Patriots Linked Together for Louisa

By: Melania Ayala

Park View is known for being the most spirited and diverse school in the county. Many, however, don’t realize that Park View is also known for raising money for huge causes like breast cancer and the recuperation of Louisa County.

The SCA hosted a fundraiser during the Bermuda Day spirit week. Each morning, students would meet in their homerooms to collect money. Students received a spirit link in either red, white, or blue for every 10 cents they donated. In each grade, every homeroom competed against each other to see who could raise the most money and win a pizza party.

There were also some individual prices added this year. If the individual class as a whole raised $570, their class officers would be pied in the face. If the grade raised $1,000, their officers would get pied and slimed. If the grade raised $1,200, their officers would be pied, slimed, and one would have to dye their hair an outrageous color. If the whole school raised $3,000, Dr. Minshew would give students a 90 minute cookout in which students would have recess at the football stadium when weather permits.

Students were surprised at the amount of money their classmates raised.

“I didn’t think many people would bring money at all,” senior Michael Hassan said. He himself brought about $12 dollars total. He shares that his homeroom brought more money this year than they did last year.

Students agree that the prizes motivated them enough to bring money.

“I mostly wanted recess,” senior Michael Battle said. A lot of students are looking forward to having recess since most of them haven’t had recess since middle school.

Some students also say that just raising money for Louisa County to fix their schools was reason enough to bring money.

“The fact that the money helps them out since they’re in trailers right now motivated me to bring money,” Hassan said.

At Bermuda Day, the final results were announced to the student body.

The freshman class saw their class officers get pied since they raised $963. The sophomore class raised $680 total. The junior class saw their class officers get slimed and pied since their class raised $1,047. The senior class saw their class officers get pied, slimed, and their hair dyed since they raised $1,541 total.

Park View as a whole not only beat the $3,000 target, but raised $4,280 total (surpassing the original goal), winning the 90 minute cookout and recess, as well as the satisfaction of supporting such a cause. It will be an event that Park View will be looking forward to once spring time comes along.

Twitter VS. Facebook

By: Ashley Sager

Social networking sites have become increasingly popular in the last decade. People of all ages, from teens to adults, are using them.

There are many different uses for these sites as well. You can play games, listen to music, keep in touch with friends and family, and much more. People also rely on these sites to keep them in touch with the world.

The most popular social networking sites at the moment are Twitter and Facebook.

Twitter has more than 200 million users and counting and is used by sending short updates online, similar to Facebook, but sent like text messages. Retweeting and responding to someone else’s post are the only social networking aspects of Twitter.

Facebook, on the other hand, has over 350 million users on its site. Americans spend about 14 billion minutes on Facebook every year. About 55% of people between the ages of 12 and 17 have a Facebook account. Over one million businesses have combined with Facebook. In addition Facebook displays more ads then Yahoo, Google, AOL, and Microsoft combined.

Many students at Park View enjoy Twitter more than Facebook.

Senior Billy Leckemby prefers Twitter because, “There is a lot less drama.”

Leckemby used to be a Facebook user, “I used Facebook, but I switched to Twitter a few months ago,” Leckemby said. “Facebook is boring now. Twitter is a lot more entertaining.” He added that he believes social networking sites are “A good way to bring different people together.”

Junior Kelvin Cisneros enjoys Twitter as well, “Twitter all the way! Only older people get on Facebook still.”

Cisneros originally decided to use a social networking site to keep in touch with family. He loves Twitter, but not enough to pay for it if they decided to charge for the service, “I would never ever pay for Twitter,” Cisneros said.

Senior Cory Left is another Twitter fan. “Twitter is better, because Facebook is like dead now, no one gets on it,” Left said.
Art in Politics
By: Mary Bryan
On February 22, 2013, Mollie Christ, a representative from the Art Institute of Washington, came to Park View’s media center to discuss “Art in Politics.” During her presentation, she gave examples by discussing how advertising helps candidates while campaigning. Christ was also trying to encourage students to attend the school. She explained the different things that were offered at the Art Institute.

Christ’s main goal was to talk about the topic of politics and how art influences political advertisements. She primarily spoke about the aspect of advertising for campaigns. One of the things she explained was that political cartoons are illustrations with a message.

