keep going no matter how tired they are to reach their goals, and in the end they will conquer weaknesses and their greatest fears.

They also told the class that when they are stressed or feeling under pressure, with school or any activity, that some of their great boot camp strategies will help; people will forget all about the things that are weighing them down and instead focus on the amount of pain their body is in.

The Army boot camp gives students a glimpse into the life of a soldier. They hope to inspire young students to sign up to be recruited; at the end of the class they ask everyone if they may have any questions or concerns about the registration process.

Last year, 13 Park View Patriots decided to enlist. In the spring we will see how many more Patriots from the Class of 2014 will decide to serve our country as well.
Park View Varsity Basketball Dominates Against Manassas Park

Park View High School Boys Basketball played five quarters against Manassas Park High School in a scrimmage on November 30th.

In those five quarters, the most Manassas Park scored was eleven points.

The Patriots showed a lot of promise, playing solid defense, which is something Head Coach Mike Koscinski had stressed in practice at the start of the season.

“We’ve really been working on a little bit of everything,” Coach Koscinski said. He was pleased with the improvement the team has shown along with their work ethic.

“These guys come in every day and work hard. It’s nice to see us doing so many things well so the players can see their hard work on the court paying off,” he said.

According to Coach Koscinski, their main focus has been on the basics and getting a little better every day - setting screens, improving play in the post, getting more open looks to score on offense, committing less fouls, and not giving up easy layups on defense.

Senior Michael Pittinger was encouraged by what the team showed throughout the scrimmage.

“We played much better as a team today, especially on defense, which got our offense going. We need to maintain this if we want to play on in playoffs and win a bunch of games,” Pittinger said.

Fellow senior Charlie Claeyssen, who played a great game all around and showed great hustle, believes that all the focus on defense at the start of the season was a good thing.

“The offense is always something we can work on [later on],” Claeyssen said.

James Zentz led the Patriots in points scored, with 21 points on the day. “That was one of our better games,” he said. “Charlie really stepped up; we had a couple other guys step up too. Our defense looked pretty good, and the offense as well, I think.”

Zentz was “impressed” with how the team performed on Saturday, stating that the expectation level that they have for themselves was raised after their performance.

“The expectation is to win. Nothing more, nothing less,” Zentz said.

Swimming With a Dash of Spirit

Park View boys started the first swim meet of the season when they dove into the cool waters of Ida Lee Community Center at 7:28 p.m. on Friday December 6th. More than twenty races took place between Park View and Loudoun County.

“We have very good team spirit, unity, and positive attitudes,” said Varsity Swim Coach Jennifer Hiltner, a science teacher at Park View.

The chanting of “Let’s go Park View!” was not only over and with clapping, but between the athletes during their boys’ butterfly races proved her statement right.

They repeated this cheer again for the girls’ butterfly races, and it seems they have done the trick. Junior Shelby Whitmer launched into her butterfly lap and placed it in second at the beginning of the race, only a couple of feet behind the girl in first. She closed the distance between them and passed the Loudoun County swimmer during a sharp flip turn, pushing approximately four to five feet ahead and leading her to swim her way into first place.

This great triumph caused Park View’s swim team to erupt in a round of cheering and glees.

Before the boys’ 200 free relay, the team gathered in a line facing the pool. Right before the boys splashed in, they all in chorus said, “Whoosh!” while bringing their once raised hands downwards.

The Park View swim team continued this for every race from there on out. “Cheers are fun to do, and it pumps us all up to cheer for our team and do well in our races…It’s a tradition that we’ve had since I’ve been part of the team and way before that,” said a smiling senior Olivia Constanza.

Right before the final race, a girls’ 400 relay, Park View showed their spirit for the last time that night. “OH! LAAAY OH LAAAYO LAAAYO LAAAYO LAY!”

Coach Gallo said, “The feeling of accomplishment is incredible,” said Halabi, who got the shout out for swimming a great 500.

Overall, Park View’s swim team gave it their all and returned home with smiles on their faces and improved times.

