Loudoun County Cancels Midterms
by Thy Dao

Due to inclement weather and unexpected snow days, Loudoun County Public Schools cancelled this year’s midterm exams for both the middle and high school students. Large amounts of lost instructional time and lack of preparation for the exams was the leading role that finalized the school boards decision.

Upon hearing the news, students were overjoyed and relieved at not having to go through such a stressful week of testing. The same situation occurred the previous year, due to inclement weather.

While the majority of students were more than happy to not have to take the midterms, a few are now facing problems with raising their grades — something the midterms could have greatly affected if they had done well on them.

Sophomore Chris Ulloa was ecstatic that he no longer had to do the projects and extra work that his teachers assigned to prepare him for the midterms. Even so, he was able to find a downside to the cancellation.

“It’s harder to make up your grade now, because it [the midterms] would’ve been twenty percent of your grade.”

The informed of the decision by the county.

“Senior Nayadi Morales shared, “There were so many days missed on A days. I didn’t feel prepared at all.” She felt that the preparation for the midterms was very rushed and that the teachers were trying to cram too much information into only a few days. In short, Morales concluded that there was really no time to prepare.

There were some teachers who did not mind the cancellation, some were even grateful for it, but teachers were planning on doing the same and having their students take the exams anyway. “Some of them are planning on using it for a grade, or just not at all.” Even so, she thinks that canceling the midterms was a good idea because many students were not ready at all.

Tam Dan Bui, a junior, was glad to hear that the midterms were cancelled because there just was not enough time to study all of the subjects at the same time. Now she would have more time to simply do more.

She was content with going through with lessons instead of exams because, “The test is more pressure and it affects your GPA.” Although she thinks that the cancellation was great, she also believes that it was not the right thing for LCPS to do. She believes that the midterms were supposed to be taken even if there were snow days. “It needs to be taken to check learning; you need to understand what you’re learning.”

Despite the fact that many were happy with the midterms being cancelled, it did not please everybody. Both students and teachers found it to be a good decision, but some just did not agree.

Junior Elisabeth Mong said that some of her teachers were planning on doing the same and having their students take the exams anyway. “Some of them are planning on using it for a grade, or just not at all.” Even so, she thinks that canceling the midterms was a good idea because many students were not ready at all.

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Despite the fact that many were happy with the midterms being cancelled, it did not please everybody. Both students and teachers found it to be a good decision, but some just did not agree.

It is projected that approximately thirty million students nationwide are in the lunch program each day, which can lead to an enormous amount of disposable trays annually.

Elizabeth Rivera, sophomore, stated, “I think that the new tray system is good because it’s better for the environment.”

Although Park View has gone green and eliminated styrofoam trays, more paper products are now being thrown away. This is due to the fact that the meals are not placed directly onto the trays, but into a paper container for convenience.

Samantha Borges, senior, commented, “I think instead of the styrofoam or plastic lunch trays they should use something that we can recycle.” Another downfall to plastic trays is the amount of time and resources they consume. The cafeteria staff now has to add cleaning the trays to their list of responsibilities. This has caused a reduction in the amount of available lunch lines, therefore making open lines even longer.

An additional concern is that even though the styrofoam trays have been removed, more water will be used in order to thoroughly clean the trays. Borges added to her previous statement, “The trays are worse for because we have to waste more water.”

Not only are the trays different, but so is the entire lunch system. Utensils and straws can be found in the lunch lines, while napkins and condiments are still available in the center of the cafeteria. While this is more convenient to students who buy their lunch, it can be more hectic for those who pack their lunch.

Ashley Edwards, junior, shared, “I pack my lunch, so I think the new system is worse because I now have to maneuver through the crowd just to get a fork.”

Although these new trays are better for the environment, most students think the new trays are not beneficial to Park View.
Patriot Pride: New England Wins Super Bowl

by Cristina Laines-Recinos

The Park View Patriots were pretty excited to see the New England Patriots beat the Seattle Seahawks in the Super-bowl on February 1st, at the University of Phoenix Stadium in Glendale, Arizona.