She also covered the effectiveness of slogans, negative campaigning, ad placement in video games, and how colors influence our opinions. The Art Institute relates to politics because the people that graduate from schools like the Art Institute will most likely be the ones creating the ads for campaigns. Students who attend the Art Institute.

Students who study there can explore painting, culinary arts, fashion, music production, gaming design, interior design, sculpture, and many other fields. This was very useful to students because it gave them the opportunity to see what the school was all about.

“The presentation helped me realize how important a role media plays in every day society,” sophomore Keila Marmol said.

Super Bowl XLVII
By: Jessica Landrum
The Super Bowl is an annual championship game of the National Football League (NFL) that takes place at the end of the season. It has been, on average, the second largest day for food consumption, the most watched American television broadcast, among the most watched sporting events, commercial airtime is the most expensive of the year, and many popular singers and musicians have performed during the event’s pre-game and halftime ceremonies because of the exposure.

It is a game football fans look forward to every year, in hopes that their favorite team makes it.

The 2013 NFL Super Bowl took place on February 3rd, 2013 at the Mercedes-Benz Superdome between the Baltimore Ravens and the San Francisco 49ers.

After Jacoby Jones, wide receiver, ran the second half kickoff back 108 yards for a Ravens touchdown, Baltimore was ahead 28-6. At that point the lights of the Mercedes-Benz Superdome went out during the third quarter.

It was almost 35 minutes before the lights came back on. The electrical difficulties didn’t affect the game-play; if anything it energized the 49ers who tried to mount a comeback.

Although the 49ers didn’t win you have to respect their passion for their comeback from a 22 point deficit. Quarterback, Colin Kaepernick and Frank Gore, right back, pitched into the comeback. San Francisco’s top receiver, Michael Crabtree, also made it into the end zone, but some are saying if not for a “bad” call by the referee against Crabtree then the 49ers would’ve had the game in their pocket. Ravens head coach, John Harbaugh, topped his younger brother, Jim Harbaugh by a final score of 34-31.

Ray Lewis, inside linebacker, finished his career strong by winning the Vince Lombardi trophy for the Ravens. Joe Flacco, quarterback for the Ravens, was named the MVP for Super Bowl XLVII.

This Super Bowl, much like past Super Bowls, has been one to remember.

(Twitter VS. Facebook continued)

Even though it took Left a while to switch to Twitter he wouldn’t go back to Facebook. “There is no point in Facebook anymore.” Left also said, “I rarely even use those sites to be honest.”

Many students also believe that mostly adults began using Facebook recently. Many of our teachers here at Park View are using Facebook as the main social networking site of choice.

English teacher Ms. Megan O’Meara is a user of Facebook and plans on sticking with it.

“I originally got on Facebook when it was created in 2004; I joined when everyone else started to,” Ms. O’Meara said. “I only use it to keep in touch with family and friends, I write comments, and like seeing the pictures and videos of family or friends with children.”

Math teacher Mr. Peter Randall doesn’t use any social networking sites. “There is no need for them, I contact my friends through phone calls, visiting, and emails,” Mr. Randall stated. “Maybe I would try it if there was a good application, or a good enough reason to use one.”

Just because Mr. Randall doesn’t have a Facebook, he doesn’t condemn the site either. “It doesn’t bother me. My wife and kids all use Facebook, there just isn’t a good reason for me to.”

Mr. Randall also said he knows a lot of teachers do have Facebook accounts but you don’t really hear them talking about Facebook. “It’s fine for them to have Facebook, as long as they stay professional,” Mr. Randall said.

Ms. O’Meara feels the same way, “A fair amount of young teachers use Facebook, and it’s fine as long as it is separated from work.”

After polling Park View, it is safe to say that students prefer to use Twitter than Facebook while teachers prefer Facebook over Twitter.
When December 31st approaches, people around the world begin to think of aspects they want to change in their lives in the New Year. According to statisticbrain.com, forty-five percent of people in America usually make a New Year’s resolution, and Park View students make them as well.