Sports/Clubs

The End of an Era: Coach Mitchell Retires from Wrestling

by Kirby Strahar

For the first time since 1980, Park View Wrestling took to the mats to start their 2013-2014 season with one very special person missing - former Head Coach Greg Mitchell. Mitchell, Park View’s head wrestling coach for twenty years, announced this fall that he was officially retiring.

Mitchell, who was inducted into Park View High School’s Athletic Hall of Fame in 2011, first began coaching as an assistant wrestling coach to the late Landon “Mack” Piercy in 1980. “Mitchell looked very highly upon him and gave him his opportunity at the school,” first-year Head Coach Josh Damico said. I’ve heard nothing but good things. I wish I could’ve been around for some of those days [to see] how intense that room would’ve been.

“He [Piercy] was a great mentor. He was a great technician, great motivator, and great mentor. [He was] a great technician, great motivator, and great mentor. "He’s going to go out with a lot of heart and passion," said Damico.

Despite this lack of experience at times, Coach Mitchell was a very greatly in this philosophy.

Throughout his time here at Park View, Mitchell has been able to notice the changes that have taken place through the years. “The biggest change has been a lack of little leagues,” Mitchell said [of the unfortunate decline of little league wrestling here in Sterling, which has created a lack of experience at the high school level.

However, Mitchell never let lack of experience discourage any athlete from joining the wrestling team. He has always stressed that there was a greater purpose than just winning. “If you see progress, it’s going to get better and better,” Mitchell mentioned.

Coach Damico believes very greatly in this philosophy of his former coach. “It is about the kids and not about wins and losses. That’s how he [Coach Mitchell] always was,” Coach Damico said.

Despite this lack of experience at times, Coach Mitchell’s teams have been very successful throughout the years. His postseason record includes 110 state placers, ten state champions, thirty region champions, and over ninety district champions.

Park View Varsity Basketball Dominates Against Manassas Park by Kirby Strahar

Pfeifer was encouraged by what the team performed on Saturday, stating that the expectation level that they have for themselves was raised after their performance.

“The expectation is to win. Nothing more, nothing less,” Zentz said.

Coach Mitchell and Coach Damico stand in the wrestling room that has changed both of their lives.

Left: A Park View Swimmer sprints down the lane during a freestyle race.

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The Patriot Press
**Park View’s Athletes of the Season**

**Newest Player, Greatest Leader: Juan Rivera**

by Emily Mooney

Perseverance. Inspirational. Versatile. All of these words were used by teammates to describe the Varsity Football “Athlete of the Season” — senior Juan Rivera.

For Varsity Football Coach Ferris Ewais, Rivera deserved the title for obvious reasons. “The number one reason is because of his leadership. He was a leader in every aspect in the locker room, on the field, in the classroom — in everything,” Coach Ewais said.

Rivera’s teammates echoed the coach’s sentiments. “When we needed someone to step up and talk, he would,” said teammate and senior Ed-win Brizuela. “He just wants us to do well,” said teammate and junior Henry Argueta. According to Argueta, after a tough talk from their coach, Rivera always encouraged his teammates, telling them to relax and just focus on the moment. Rivera’s work ethic and determination to succeed made him an outstanding player. “He’s a hard worker; he played every play,” said senior and teammate Isam Shaban.

“He never got off the field; he played more than anybody else,” Coach Ewais said. “My goal as a football player is to play my heart out while still having fun,” Rivera said.

Rivera is not only appreciated for his leadership and athletic abilities but is also admired for his moral fiber. Rivera has had a difficult relationship with his father and is currently living with another family that has taken him in. However, he still manages to have a positive attitude, always encouraging others instead of focusing on his own problems.

His story and triumph has been a source of encouragement for his team. “He’s kind of inspiring,” Argueta said. “He’s a good player and not only that — he’s a good person too. It’s not just about his athletic abilities but also his character.”

Senior Juan Rivera runs the ball down the field, evading the opposing defensive players.

“Not only does he lead with words but also with his actions,” said teammate and senior Micael Hitz. “[He] is a friend when you need it and a counselor when you need to talk about your problems.”

“I think he is a great person with great character. He’s a fun person to be around; he’s an all-around great person,” Brizuela said. “I love Juan; he’s amazing.”