The Super Bowl is an event that gathers families and friends together to watch the game, entertaining commercials, and the halftime performance. Many students knew that the Seahawks would be tough competition as they were in the Super Bowl for the second year in a row and had a good chance at winning again this year.

“The Seahawks are going to win this year because they have a really good defense,” predicted sophomore Chris Yanes. The Super Bowl is always something very entertaining to watch because it has entertainment for everyone, not just football fans.

“I think this year’s commercials are going to be crazy and original. I think Snickers will probably have the best one,” predicted Sophomore Hope Willingham. Everything that comes with it.

And Chris wasn’t alone in his excitement. Many students were pretty excited to see the New England Patriots win.

Sophomore Colin Mills sports his Patriots jersey in hopes that his team will win the Super Bowl.

The competition for the commercials is going to be huge this year. For others, the Super Bowl brings excitement for other reasons. Not everyone watches it just for the game, but to be entertained with the many things that come with it. Another well known subject of the Super Bowl is the commercials. Every year the commercials get bigger and better. The competition for the best commercial is a big one and brings people to the game.

“I think this year’s commercials are going to be crazy and original. I think Snickers will probably have the best one,” predicted sophomore Chris Yanes. The Super Bowl is always something very entertaining to watch because it has entertainment for everyone, not just football fans.

“I don’t really watch football but I watch the Super Bowl just for the halftime show. It’s always entertaining,” said junior Emely Ramirez.

Freshman Libeth Ramirez predicted Katy Perry would have a good performance but it would not top Beyoncé’s performance two years ago. It was announced early on that Katy Perry would perform during the halftime show alongside Lenny Kravitz. Katy Perry is an exceptional performer and is known for crazy performances, making this year’s halftime show one to remember.

During this year’s Super Bowl halftime show, Katy Perry wowed the crowd with her entrance; she began her performance with the song “Roar.” while standing on top of a giant, golden lion. Her performance was a good one and included a surprise appearance by Missy Elliot. She ended the performance by singing “Firework,” while shooting over the crowd on a flying star.

Overall, this year’s Super Bowl was an enjoyable and entertaining for its viewers.

Controversy Sparks Fascination With The Interview

by Amera Saber

The Interview caused a lot of controversy all over the world, which made students at Park View want to see it even more. This movie makes fun of the leader of North Korea, Kim Jong Un, North Korea’s power, and even how great America is. Even though this movie was banned from many theatres worldwide, some managed to preview it.

Some theatres, like the Alamo Drafthouse in Ashburn, showed the movie where many audiences showed up. Even Netflix made it available to view, receiving 4.7 stars. Google Plus and YouTube also offered it for roughly six dollars.

Several students and staff members of Park View managed to watch it. “I felt really patriotic watching it at the Alamo Theaters,” said senior Zach Mansoor. Junior Matt Howard and senior Taryn La’Mon chose to watch the movie because of the actor playing one of the protagonists, James Franco.

Many said that this movie caused controversy to North Korea because of the content and hate displayed towards the country and its leader. “It involves killing a world power,” stated Mansoor. Howard noted that it caused controversy because “Kim Jong Un threatened America.” He added, “I can see why he got offended because it was really personalized towards North Korea, although I think it’s true.”

Junior Mona Hamdan stated, “If I were from North Korea, I could see why they were offended.” Howard concluded with saying, “Even though it was kind of racist, it’s a comedy and most people shouldn’t be offended by it.”

As Hamdan watched it with her sister, she thought it caused controversy because “they are making a movie and then making fun of what North Korea looks up to and what some of them think is right.” She added, “I think it made us [America] look better than them, because it made North Korea seem like what they were doing wasn’t right.”

Mansoor stated that “The Interview was all over the news because it was being debated whether or not it should be shown. I think this movie had so much hype because it was delayed.”