Most resolutions regard health and appearance. “I made my New Year’s resolution to become a much healthier person,” junior Emily Maradiaga said. Some people try to accomplish this goal by giving up fast food: “There is no point in me going to the gym if I’m going to eat fast food,” junior Rachel Braddock said. Others, such as junior Emily McCormack, work towards a healthier self through exercise. “I’m doing the insanity workout program,” McCormack said.

Another of Braddock’s resolutions was to cut back on cussing. “It’s a really bad habit,” Braddock said. Braddock is also a part of PEER and wants to be a good example: “I’m around kids a lot.” Junior Shyenne Hutchins is also working on conquering a bad habit this year: procrastination. Before, she would never turn in homework on time. “I felt like there were better things to do like watch TV, but I was really being lazy,” Hutchins said. But after her fresh start, she started to complete it the day it was assigned. “My grades have increased a lot [some by a whole grade letter],” Hutchins said.

Junior Chris Wood’s resolution dealt with surrounding himself with people who were honest and not prone to creating drama so he could focus on his studies. “I’ve stopped talking to people that tend to talk behind your back,” Wood said. Other’s backs,” Wood said. The majority of people who make a New Year’s resolution fail. The disconnect between dreams and reality tends to create animosity against making the resolutions in the first place. “I think they are kind of stupid – it’s just an excuse to change themselves all the sudden – Change Now!” Braddock said.

Others have a more positive view on resolutions. “They’re smart as long as you keep them,” Hutchins said. “I think to make yourself a better person,” Maradiaga said. However one feels about New Year’s resolutions, there is little doubt that those who are successful implementing the changes to their lives deserve congratulations.

Park View Drama Presents “The Elephant Man”

By: Hannah Ford

Park View drama performed the play “The Elephant Man” January 31st through February 2nd. The play was directed by Ms. Gayle and it took the students two months to prepare for it. All the students who participated in the play put in a lot of effort and tried their very best. Their hard work paid off on the final day of the play when their smiling faces showed the audience what a great time they were having.

The play is a tragic story about a deformed man, named Johnny (Senior Johnny Nigh), placed in a freak show. He starts out as an object of entertainment nicknamed “the elephant man.” Later in the show, he is rescued by a man (Senior Andy Vest) who gives him a home and tries to help Johnny become as normal as possible. After sometime, the elephant man is able to perform simple tasks. As the people notice the changes, they start to love him, and he starts to have hope for his life.

Overall, the play was a success. The props were very nice; the costumes fit in with the story time period, and the actors were spot on in bringing out their characters. It also seemed to please the audience as well. “The play was awesome! The actors seemed very energetic about it, and they were portraying their roles very well,” freshman Kathryn Burch said.

“It was good. I thought a lot of the actors did a good job portraying their scenes,” sophomore Ahmed Hanif added.

The play had many great elements, and it was very powerful. Good job guys!

Driving: A Rite of Passage

By: Laura Brawley

Driving is a rite of passage for many teenagers. It marks the transition from child to adult, and it is not always as easy as it sounds. Driving is a responsibility that everybody, young and old, has to take seriously. Although after you learn how to drive, it becomes a second nature and you become more comfortable behind the wheel. There are ups and downs about driving; some things come easier to others while some things are more difficult. Every person learns differently according to the way they were taught. “The hardest thing I’ve learned while driving is having to always look around you things going on around you. “The easiest thing I learned while driving is the signals,” said junior Lindsay Turner who has been driving for almost a year.

Being aware of your surroundings is a big part of driving because there are many different

 hardest when learning how to drive but that is what sets you apart from other drivers. Driving is not only about getting from point A to point B. It gives teenagers a lot more freedom than they had before. Instead of having to wait for their parents, older siblings or friends to drive them somewhere, they can drive themselves. “Driving has given me more freedom then I use to have. I don’t have to wait until my parents can take me somewhere to hang out with my friends,” Parker said.

Not only does driving make finding transportation to go to fun places easier, it also is useful for work purposes. “It will help me when I get a job I will be able to drive there,” junior Megan Karmen who has been driving since August said.

There are many important things to remember about driving. “The most important thing about driving is to responsible about everything,” Turner said.