“He’s a tremendous kid. He’s another one that really makes Park View a special place,” Coach Ewais said.

Rivera’s character is displayed once again in his humble attitude regarding his new title. “I feel abundantly blessed to see everything I have is a blessing from my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.” Rivera lives by the verse Philippians 4:13 — “I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.”

Whether through his athletic abilities, leadership, or character, this “Athlete of the Season” has left an imprint on Park View High School. “He’s been a real impact on our school and a definite impact on our football team,” Hitz said.

Diving in with Kyle Sheridan and Erin Bradley

by Bitsam Tora

Park View High School’s boys and girls swim team both have very talented captains this year who have both been chosen to be an “Athlete of the Season.”

Their strong leadership skills and positive attitudes result in a happier, better swim team.

The boys’ captain, Kyle Sheridan, is only a junior when receiving this honor. “He works hard at practices and assists in organizing the team to do stretch and stay focused,” Varsity Swim Coach Jennifer Hiltner said.

“He keeps us together when we’re feeling down, and he encourages us all the time to do our best,” said sophomore swimmer Trevor Andrus.

Senior Erin Bradley is the girls’ captain this year as well as last year and definitely deserves the title “Athlete of the Season.” “Erin is very dedicated to the Park View swim team,” Coach Hiltner said.

“She’s very good at leadership, and helping others and pointing out if they did something wrong,” said junior swimmer Shelby Whitmer.

“She’s really friendly, and knows what she’s doing,” said sophomore swimmer Han-nah Ford. Erin tries her hardest and goes above her capability to help out her teammates, as well as the new ones this year.

With such great leaders, Park View swim is destined for greatness this season.

Having Fun with French Club

by Ronald Henriques

“Lectrices de vous” is French for “Greetings readers.” French Club is for people who are interested in French, but they also do things like breakfast meetings and seeing movies, but they also do more wonderful things like going to Washington D.C., a French festival, and ice skating. “French Club is about students having fun, and sharing French activities and interests,” said Mrs. Veronique Billington, one of the two Park View French Club sponsors. The other sponsor is Mrs. Fatima Benyounes.

Johnny Hai, a senior, decided to join because he took strong interest in the club’s activities, and it is another way for him and his friends to hang out and do fun stuff together before and after school. “What I like about French Club the most is that all members have equal power in the club and the sponsors just supervise,” Hai said. “Everyone has a say in it.”

Students do not need to be in a French class to be a part of the club, knowing the basics of the French language may help. Meetings usually occur in the morning on the third Friday of the month. There is also a five dollar fee to join. "If this sounds like your type of club, then come check it out during the next meeting. "Au plaisir de vous y voir." —“Hope to see you there.”

C-SPAN CONTINUED from Page 01

here at Park View who knew about C-SPAN and encouraged them to come to Park View. “I first saw them at the National Book Festival in the DC Mall in 2011,” Mrs. Driggers said.

The greatest thing about C-SPAN is that it presents information and the issues concerning the government in an unbiased way. “Much of what we get is biased,” Mrs. Driggers said.

She also believes that many people have the mindset that they are unwilling to compromise and that if you do not agree with their viewpoint, you are wrong. To Mrs. Driggers, this idea is toxic. “That’s not the American way. America was built on compromise,” Mrs. Driggers noted.

She believes that it is important that people obtain sound information from a credible source that allows viewers to make up their own opinions on whatever issue is presented.

Senior Christine Olson thought that the experience was important and that the work C-SPAN does is important, especially with the way the information is presented. “It helps people form their own opinions without being pushed to a side,” Olson said.

“My goal with having it [C-SPAN] come to Park View was to increase student connections with reality,” Mrs. Driggers said.

She wanted the senior class to have the opportunity to visit the C-SPAN bus because “seniors are ready to think of themselves as voters.” The senior class must realize the importance of making informed decisions when voting.

Students at Park View were given a great opportunity to see what C-SPAN was all about, and hopefully in the future Park View can do more with C-SPAN so that graduates can go on to make smart decisions, be informed, and make the changes they want to see in the world.

