Love is not just for Lovers

Valentine’s Day is a day often associated with couples, kisses, flowers, and chocolate. If one is not in a relationship, then the day is seemingly filled with judgment, loneliness, sorrow, and pining. People seem to forget that Valentine’s Day is supposed to be about expressing your love for others – not just “significant others.”

I am not ashamed to say that I have never been in a relationship during Valentine’s Day. In elementary school, the day was filled with awkward card exchanges, candy, glitter, and shy glances at my crush of the week. In middle school, the day was filled with awkward card exchanges, candy, glitter, and nervous glances at my crush of the week. In high school, the day was filled with more changes, candy, glitter, and hearing how it made them on their lockers. Seeing the smiles on their faces makes my heart happy.

First of all, a romantic movie or play hours of video games without being embarrassed or annoying a date.

A third option is to choose to do this Valentine’s Day just remember to have a party with all the single people. Turn on some music or pop in a movie, add some popcorn and fun snacks and just have fun. The best part? You already know that cute guy on the other couch is available because only singles are allowed to come. You may not be single when Cupid’s day arrives the next year. Whatever you choose to do this Valentine’s Day just remember to pause and take a moment to love the people around you. Tell and show them why you love them, why they mean the world to you. Fill the day with laughter, warmth, and joy; and you will soon find that not only lovers can have fun on Valentine’s Day just remember to love the people around you.

Should you post that?

Avoiding Embarrassment Online

We have all seen these kinds of scenarios happen way too often. Teens are too obsessed with trying to acquire the most followers on Twitter or the most friends on Facebook that they do not tend to think about what they are actually posting. So how do you keep from humiliating yourself? It is simpler than you think.

The reason we post things is because we want to become the most popular, and this leads to oversharin, so while you are posting things think about all the people who are going to see it. This is not a popu-
Welcome to the Real World: Seniors Participate in Reality Store

by Kirby Struhar

On Tuesday, January 28th, Park View High School’s senior class participated in a simulation called the “Reality Store” which was intended to give them a glimpse into what the future might look like. The “Reality Store” was put on in part with Loudoun 4-H and the Virginia Cooperative Extension.

The simulation was based on the board game Life. Each student was given a scenario that included a job, annual salary, and whether or not they had any dependents. The students were then sent to the auxiliary gym, which had booths set up to represent the different necessities of everyday life – things like housing, transportation, child care, and taxes.

The day warranted many interesting reactions from the members of the senior class.

“I think it got them to start thinking, and that’s the most important thing,” senior class advisor Mrs. Kathy Koscinski said. Mrs. Koscinski believes that the senior class learned a lot throughout the reality store about how quickly spending can take its toll in the real world.

“They were complaining about how much things cost, how little money they had, and that kids were expensive,” Mrs. Koscinski said.

“This event helped us all to learn to make wise decisions,” Senior Class Vice President Rabia Firoz said. “It inspired me to make sure that I strive for the highest and get a good education so I get a good job.”

Many seniors learned valuable lessons. “I learned that you’ve got to be careful about what you spend your money on and prioritize the things that are important to you, like your kids,” said senior Chris Wood. Mrs. Koscinski agreed, stating that sometimes you have to make an undesired choice or sacrifice something you want in order to do what is best for your family.

A common lesson that the seniors thought was especially valuable had to do with budgeting. As high school students, budgeting comes difficult, but most seniors learned that it is important to “have a plan” as Mrs. Koscinski said and to make the right choices. “It was amazing how you thought you had a lot of money and then it was all gone,” said senior Kaylyn Karmel.

Zachary Miller learned a lot about living and budgeting as well. “I learned a little bit more about how much living costs,” Miller said. “Once you get in the real world, you need to pace yourself and budget; don’t waste your money on things you’ll use in a day or two. Use it to get essentials [pay the bills, buy groceries, etc.]”

Overall, the reality store was an event that helped a lot of seniors in many ways. Hopefully when they step into “real-life” they will be able to apply the lessons they learned in order to achieve the best possible life for themselves and their families.

Seniors Sam Oneyeador and Kelsey Huppert hold their “child,” as pretend parents they had to pay for daycare and health insurance as a part of the simulation.

Contemporary social media is a powerful tool. Both Ghosh and Sheridan have mentioned that the publicity that Byard has received is not meant to be harmful or malicious but to be funny.

“It’s not meant to be offensive,” Sheridan stated.

A recent meme posted on Facebook had Byard’s head cropped onto a body with the caption “winter is coming,” and “Game of Phones” written in the corner; a parody or spoof of the television show Game of Thrones.