“The most important thing about driving is not to stress,” Parker shared. “because if you’re stressed it’s like you’re driving impaired.” You just have to relax and follow all the signs and laws around you. If you do everything you are supposed to do, then you will get where you want to go safely.

Senior Cody Horvath’s message to other drivers: “Stay alert and don’t text and drive.” Texting and driving can be fatal not just to you, but to other people around you. Do not for their allow distractions such as cell phones or passengers to cause an accident. Learning how to drive may come easier to others than it does to you, but do not worry because practice helps you get better.

Remember to keep a cool head when learning to drive and you will be just fine.
A Review of Les Misérables
By: Nicole Robinson

When Les Misérables was released in theaters, people swarmed to see the famous musical get the Hollywood treatment. Originally a book, the musical followed the life of Jean Valjean, a man who just got out of jail for stealing bread.

“I don’t like musicals but this one actually kept my attention,” said ninth grader Baylee Baker. Les Mis did a great job when it came to music—the songs were filled with emotion and depth.

Anie Hathaway, who played Fantine the single mother of a girl named Cossette, sang the song “I Dreamed a Dream.” The song had people crying in the theater. It showed the emotion and struggle of Fantine and her dream of true love and a family. Once Fantine died, Jean Valjean went to Cosette’s keepers and took her away from there. During this time, he was on the run from the law for his past had been found out and he was being chased by Javert, a law official from the prison where he had stayed. The movie also had a romantic attachment. Cossette is in the marketplace with her adoptive father, Jean Valjean, when she meets a man named Marius, a rich fellow who chooses to defend the poor and help lead a rebellion against the French aristocracy.

The final scene is what really grabs you. This entire time throughout the story Cossette never knew her that the person who raised her, Jean Valjean, was a thief. A few days before Cossette’s wedding to Marius, Jean Valjean tells Marius the whole truth about who he was. After that Jean Valjean tells Cossette he is going away for a bit while he actually goes to a church to die. Marius soon tells Cossette what Jean Valjean told him. They both race to the church where they arrive just in time to have one last conversation with Jean Valjean before he joins Fantine in heaven and dies. When he dies you can feel the love and energy. The actors played their characters perfectly. The emotion displayed was breathtaking.

To finish off a fantastic movie you see a glimpse of heaven where all the men and women who died are singing and overall, Les Misérables effectively touched the lives of all its viewers.

Mr. Rosenthal Returns to Girls’ Soccer
By: Andrew Sousa

Some ask why he left. Some ask why he returned. They call him the “Sage Old Man.” He teaches 11th grade English, Etymology, and coached boys’ soccer for a couple years. His name is Mr. Rosenthal, and he gave us the answers.

The reason why Mr. Rosenthal left girls soccer was because he had to choose between coaching boys or girls soccer, and he chose boys soccer. However, he is back this season as an assistant coach to try to rejuvenate the girls’ soccer team from their losses.

“The girls have much potential, and they have a great attitude,” Mr. Rosenthal said. He is ready to make the girls work hard so they can win more games this season. Mr. Rosenthal does not want to let the school down, and is trying his best to help the girls’ soccer team realize their potential.

Mr. Rosenthal wants to lead the girls in the right direction this year, and even though they may not score a lot, he expects a good team spirit-wise.

With a new schedule for the team this year, he is looking forward to facing all the schools, having good competition, and raising as much challenge to the team as possible. Mr. Rosenthal is encouraging them to do their best this season and get their practices in. He looks forward to this season and to the students of Park View being proud of the girls’ soccer team as they accomplish new feats.

From Third Century Saint to Modern Romance
By: Conor Flores

Valentine’s Day has been bringing couples together for years. Senior Nestor Maldonado described it as “a very special occasion to remember or highlight something important for couples.” Maldonado has been in a relationship with senior Katherine Canedo for over two years. It is a known fact that couples frequently exchange gifts on Valentine’s Day to symbolize what their relationship means to them.

“I think [my favorite gift] would be the first one he gave me,” Canedo said. “He got me a shark puppet, and it’s my favorite animal.” Juniors Molly Ryan and Nick Smith have been a couple for a little under a year and planned to go out to dinner on Valentine’s Day. “Molly and I will be going out to eat at Sweet Water because that’s her favorite restaurant,” Smith said.