The Patriot Press

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Margaret Rothman, known as “Meg” to many, is the subject of this edition’s sophomore spotlight. Rothman runs varsity cross country and is currently participating in varsity gymnastics; she plans on joining the soccer team as well. She enjoys writing, hanging out with friends, and listening to music in her free time. A superpower she wishes she has is the ability to fly, simply because she thinks it is cool. Something not many people know about her is that she is a good poet. When she gets older she wants to be a veterinarian, because she has always loved cats. She also plans on moving far away after graduating from Georgia Tech. She wants to go to the Georgia Tech because her dad went there and because it is really pretty. Rothman pictures herself ten years from now with a house, a job, money, and food. Her advice to a student struggling with their school work is to “talk with your teachers about it and prioritize your goals so they can help you.” If Rothman were to own an exotic pet, she would keep a zebra. Her role model is her grandmother because “she did a lot of good things in her life, and I want to do the same.”

Patriot Spotlight

By Thy Dao and Kensy Maradiaga

French fry lover Julie Keophila, is the subject of this edition’s senior spotlight. She wishes she could have superpowers. “I would want to be able to be invisible or teleport or both,” Keophila stated. Keophila has gone to districts for varsity track & field for three years in a row. She is very proud of having achieved such an honor and hopes to make it to districts this year as well. She likes to read, listen to music, and use the computer in her free time. Not only does Keophila run varsity track & field but she also runs varsity cross country. However, outside of running, Keophila does not care for sports. Keophila hopes to be an elementary school teacher one day and wants to attend VCU. As it is her last year at Park View, Keophila has many cherished memories of her time at Park View, but the memory she holds dearest to is her time at prom. Luckily, Keophila gets to experience prom one last time before it is time to say goodbye to our Patriot halls and continue creating new memories as a college student.

Winter Fashion 2013

by Lizzy Sammy

This year’s winter fashion trends include everything from coats and parkas that are oversized to layers of leather and varieties of amazing colors.

This winter season the colors to keep are pink, black, and purple. Purple is the color of luxury and passion and now it is the reigning color of the season. Other must have colors are emerald green and ruby red.

For both genders, choosing to go tougher and darker than everyone else with your clothing choices this season will take you a long way. Floral prints can still be used—just try to make them have a darker edge. Burnt oranges, reds, and blacks teamed with stained lips, smoky eyes and long, tousled hair set the tone for a dark wintry romance. Add side-slung plaits, neat and sleek up-dos, gelish fringes, and a host of ponytails and tousled waves this holiday season.

As far as makeup is concerned, dark colors should be mixed with subtle highlights. However, wintertime is not solely about dark colors; it is more about how you take care of your skin and how you can really bring out the beauty.

The natural look is big again this season, and it is all about finding your perfect base. For male fashion, colored knitwear and big comfy coats are sure to impress. As far as pants are concerned, wear tan, beige, black, or dark-faded, regular fit jeans. Please, no more dragging pants otherwise you will be “looking like a fool with your pants on the ground.”

As the cold weather and wintry storms set in, make sure to follow these fashion tips before leaving the house so that you are dressed to impress.
The Real Reasons Why Teens Volunteer

Emily Mooney
Editor-in-Chief
National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta, and AVID are a few clubs and programs that require volunteer hours as an integral part of membership.

As a greater number of students participate in these activities in order to broaden their college applications, the reasoning behind why students spend time volunteering seems to become less selfless and more selfish.

I have always been willing to help friends or siblings with a difficult math problem, memorizing vocabulary, or editing a paper.

However, when I found out that to be a member in Mu Alpha Theta I had to document a minimum of ten service hours related to math, my peer tutoring became more scheduled and a tad self-motivated.

Students would be recommended through the Counseling Department, and I would assist them in whatever way I could.

The morning tutoring sessions were more serious but much more productive, and I was actually excited when a student improved. One could say that the duty to my friends was replaced by a duty to my club.

The obligation to earn these hours is not necessarily a bad thing. Elementary students are still being taught how to do multiplication.