Sometimes in situations like these, we need to put ourselves in other people’s shoes. “Imagine if this was Obama, I don’t think too many people would be happy about it,” said Senior John Russell. “I’m pretty sure the directors knew there was going to be tension, they made a movie about something that is seriously going on in North Korea today and also made crude jokes out of it,” said Hamdan. Mr. Michael Vereb also added, “It wasn’t even funny. It was pointless and stupid.” He stated, “It’s a silly move to talk about assassinating someone that is alive today. I would rate it a 6 out of 10.”

This movie does a good job portraying American culture in contrast to the Northern Korean culture. Although, Russell says, “I think it was done for fun; it’s not like James Franco or not. It made a movie about some-thing that is seriously going on in North Korea today and also made crude jokes out of it,” said Hamdan. Mr. Michael Vereb also added, “It wasn’t even funny. It was pointless and stupid.” He stated, “It’s a silly move to talk about assassinating someone that is alive today. I would rate it a 6 out of 10.”

Everyone that watched this movie had similar interests and agreed that they would understand how North Korea feels about it. John Russell concluded, “I think it was pretty funny at some moments, but again, even though it supposed to be a comedy, it wasn’t an award winning mate-rial.”
Valentine’s Day: Love is in the Air

by Destiny Colbert
Single Awareness Day or S.A.D. was originally made for Anti-Valentine’s Day people who felt that Valentine’s Day was not a happy holiday for people without a significant other.

In opposition to that, sophomore Angelina Rivera said, “Valentine’s Day is not just for you and your couple. It’s about being with the people you love and care about. It’s a holiday. You never expect anyone to give you something, but at the same time you appreciate anything they give you.” Her boyfriend, freshman Adam Thorne, said, “I will most likely surprise her with something and take her out to somewhere nice because she deserves it.”

Mr. Matthew Poth, Pre-AP and AP World History teacher gave both sides to Valentine’s Day. He said, “Valentine’s Day is an egotistical holiday for men like me to go out and spend money on gifts and candy that we don’t have.” But then said, “For my wife I have a plan. I’m going to take her out Friday night for a nice little dinner. Then that Saturday I’m going to have her cousin come down and I’m going to have a puppy. I’m going to wake her up by letting the puppy walk all over her.”

February 14th is a day for everyone, whether you are all about love and affection or you celebrate S.A.D. It is completely up to you, because it was made for loving everyone you care about and showing appreciation; whether it is family, boyfriend/girlfriend, wife or husband. A wise man once said, “Valentine’s Day isn’t just for you, but to remind you that you are special.”

Park View Debate Team: Arguably the Best

by Katherine Guardado

The debate team consists of public speaking and arguments on more than one topic. Mrs. Hanaa Juma is the leader of the Debate Team at Park View.

Kathleen Teel, a freshman, joined the debate team because when she graduated high school she wants to become a defense attorney. Teel states that her favorite debate has been the first debate that they had which was a two candy bar debate.

Lately they have been practicing and one of the topics has been assistive suicide. Soon they will be debating on serious topics such as abortion, human rights, and suicide.

Some topics that Teel would like to debate about are video game violence. “I don’t think video games cause violence. I play video games and I have never wanted to do anything bad because of it.”

“I joined because I had an interest in debating, also because my friends were a part of it,” Rahman said. Although the debate team has been put on hold cause of snow days, they are hoping to get back to work soon.

Park View Drama Leaves Audience Speechless with The Realm

by Lester Romero-Olivares

Park View’s Drama performed *The Realm* for three days on February 5th, 6th, and 7th of 2015. The 16 cast members, two directors and the rest of the staff prepared for six weeks before performing on Thursday, February 5th.

*The Realm* starts out with the Ensemble whispering. They mention a very important saying that defines *The Realm*. “If you don’t know where you are going, you will never know when you get there.”