Couples do not need to be together for an extensive period of time to have plans for Valentine’s Day, however. Junior John Peters and freshman Hannah O’Neill have been dating for around two months as of Valentine’s Day. Peters gave O’Neill flowers and candy, a common gift for the holiday.

“If I’m having a bad day, he always cheers me up,” O’Neill said. “He brightens my life.”

Several people have different ideas of what the perfect date is.

“For me, it’s having a great movie to watch with a bunch of junk food and a comfy blanket,” Canedo said. According to Canedo, this is a common date for her and Maldonado. Ryan, O’Neill, and Peters all included a nice dinner as part of their idea of a perfect date.

Whether it is the gifts, a special date, or just spending quality time with their significant other, Valentine’s Day holds a noteworthy spot on the calendar for couples everywhere.
Bermuda Day Brings the Beach to Park View

By: Michelle Rosado

It’s not the average or typical scene of a Park View pep rally. Eligibility for the coveted spirit stick is not measured by how loud the classes are, but how well they can master a series of random games and events as a team. This SCA sponsored event is one that the entire school looks forward to all year: Bermuda Day.

Bermuda Day consists not only of dressing up in your best vacation and beach attire, but of four games where the classes and faculty battle it out for the spirit stick.

The faculty, for the first time ever, beat every grade except for the senior class, who tied the faculty for first place. Placing after them were the juniors, followed by the sophomores in 4th place, and the freshmen in 5th. Overall, the day of events was a success yet again, leaving the school eager for more Bermuda Days to come.

Park View Library, Proud Winner of National Merit Award

By: Robert Hamilton

If you are a student who frequents the library, you may or may not know that our very own Park View Library and Media Center is the proud recipient of a National Medal award. The award, which is given to schools, libraries, and museums around the country, was only presented to 12 institutions this last year, Park View being one of them. The award honors “Outstanding institutions that make significant and exceptional changes in their communities.”

These games included a school favorite: “Dune, Palm, Wave.” In this event, the teams must switch off between certain positions, creating a human obstacle course. The first to complete the course and have all team members arrive at the finish line wins the game. The senior class made up of eight members divided the group in half, sending four to one of the basketball court’s end lines and the remaining four to the opposite end line. The teams were then given a blanket that they would use as means of transportation across the gym floor to reach their teammates on the other side. From where they started on the end line up until half-court, the participants were to crawl on the blanket and move, making sure the blanket stayed under their hands and knees at all times. Then, from half-court until the opposite end line, they were to “surf” across the floor to their teammate and switch off every time until each member participated. In this event, none of the classes won. Rather, the faculty took the win!

At the end of the day, the results of the four games were tallied up and announced to everyone. The faculty, for the first time ever, beat every grade except for the senior class, the win in this event while the junior class placed 2nd.

Aside from the two other familiar events from past Bermuda Days, this year, our SCA introduced a new event: “Crab Crawl.” In this event, teams divided the group in half, except for the senior class, consisting not only of dress and beach attire, but calling it, “A hub for creative thinking, artistic expression and studious academia,” and saying “The library at Park View is not just a room full of books.” The Library also offers many other entertain-

That being said, it’s no wonder that the PVHS library and media center has won an award of this magnitude. The library offers many different extracurricular activities for students. Students that wish to study in peace are offered a time before and after school to meet with friends, use one of the many computers available, or just sit and read in one of the many comfortable chairs scattered throughout the library.

Virginia congressman Frank Wolf spoke very highly of the Park View Library, calling it, “A hub for creative thinking, artistic expression and studious academia,” and saying “The library at Park View is not just a room full of books.”

The Library also offers many other entertain-

Expressing the PVHS extracurricular activities, such as “Guitars on the Go,” a miniature concert series held every Thursday morning featuring Park View students and alumni.

Photo courtesy of Candace Rush

Where’s Your Homework?