Another popular Facebook picture cropped Byard’s face onto the body of the recognizable Dos Equis man from the commercials with the words “I don’t al- ways cancel a whole week of school. But when I do, I might as well cancel midterms too.”

Both photos gained 90 and 70 likes respectively.

Needless to say, Wayde Byard might just be the most well-liked LCPS employee.

Senior Juan Rivera builds a snowman with a friend on one of the snow days.

There’s Snow Stoppin’ the Show
Park View’s Winter Play: The Tempest

Photos by Larry Wharton

Due to multiple snow days, the opening night of The Tempest was moved to February 18th. The performance was lovely as talented actors senior Padi Goudarzi, sophomore Alysia Link, junior Nico Drennan, senior Kaylyn Karmel, junior Bryan Walter, and other Park View students interpreted the Shakespearean drama on stage.
Behind the Wheel: Teen Driving Practices

Emily Mooney
Editor-in-Chief
I have had my license for over a year now, and I would like to think that my driving is not a cause for concern for anyone else on the road. However, my over-confidence in my abilities may be what is most dangerous. No longer worried about overreacting, hitting the curb, or staying in my lane, I find that I become involved with other things that put me in danger. Texting, talking on the phone, packing my car full of friends, and driving with a large sleep deficit are just a few examples of poor decisions I have made. Now, some of this I blame on my parent’s bad example. My dad drives with his knees, texts novels, and even watched a movie once while driving. My mom is usually a safer driver, but she talks to people on the phone regularly while driving, and observing her putting on mascara while driving gave me a reason to try acquiring the skill. Needless to say, although they can be driving Nazis when it comes to what I do while driving, their example has not been in conformance with what they have said.

While reflecting on different ways I tempt fate while driving, I wondered how safe other teenage drivers were. I could not be the only one engaging in unsafe practices. In order to answer my questions and increase awareness of what is really going on behind the wheel, I surveyed all juniors and seniors who drove at Park View. From the completed surveys, I randomly chose 225 to statistically analyze. The results were quite interesting.

Forty-five percent of teens had sent a text while driving, and fifty-five percent had read a text. Forty-seven percent had talked on the phone and regularly driven 10mph over the speed limit. Seventy-seven percent changed the radio station while driving, and nineteen percent had already been in a car accident. No wonder twenty-two percent admitted that they had felt unsafe in another teen’s car (a surprisingly low statistic in my opinion). Folks, the poor decisions do not end there. Forty-five percent confessed they were distracted when having multiple passengers. Fifteen percent said they had struggled to stay awake while driving at least once. Thirty percent of teens had raced someone while driving.

The good news is that in most cases fifty percent of the teenage drivers at Park View are making good decisions. The bad news is that it only takes one poor decision to cause an accident and end a life. According to the Century Council, more than 300,000 teens are injured in a crash every year; and fifty-seven percent of crashes where a teen is partially responsible involve distracted driving. These statistics should cause you to reconsider your driving practices; I know I have. I mean, yes, it is a bit nerve-wracking when I am reading a text, but realizing that one out of every two of my peers is making the same decision gives me cause for worry. If we are both texting and doing things while driving, there will be no time for defensive driving. We will realize the danger too late. With the fact that one out of every five teen-age drivers has already been in an accident, you would think teens would want to repeat those mistakes.

The next time you are behind the wheel, remember you are not only putting yourself and others in harm’s way, but others are putting you and themselves in danger as well. Do you want to be aware of what’s going around you when something happens or do you want to be caught by surprise when it is too late?

Do Shows Like “Teen Mom” Make For More Babies or Less in America?

Kensy Maradiaga
Staff Writer
If you have not already seen the shows “16 and Pregnant” and “Teen Mom,” they are shows that document the lives of pregnant teenagers, displaying the lives of pregnant and “Teen Mom” or just the fact that birth control has become more available for teens nowadays is unclear. Personally, I think there is no way on earth this show could actually decrease teen pregnancy. These teenage girls on the show are the exact opposite of mother material. They are selfish and dramatic; honestly, the babies get little to no attention from both the mothers and the show. This show makes it appear as if babies are accessories rather than responsibilities.

I mean, yes, it shows how hard it is to be a teenage mother, but all of one’s experiences, and it is definitely something that is going to serve me well going forward. One of the great things about internships, especially for young people, is it gives them the ability to get experience in particular field or profession.