Trash is still being retrieved from Sterling Boulevard. The needy are still being served soup at the homeless shelter. These good deeds are still being done. Even a different motivation does not hinder one from being affected through one’s service.

Last year I recorded service hours earned through First Fruits. However, I was still raking leaves, shivering in the cold, and weeding yards along with everyone else.

I still shopped for groceries at Shoppers and delivered them to an eccentric family and was humbled by their display of gratitude.

And in fact, last year was not my first time doing First Fruits – I had participated several times before and volunteered again this year (without documenting my hours).

Although I have used First Fruits to gain service hours in the past, I plan to return and participate again throughout college with no requirement in place.

Although they may cause a selfish motivation at first, volunteering creates beneficial habits and foster community involvement and eventually selfless motivations.

They generate positive environments where students toil together towards a constructive goal.

Volunteer experiences still alter a student’s mindset and take the focus off of oneself while performing the task.

Lastly, they do help that résumé look a little bit better.

The Hunger Games: Catching Fire

Amy Hensler
Staff Writer
The first “Hunger Games” movie left me in a state of disappointment so I was ecstatic when I heard that Francis Lawrence would be directing “Catching Fire.” I was not at all disappointed with him.

The movie turned out amazingly; it was absolutely beautiful.

Lawrence did a fabulous job using the movie funds wisely; the arena for this movie was exactly how I pictured it in the book.

The special effects were stunning; they really did a good job making “Catching Fire” a lot more edgy than the first movie, which made it more

Katniss Everdeen returns home safely from the 74th Annual Hunger Games with Peeta Mellark. They start going on the victor’s tour, and Katniss starts to get the feeling that a rebellion is emerging in the districts and she is the face of this uprising. President Snow decides the best way to restore Panem’s order is to do something shocking for the 75th Annual Hunger Games, and Katniss and her fellow tributes are forced to make some big decisions.

Although there were many other astonishing things about this movie, what really blew me away were the amazing actors. Normally actors tend to fall out of love with their character as the series progresses, but that was the exact opposite of what happened this time. If anything, they seemed to be even more committed to making this trilogy the best it could be.

I was not on the Jennifer Lawrence bandwagon at the end of the first movie, but sign me up now because she was absolutely stunning as Katniss Everdeen; she completely owned this film. Watching her was inspiring, and she really is the perfect Katniss. Josh Hutcherson was just as incredible. He always has that innocent puppy dog look that causes you to sympathize with Peeta as you go through the movie.

The actors that truly shocked me were Elizabeth Banks and Woody Harrelson. I never hated their characters in the first movie, but something changed because they really allowed me to “Catching Fire.”

Banks did a perfect job portraying Effie Trinket’s whimsical personality and her motivational attitude. Effie is a really complicated character to pull off, but Banks does it fantastically; and props to Trish Summerville for the awesome costume designs. They were so fun and really helped pull together Effie’s character.

And let us not forget about the raging alcoholic Haymitch Abernathy played by the extraordinary Woody Harrelson. Something about him in “Catching Fire” really made me love him. He truly convinced the audience that he was Haymitch and is another great example of how the actors in this movie rose to the challenge.

I also loved the new additions to the cast. Jena Malone was a perfect Joanna Mason. She was edgy, cool, and overall a great actor. Although Sam Claflin was not horrible, I would have preferred someone else as the irresistible Finnick Odair. Also, what can I say about Liam Hemsworth. Well I have never been too crazy about him as an actor, and he does not blow me away. He is just another pret- ty face in Hollywood, and he really has no acting ability.

I walked into the movie theater thinking that “Catching Fire” was going to be just like the first movie – boring, poorly directed, and withdrawn. However, it was the exact opposite. There is absolutely no comparison to the first one, and Catching Fire made me fall back in love with “The Hunger Games” trilogy. This movie is a great example of how some sequels can outdo their predecessors, and I am incredibly happy with how this movie turned out.

Killing Time with Call of Duty: Ghosts

Ibtisam Tora
Staff Writer
I recently bought Call of Duty: Ghosts which involves very violent content and is usually played by baby. Call of Duty: Ghosts in my opinion has improved greatly from the other Call of Duty games in several areas.