By: Matthew Payard
Speaking, Acting, Arguing: Forensics

By: Dylan Sieng

Forensics is “Speaking, acting, and arguing, almost like the debate team,” says Ms. Karen Lieb. For those people asking themselves if I should join Forensics, “You should do this, if you like speaking in front of people or have trouble speaking in front of people,” said Ms. Lieb. She also stated for the people wondering if you’re the right person for it, “Forensics is great because, “You get to act, and perform, but it’s on a smaller scale since you’re only performing in front of judges. Junior Cody Tippett likes it, “Because, it’s something to do after school.” He started it because, “Ms. Lieb told me asked about team chemistry he stated, “That everyone on the team is close friends, everyone is really cool and funny.”

If you do decide to join, don’t worry, there is something for everyone! There’s acting out a story or reading out a poem and many other events. And after you perform in front of the judges, you get a score. The score is 1 through 6 with 1 being the lowest and 6 being the best score. Cody does the Poetry portion of forensics, “I pick a poem and read it out loud” Districts were on February 26th at John Champe High School in Aldie, Virginia.

If you’re interested, go talk to Ms. Lieb, practices are Mondays and Wednesdays after school.

Students Enjoy Participating in It’s Academic

By: Taylor Peyton

It’s Academic is an interscholastic quiz contest that is sanctioned by the VHSL (Virginia High School League) and is also a TV show. Park View competes with other schools in the state. Four people are allowed on a team and the subjects of the questions include literature, science, social science, politics, and current events. The team is coached by Mr. Phil Rosenthal, and Mr. Adam Sheppard.

In a competition there are 15 toss up questions, which means anyone who buzzes in the fastest is allowed to answer the question. Then, there are 10 questions for each team, and the members of each team are allowed to collaborate with each other. If a contestant is correct, 10 points will be rewarded to their team. No points are lost for an incorrect answer, unless you interrupt. Then you will lose 5 points.

Mr. Rosenthal said, “Many questions are read off every day, and there is a lot of supplementary instruction,” when preparing for a competition. Supplementary instruction is a quick instruction that must be well versed by the instructors. Speed is very important in these competitions, as the buzzers must be hit very quickly. There is a lot of reflex practice so the members of the team become faster at hitting the buzzer.

The students who are on the team enjoy it very much. “I’m with my friends; we learn new information everyday and the coaches are fun and encouraging,” said junior Tina Le. Junior Christine Olsen said she enjoys participating because, “It’s fun. We’re all friends and we have the chance to use knowledge we wouldn’t normally use.”

Mr. Sheppard said he enjoys coaching the team because, “It’s a fun group to be a part of. I like that it’s a very different group. I like the competitive aspect of it as well, and the general knowledge basis involved.”

A Thousand Miles and Then Some: Extra Mile

By: Iman Loving

Interested in finding a way to become more involved in your community? Are you searching for a way to gain extra community service hours? Then consider joining the Extra Mile Club here at Park View. Extra Mile is sponsored by Mrs. Driggers and Ms. Shepley. Most of the morning announcements and advertisements you may see lingering around school, trying to gain interest of the students are in fact from Extra Mile. Some of the things the club offers are special tutoring opportunities for younger children, voluntary work at the Sterling Library and Community Center. You could even volunteer at the local hospital. One of the main events that the club has started is the annual field trip to the Arlington Cemetery. The trip is designed to pay tribute to those who have lost their lives in battle and their families as well. The field trip fee is $10 and usually lasts all day.

Extra Mile a great way to lend a helping hand. If you have any questions or concerns you can talk to Mrs. Driggers or Ms. Shepley.
Baseball season is finally here for many of you Park View baseball fans or baseball fans in general! The baseball team is ready to compete and win as many games as possible. With a scrimmage against Manassas Park coming up soon, they are sure that they are going to win. One of the players, Jason Leckemby, a sophomore on the varsity team, is sure of it. Jason said, “We are probably going to win.” He is optimistic about the season, adding that, “Hopefully, we will win as many games as we can.”

Most of the players are optimistic for this season, sophomore Juannly Torres is another one of these players with high expectations in mind. With playoffs already in his sights, Juannly says, “I think we might get to the playoffs.” The players are sure not doubting any of the opposing teams abilities to play, especially with a tough beginning schedule with good teams such as Loudoun Valley, Loudoun County, Briar Woods, and Heritage. Juannly lastly adds about Manassas Park, “I heard they are a really good team and it’s going to be a challenging game.”