David Hessler, the student director, had mentioned in the Directors Note that *The Realm* “examines a world without words to convey wants and desires.” Hessler added that, “The government or the ruling body in *The Realm* uses disposition to take away words of citizens, when words are taken away, it takes the citizens ability to say desires.”

In *The Realm*, people start to lose memories and words by a certain age. Kansas, one of the main characters, has her own weapon, her words. She went along with James’ immunity to the disposition used by the government in *The Realm*. Later on James loses the immunity. She does not forget words while James does not understand anything he says at all. Since she has more vocabulary to use she has more words to say her desires and wants. She had more desires then everyone else in *The Realm*.

She knew a lot more words then her friend, James played by Anders Struve. This was proved whenever she mentions words throughout the play then James kept asking Kansas to explain herself so he could understand.

Despite the play only being about 45 minutes long, it had two good lessons. Struve suggested that two lessons from this play are, “What you say is really important,” and “Do not speak without thinking first.”

In the end Kansas tells James, “Friend. It is an important word. Try really hard to remember.” That is when the play ends. It leaves the audience guessing since it suddenly ended. When asked why the ending was so important Struve said, “Conflict resolution would compromise overall affect.”

Sara Pendley

Senior Anders Struve and Junior Alyssa Link put on an amazing performance in Park View’s production of *The Realm*. Audience Speechless
but one day, Elise tormented by her classmates. This school year as she gets in. Elise struggles through ing to change their self to fit she has always been. The ups and down in the story are not obvious or predictable. When you think Elise is going to do one thing, it ends up being another. I liked how Elise’s character was portrayed. She is very timid but the way she is described makes the reader want to have Elise realize that being you is perfect enough.

At the beginning of the story, Elise describes that to be popular you have to wear all the hot trends, talk a certain way, listen to a specific type of music, and keep up with all the new gossip on celebrities.

I loved how the author portrayed this because it opened my eyes to the ugly truth which is reality. Especially being in high school with other teenagers, it is hard to be different and have people be okay with it.

This book was an extremely satisfying read and I recommend this to anyone who is having trouble loving who they are or even if they want to read a good book. I give the novel three out of five stars. I hope more people can read this book and enjoy it the way I did.

The behavior is repeated often, and cyber bullying. Most students at Park View wait for the next “cook” or “roast” session, where students tweet a series of insulting or embarrassing statements about others on Twitter. Students are often unaware of the damage that it does to others, and instead encourage the bully to continue the harassment because they think it is laughable. What has the social media community come to, where bullying is the main source of entertainment? Bullies do not respect others enough to understand that horrific outcomes, like suicide, can occur. We are all growing up, and we are all trying to find our niche in the world. We all have our imperfections and insecurities. With that, the next time that you feel you should make a negative comment towards someone, stop and re-evaluate. People only show parts of themselves that they feel comfortable to share with others. If you know someone who is being bullied, or if you are being bullied there are always people to talk to. Friends, teachers, counselors, principals, and parents will always support you. If you feel that the school does not adequately address harassment based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or religion, contact the superintendent or department of education. Become the change that you want to see.
New Year. New You.

Courtney Goodwin
Associate Editor

Technology has been increasingly implemented in schools over the decades in order to provide guidance to learning. However, it seems to me that technology has become less of a guide, and more of a tool for the instruction itself.

Flipped Classroom, a technique that requires a student to start grasping the concepts of a lesson during their own personal time outside of school, is being increasingly used at Park View, primarily within the math department.

When it is a teacher’s job to teach a lesson, I think it seems almost unfair that students are having to introduce a lesson to themselves.

“If students take advantage of the model, it is fantastic. Students are doing more work outside of class than before,” said Mr. Michael Neuser.

Mr. Jeff Marsh and Mrs. Alina Marsh also vouch for Flipped Classroom. Mr. Marsh stated that he believes the frustration level has gone down since he started using it. He and Mrs. Marsh are also trying to receive a grant for $500 in order to increase the use and implementation of Flipped Classroom.