The perks have grown tremendously. The multiplayer perks provide powerful, game-changing abilities and bonuses to your custom classes. Their effectiveness depends on the game mode and map you are playing as well as your lead-out and own personal preferences. You can complement perks with your weapons and equipment to enhance your online play substantially. There are seven sections of perks in this game ranging from Speed to Stealth and from Awareness to Equipment.

The maps are very different from the maps from Black Ops 2 (Bo2) and Modern Warfare 3 (MW3). There are fourteen maps in all but four additional DLC map packs will be provided throughout 2014. The fact that players can now manipulate the map is cool. For example, in the map Freight, you can open and close doors at any time. The only thing I dislike about the maps is the idiotic spawning. Spawning is when you come back to life after you have been killed. You end up getting spawned in the enemy’s side or getting spawned in the middle of the map where people are already spraying bullets. Being killed over and over again when you spawn just leads me to the rage that makes me want to quit the game.

Old game modes have been removed from the new game, but different ones have been added such as Cranked, Blitz, and Search & Rescue. My favorite one out of the three of them is Cranked. When you get a kill, you gain new abilities such as faster movement and reload and less time is needed to aim down sites. Along with the first kill, you also start a new thirty second countdown. Rack up the next kill before the timer hits zero, or you will explode.

These are just some of the good and bad aspects of the game. What I liked about the game is the variety of perks, a fantastic map design, a satisfactory map destruction that looks gorgeous the whole time, and game modes like Infected, Cranked, and Search & Rescue.
New Stars Are Born

by Kisha Lim

On the 26th of November, the students of Park View High School were in for a treat. It was time for the Junior/Senior Talent show. There were eight performances in the whole show, and everyone did a great job performing. “It was a lot different than last year’s talent show. There was a better variety,” said senior Kaylin Karnei, Mr. Poth, Mr. Hinders, and Mr. Shepard were the hosts of the Junior/Senior Talent Show. Mr. Poth, wearing his turkey suit, was definitely a popular host, but they all hyped up the crowd pretty well for the upcoming performances.

The juniors and seniors definitely proved that they have some skills out on the dance floor. The show started off with a thrilling dance performance to Michael Jackson. Senior Anaiss Parker and Junior Isabella Pineo danced very confidently, with excited facial expressions throughout their whole performance.

Senior Walter Johnson and junior Flor Flores performed a Latin dance to Spanish music. Their performance had people in the crowd dancing in their seats! Everyone was amazed by their dancing and
daverde arrived into the scene and sang a Spanish song called “Solo por un beso.”

Senior Nancy Montenegró decided to take on the stage by herself singing “Dance with Me Tonight.” Her singing was very engaging.

The next performers were senior Steven Velasquez, senior Alex Gallant, senior Sean Ghosh, and junior Nico Drennan. They played and sang “Dani California,” by the Red Hot Chili Peppers. The killer drum moves and the guitar solo were a crowd favorite. “The last performance was amazing,” said freshman Tiffany Gomez.

The two remaining performances were by juniors Ben Dabiri and Minh Vu. Both played a song on the piano. Dabiri played classical piano and absolutely amazed the crowd. His fingers glided over the keys swiftly and effortlessly. Minh Vu played “Clocks” by Coldplay and impressed the crowd right from the start.

Overall, the Park View students thought the show was well incorporated with different genres. The talent show was a great way to end the last day before Thanksgiving break.

Checkmate: Park View’s Chess Club

by Ronald Henriquez

Joe’s Café
Joe’s café is the newest addition to the Joe’s family. This American style café serves breakfast and lunch!
45665 West Church Road
Sterling, Virginia 20164
703-444-1118
Mon-Sat: 7:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.
Sunday: 8:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

Joe’s Pizzeria
Joe’s Italian Pizzeria serves lunch and dinner, including the popular buffet option that runs Monday through Friday.
Joe’s Pizzeria also provides the pizza we sell every Friday in the school foyer!
22360 S. Sterling Blvd.
Sterling, Virginia 20164
703-444-9500
Mon-Sat: 11:00 A.M. – 10:00 P.M.