“I'm calling an assist record for this season,” junior Jacob Burch who is the starting attacker said, “It’s fun to play with friends and the sport you love to play, they are, “quality character athletes.” He is also very confident in the skill level of this roster, saying, “We have some depth in pitching and starters in every position.” Senior Captain Vanessa Grapes is also very optimistic about the upcoming season. Even though there are only ten players on the roster, “We have a lot of chances for people to get better,” Grapes said. She understands the importance of being a captain, saying, “It’s an honor, I have to keep a positive attitude.”

Along with many good athletes and athletic staff who will hopefully lead the team to success there is a brand new coaching staff with Roger Nelson taking over head coaching duties and Rachel Gall as his Assistant Coach. Coach Nelson is a very experienced softball coach, having coached at the travel level, and knows the game very well, according to Mr. Testerman, “He is a great fundamental teacher of all the skills and he is very patient with them.”

Rachel Gall is in her first year teaching at Park View as a recent graduate of Christopher Newport University. Ms. Gall has been around the game and has played for many years. She is in her second year coaching. As part of a high school who won a state championship, and playing on multiple travel teams, she is an experienced softball player who will bring a lot to this team. Leading up to the season, Ms. Gall said the team is focused on “Basic fundamentals.” Looking ahead to the rest of the season, Ms. Gall’s only hope is that, “We will have a good time and win a lot of ball games.” She is also very optimistic of the team’s chances this year, and along with everybody is looking forward to getting the season started.

The team is focused on “Basic fundamentals.” The sport of lacrosse is challenging because you run a lot and you need great hand eye coordination. The sport is not easy as far as the pace. The pace of the sport is hard to keep up with. The team needs a lot of people for the bench because players get tired and they can have a back up for them to rest. The seniors are going to be on mission to win this season with a new coach, as well as fresh new faces. The attitude of this team is committed for new things and winning various games and even the state championship.
Freshman Kathryn Burch is very involved with our school during her first year. She is a member of FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America), a professional student organization. She also believes that more people should be involved in our school and its activities. Kathryn was a member of the freshmen volleyball team and a travel basketball team and is currently on the softball team. In her spare time she likes “to hang out” with her friends. After high school, she sees herself attending college for culinary purposes. One of her favorite things about Park View is the school spirit. She is a fan of the popular superhero, Superman. One of the biggest adventures she has ever been on was when she went to a Safari in Disney World in Orlando, Florida.

Sophomore Kathleen Baran was a member of the JV volleyball team and is currently on the softball team at Park View. Kathleen sees herself going to college as a student athlete to GMU or Penn State. “I love playing on my travel softball team, doing random art projects, and spending time with my baby brothers,” Baran said. She loves how diverse our school is and how involved the students are. She thinks the involvement in our school is great, especially with the SCA. Kathleen is able to manage her time by working hard even if it means staying up late at night. She is also a big fan of Batman.

Junior Joel Benitez is a comic student who plans on owning his own mechanic shop once he leaves high school. He thinks student involvement in our school is “amazing.” In his free time he likes to go home and play Yu-Gi-Oh, play guitar, or draw. Currently, he is an employee at every child’s dream land, Chuck E. Cheese. He puts in as much time in with his school work as he does for his job and hobbies. Joel enjoys taking the stairs because it gives him a chance to check out the beautiful artwork left behind by previous senior classes; he hopes to work on one of them when he is a senior. However, he does want some school policies to change such as better food for the students and more built-in time to complete assignments while students are in school.

Senior Jordan Rodriguez is one of many interesting students. He is a big fan of comic books and super heroes; Green Arrow is his favorite hero. Other than reading comics, he also enjoys playing video games, eating, sleeping, playing with his dog, and going on the occasional run. Jordan is all for staying in shape while enjoying himself, which is why he was on the wrestling team. After high school he wants to go to LSU, but he is undecided in what he wants to study. He does not think the students are very involved with the school, and he would like to see more of them involved. His motto for keeping his grades up and turning work in on time is “Just do it,” like the Nike slogan. He also feels it is not that hard to manage his school work with activities done in his free time.