No matter what profession you are interested in, an internship is the best way to learn what sort of qualities are needed to be successful in that area, what sort of educational requirements you need in order to get started, specifics of the day-to-day operations, and what a normal day would be like.

One of the most telling things I learned about working a campaign is how many long days there are in the last week and the days leading up to the election, and how hectic election day can be. For example, I spent twelve hours at a polling location talking to voters on election day, which was a real learning experience about how you need to approach a complete stranger in those sorts of situations. I learned a lot about myself and what I wanted to do while working on the campaign, and it is definitely something I would like to pursue further in the future. Now unfortunately for me, that job was temporary regardless of the outcome. However, for young people or college students, there is statistical information that concludes that sometimes an internship may be the best route to take when trying to land a full time job. “69% of companies with 100 or more people offered full time jobs to their interns,” according to a survey conducted by internships.com and was featured in a forbes.com article by Jacquelyn Smith.

According to Stuart Lander, the chief marketing officer at internships.com, “You have a 7 in 10 chance of being hired by the company you interned with.” A business is more likely to hire someone that they know has an understanding of what it takes to work in their environment and can do so successfully.

Internships are a valuable thing to be on the lookout for when it comes to searching for jobs and careers. If you are trying to get your foot in the door in order to make an impression on a potential employer, gain experience, and see what a profession is like, internships are the way to go.

Why Internships are Important

Kirby Struhar
Associate Editor
In December and January I had the opportunity to work for Joe May’s campaign for the 33rd State Senate District, which includes the majority of Loudoun County and Sterling Park, specifically. A large part of my job was knocking on doors and making phone calls in order to get the word out that Mr. May was running. It has been a great experience working for a political campaign and gaining insight on how a campaign is run and how hard everyone involved works.

I had the opportunity to meet and get to know so many cool people through my experiences, and it is definitely something that is going to serve me well going forward. One of the great things about internships, especially for young people, is it gives them the ability to get experience in particular field or profession.

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Tough Up Meet for Gymnastics

by Liana Jackley

Twelve Loudoun County high schools battled it out, using their gymnastics skills as their weapons, on the evening of January 25th. Park View received the honor of hosting the gymnastics meet.

The meet started at 6 p.m. The high schools that came for the meet included Briar Woods, Potomac Falls, Broad Run, John Champe, Loudoun Valley, Woodgrove, Loudoun County, Stone Bridge, Tuscarora, Heritage, Freedom, and Park View.

Prior to the meet Coach Poplawski, otherwise known as Coach Pop, said: "How well we do this meet depends on what injuries heal; it's tough to deal with [injuries]. This meet is the meet before their Conference meet which is the one before regionals. At this meet, who they're competing against at Conference will be here, and hopefully it all goes well." At the beginning of the meet, the announcer called up each team and told us the names of the female athletes as they walked up with proud smiles and perfected waves

Fall cheerleading taps the top of the doorframe that is between the trophy cases and the gym. The cheerleaders do this for good luck. However, if someone else walks through one of the other three doors then the whole team must go through it again until they finish it completely.

During swimming districts, freshman Gordon Marshall was caught hopping around. "I jump around in the formation of a "T" because it brings the energy from the outside to the inside," said a hyped up Marshall.

Junior Kyle Sheridan must stretch all his shoulder muscles thoroughly by swinging his arms back a forth, as if doing half a windmill, to feel loose.

Prior to swim meets, junior Lee Chea performs breathing exercises that he learned while visiting Cambodia. "Before I dive off the block, I take a deep breath while I push my hands down and breathe out while I push my hands back up," said Chea.

Park View knows how to stand out, and this is just a small chip of the iceberg. These students display who they are with their lucky rituals and let their pride and honor show out was Rothman's. The music was soft, and it went well with her graceful routine; the routine ended with an eye popping split with both of her hands in the air, awaiting the well-deserved applause.

The vault was next. Each gymnast sprinted with fierce looks and landed solidly. Hernandez's two runs started off swiftly. She then did a round off and finished it with half a twist.

Park View’s third event was bars. This event was quick paced, each gymnast going for no longer than a minute or two.

Their final event was the beam. "Beam was our weakest event that meet because we have trouble staying on it. It’s only four inches wide-that’s barely the width of your foot," Coach Poplawski said.

At the end of the meet all teams helped clean the gym. Finally, after much anticipation the results were in. The overall school winner was Freedom, but Park View did their best yet, even with all the injuries they have endured this season.