Technology has practically transformed into a requirement, causing students and teachers to become overly dependent on it. Ironically, it seems that teachers are the ones who are more in favor of the increase of technology than students are.

“I think not enough teachers understand how to use a lot of it, so we waste time trying to figure out how to use it instead of just teaching traditionally,” says senior Melissa Zepeda. At somewhat of a school board meeting where selected representatives discussed the matter of getting rid of computer labs entirely and putting multiple computers in all classrooms. Not only does that raise questions about lowered availability to whole classrooms, but about the amount of space in the already crowded classrooms that would there be if such an idea is implemented.

At some point this year, each person in the freshman class will receive their own personal tablet. Al-
service-intl.com

tions. In my opinion, it is wasteful to put such an emphasis on technology in our lessons when, in fact, the technology we are depending on now is not what we will have in the future.

Earlier this school year, there was even a technology actually causes more than outdated textbooks, it seems that the possibilities of damage, theft, loss, and added distraction have been overlooked.

“It’s ridiculous. Most students can’t even keep a folder in fair condition for more than a month,” states Zepeda.

Amy Hensler
Editor-In-Chief

Self-improvement-the reason why about 45% of Americans make New Year’s resolutions.

Another year has passed and it is now time to be thinking of what quality or trait we can be improving on. We set aside this one day each year just so we can reflect on our past mistakes, and set a goal to improve ourselves for the better.

It seems harmless enough: bettering our year so we do not have as much anxiety as the last. But sadly, achieving our resolutions is not that simple, and even in the slight chance that we achieve our goals, why do we exclusively only try to improve on one day a year?

The fact of the matter is that we make resolutions solely to break them. According to a study conducted by the University of Scranton, only about 8% of Americans successfully achieve their goals. Part of the reason why our resolutions fail is because we put so much pressure to achieve this goal, that after a while it just no longer becomes appealing to keep it.

Improving ourselves becomes more of a chore than a necessity. We look at things like losing weight or reading more as trivial things that are not essential for the big picture. We use New Year’s resolutions as a scapegoat of sorts to make it appear that you care about making yourself a better person, but when your goal inevitably fails, you can just blame it on society.

We set aside this one day a year because we know that we are setting ourselves up to fail, so we do not actually have to tackle the problem at hand. We create resolutions so we can pretend like we made an effort to better ourselves, when in reality all we really did was say, “Well, I tried. Maybe next year.”

Our laziness controls us into thinking that self-improvement is impossible, and that we should only be trying to combat it once a year, when in reality we should be constantly trying to make ourselves more kind, intelligent, and well-rounded human beings.

“You must research, practice, fail, and then try again. You have to get back up and keep pursuing. Do not look at failure as your enemy, look at it as your motivation. If you truly want to better yourself then you will continue to improve every day of the year, and not just exclusively on New Year’s Day.”

Mr. Marsh feels the same, “I’m nervous about it because I’ve seen the way most kids use their phones. I’m nervous that they won’t last, so they wouldn’t be able to be helpful,” he said. Mr. Neuser stated that he was more concerned about the fact of students not knowing the robustness of using technology. It is absurd to have our tax dollars going towards personal devices that are likely to become damaged, broken or misused. Instead, our money should go towards something that is less of a blind faith in helping students.

Most students and teachers were able to agree on the fact that technology can be beneficial or disadvantageous, all depending on whether or not students use them appropriately and with focus.