"We gave it our all and that's what matters," Christina Maxey positively stated.
**KATIE HESSLER: BORN TO TUMBLE**

By Thy Dao

Katie Hessler, a freshman at Park View, was chosen to be the “Athlete of the Season” for gymnastics. She is grateful for being rewarded with this title and finds it pretty awesome.

This dedicated girl was selected due to the fact that she had been the varsity gymnastics team’s top-scoring gymnast all season.

“She is extremely hard-working and has obtained a handful of new skills since the season began,” Coach Poplawski noted. “She’s definitely the best gymnast on our team,” said sophomore and fellow gymnast, Eden Gondley.

Hessler began her tumbling when she was much younger, doing gymnastics for four years, stopping for two years, and then continuing up to this day, tumbling for five years straight. She started gymnastics because she found it interesting. When she was very little, Hessler saw some older girls doing the challenging sport, and it did not take long for her to decide that she wanted to be just like them.

“I think I’ve been doing good, I’m average,” said a modest Hessler with thoughts of her performances in mind. Before a competition, she always listens to music to zone out any distractions and focus.

“She is always working on learning new skills,” said freshman Isabella Rivas, manager of the gymnastics team. “She’s encouraging.”

Hessler says she has to work on her skills on the beam and floor, but thinks she does best at the vault. In order to improve, she will keep practicing and let any mental blocks get in her way.

Her advice to those looking to improve their own skill: “Be willing to try it [and] don’t think about the worst possible thing that can happen.”

Some of the new skills she learned this season consist of difficult beam dismounts, one of them being a handstand back tuck, and some work on the floor like double handstand piroquettes.

Hessler loves her team—they have good chemistry and work well together. One of their goals is to break 100 as their team average. “We’ve come pretty close so we can probably break it,” Hessler said. They practice from Monday to Saturday every week, but she still has time for her other hobbies like photography.

Hessler plans to continue gymnastics throughout high school, but does not plan to continue in college.

She loves gymnastics because it is a unique sport and not many people have what it takes to do it. It has caused her to be less afraid of doing new things and made her more willing to try things out. It has taught her that “you can’t win at everything; you can’t always get first place,” but as long as you try your best, you can make it.

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**On the Court with Carolyn Oare and Monteral Jackson**

By: Amy Hensler

This year, two amazing students were rightly picked to be Park View’s “Athlete of the Season” for basketball. Sophomore Monteral Jackson is the boys’ “Athlete of the Season.”

His coaches and teammates agree that Monteral is very committed to the game.

“He is a hard worker, and he motivates his team to do better,” stated junior Erick Cruz.

At Head Coach Michael Kosciinski stated that Jackson “is a competitor day in and day out.”

This drive to succeed will help Jackson hopefully reach his dream of becoming a professional basketball player.

Jackson’s favorite thing about basketball is working as a team.

“Basketball really builds up chemistry with everyone else on the team,” Jackson said. He serves this because he is a senior leader and utilizes it both on and off the court,” stated head coach Michelle Plunkett.

“The Patriot Press Staff:

**ADVISOR:**
Kristie Browne

**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF:**
Emily Mooney

**ASSOCIATE EDITOR:**
Kirby Strukar

**REPORTERS:**
Making new friends and having the occasional pizza party are just a few exciting things the Patriot Pals Club does.

“It’s awesome that we get to help all the kids and give them a friend to have,” said freshman Jacob Smith, a member of the club.

Patriot Pals does exactly that. Kids with and without disabilities join this club to interact and have fun with one another.

“It’s a nice and good thing to do,” said freshman Jillian Doung. Walking into a club with smiling faces and good vibes sounds great does it not?

Patriot Pals is one of those clubs. Each and every member joined in order to make friends.

“I joined because of the pizza parties,” says junior Alexis Payne. You can’t forget about the fun club parties!

Patriot Pals also has pizza parties so that the members can have some delicious pleasure.

Ms. Lauren Kloman and Mr. Erik Hazlwood, resource teachers here at Park View High, are the current sponsors of Patriot Pals. Both are thinking of an abundance of exciting activities to help bring the club members together.

Many of these students had the opportunity to sign up for Patriot Pals during the club fair, but anyone who is willing to join is still welcome to. The Patriot Pals Club will be meeting once a month for now; but if students are available, they will be meeting more often.
There have been many interesting and unique clubs over the years in Park View, but nothing compared to a club like Robotics Club. It is sponsored by Mr. Peter Randall, Park View’s geometry and computer science teacher, who explained the details of the so called Robotics Club.

“Robotics Club is about students who are interested in building and programming their own computers to compete with other schools,” Mr. Randall explained.

Within the Robotics Club, you build a robot and create a program for the robot. After creating your robot and programming it, you go test out your robot’s skills against other schools in a tournament. A tournament holds tons of obstacles and challenges to push students and their robots to the limit. To know more of the games and activities the tournaments have, look up www.usfirst.org for more information.

“What I like about Robotics Club is that it’s a challenge,” said senior James Vandyk. “It’s something to work hard for and give a long time goal to aim for.”

Vandyke joined the Robotics Club after taking computer science where he became interested in making a robot himself.

To be a part of Robotics Club, meet with Mr. Randall in room 2313 and he will provide you with a book on how to program a robot. Meetings are usually on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings in room 2313.

Come check out the club; perhaps your robot could be the next Frankenstein.

Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) is one of Park View’s newest clubs. The members meet at 8 o’clock every other Friday in the auxiliary gym to have fun and share what God is doing in their lives.

This outreach program first made its appearance at Park View a few years back, but ended up downhill.

This year it has been brought back with enthusiasm and has been doing very well.

The student-run organization was started by Mrs. Kathy Koscinski (also known as Coach K), Park View’s Health and P.E. Department Chair, as well as the Mooney family.

“We reach out to kids and make them feel like they belong,” stated Justin Mooney, a junior who wanted to share his beliefs with other people and “point them towards the truth.”

FCA helps to make sure that students do not feel isolated as a Christian and creates a safe environment to help kids make them feel like they belong.

Their job is to “discuss and inform people about the truths spoken in the Bible,” said senior Juan Rivera.

“We’re willing to discuss how awesome Jesus is,” Rivera said.

The members of the FCA are caring and compassionate people who “encourage others to share their faith with the people around them,” said Ryan Mooney, a sophomore and proud member of the FCA.

“My faith has been an important part of my life and this was an opportunity for me to share it,” he added.

They also support each other and are always there for one another. In this club, “cliques don’t matter and everyone is treated the same; everyone is together,” explained another sophomore, Kathleen Chesnutt.

Throughout the year, FCA has been collecting canned food donations as well as participating in various community service projects. They also have lent a hand in the Teens for Jeans program.

In December, the members all gathered together at Coach Koscinski’s house for a Christmas party where they wrapped gifts for a needy family in the Sterling Park community.

If someone wanted to join the Fellowship of Christian Athletes all they would need to do is find out when the nearest meeting date is and come as they are.

“It’s welcome to everyone,” said senior Kelly Stuart.

The STEM Club (Science Technology Engineering Mathematics Club) is one of the many clubs here at Park View High School. This specific club is filled with students and teachers who have a passion for science.

STEM Club is a fun way to explore the science field. “We talk about scholarship opportunities, engineering, science in media, and we do fun experiments,” says STEM Club sponsor, Mrs. Rachel DiSilvio.

Mrs. DiSilvio is a science teacher here at Park View along with the other club sponsors, Suzanne Bartley and Jennifer Hiltnor.

“We want students to see that science is fun,” Mrs. DiSilvio said.

All the STEM Club sponsors are trying their best to get that message out there.

Not only is it fun, but it is also beneficial towards the students’ futures. As a bonus, the club gets to take field trips.

Members hold fundraisers that bring the club together, and the money earned goes towards their trips. The club members have taken trips to places like the Baltimore Aquarium.

Presently kids from all four grade levels are enjoying being a part of the club. Even first timers have already had a such a fun-filled experience being a part of the club.

“We basically do lab activities without much learning,” said freshman Lisa Pham.

“I’ve heard good things about it from previous members and I thought it would be good for me to try something new,” said junior Lauren Villasenor.

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Did you Glow?
Park View’s First Glow Dance

On February 21st, Park View High School had its first ever Glow Dance. It was an unforgettable night from the glowing posters to the bubbles blown out into the crowd. Excitement and laughter filled the gym as people danced along to the music. There was a very broad selection of music fitting perfectly with all the different people.

Everyone dressed to their liking, blending perfectly together making a neon mix. “The DJ was cool and played a lot of cool songs.” stated freshman Jessica Smith.

“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.
Sunday: 12:00 A.M. – 9:00 P.M.

Students were able to wear whatever they wanted to the Glow Dance which made for a fun atmosphere.

The students enjoyed all of the glow sticks they were given when they entered the dance.

DJ Stacks, a Park View Alumni, played a lot of good music at the Glow Dance.

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