Time and time again, it has been said that technology actually causes stagnant test scores as a result of misuse of technology and added distraction caused by technology. There is no logical explanation as for why schools are spending millions on technology, even budgets are cut and teachers and other school positions are being laid off.
Junior, Hannah Ford is the captain of the girls swim team. Ford also runs cross country and track for Park View, but swimming is her favorite sport. She explained, “I love the team and the team bonding,” said Ford. Ford didn’t always enjoy swimming though. Her parents had her start swimming at age nine, but later on allowed her to make her own choice. Even though she was given the opportunity to stop, she continued swimming because of how much she liked it. Before she knew it, she was participating in summer swimming along with Park View’s swim team. The team puts in a lot of work with team practices Monday through Friday and meets on Saturdays. Although some practices require the team to be at practice at six in the morning, Ford believes it is worth it. Teammate Monica Munoz, a junior, shared her thoughts on Ford as a captain, saying Ford helped her get through the morning practices. “She kept us well-rounded and was always positive,” said Munoz. “It was really fun and I felt more motivated to do better,” Munoz continued, speaking about the season. Teammate Katie Breza, a junior, also enjoyed her as a captain. “She had a lot of team spirit and was very helpful and supportive,” said Breza. “She was also welcoming to all of the new members,” Breza added.

Along with most people, Ford likes to win. “Especially after all the work put in, we got to see it pay off,” recalled Ford. Even though the coaches are new this year, she thinks they are amazing, and they motivate and lead the team well. Her teammates also motivate her and make the hard work easier. “They go through what I go through,” said Ford. Although she doubts she will be on a college swim team, Ford plans to continue swimming on her own. “It calms me, and helps whenever I get stressed. My mind drifts whenever I’m swimming,” explained Ford.

Junior Hidayah Williams is new to Park View this year. Williams’s athletic journey began when she started gymnastics. Eventually, Williams’s interest in cheerleading grew. Finally, in 7th grade, she began cheering. “Cheering is my distraction and a getaway,” William’s shared. Her mom is serving in the military, which has caused her to move around a lot. This has made it difficult to make new friends, but cheerleading has changed that. “Williams explained, “The people I cheer with are not just my friends, they are more like a family to me.”

Her coach is her biggest supporter. She keeps Williams and her teammates optimistic and “she pushes us to the best we can,” she added.

Once cheerleading is over Williams’s wants to become a part of the track team in the spring to keep her busy, active, and in shape.

One of the things she likes best is competing. She always gets a bit nervous when she is about to perform, and is afraid of falling or even forgetting the routine.

Williams believes that cheer is a great way to stay active, have fun, and create a family environment.

The only thing she does not like about cheer is how time consuming it is. It is difficult to keep up with things like homework and her friends; however, when she does get free time she enjoys to listen to her favorite music, hang out with her friends, or even just relax. She is planning on attending college, but is unsure of where she would like to go. Williams plans on continuing her cheerleading career in college. Williams’s believes that you can get through everything because “everyday holds something new.” She is an outstanding cheerleader who hopes to inspire others to do what they love most.
**Athletes of the Season**

Senior Dylan Sieng has been a wrestler for five years and, in that time, he has broken 100 wins and has good chance of becoming a career leader.

Sieng has only lost three of his twenty matches and said, “It is disappointing, but then again, it wakes me up and shows me what I need to work on for later on.”

The Park View wrestlers have continued working hard this season, and Sieng has contributed to the hard work and leadership on the team. Even with the new people on the team, the team still strives for it to be their best season yet. He and the other wrestlers are very confident in the team’s success and progress this year.

“We all make mistakes here and there,” Sieng explains, “but as the season’s going on, their picking up on it and becoming more aggressive.”

Everyone is also confident in Sieng’s personal performance this season. “He does well in practice,” Anh Dang says.

Wrestling is a tight knit group, and everyone has learned how to work together and help each other. Sieng works well with the freshmen and understands that they have to learn the basics before working on more advance things. Even though he is doing so well, he has not let it get to his head. He understands that he still needs to practice, and that there are always things to improve. The freshmen on the team enjoy working with him as well.

“He works very well with everyone and keeps the underclassmen in line when he has to. He knows when to pull back the reins on them,” stated Coach Damico.

Coach Damico added, “It’s a pretty good feeling to have a kid like Dylan on the team, someone who is good but has the ability to get better. Seeing how he was as a freshman to now as a senior having a chance to break all sorts of school records.”

He has the respect from his teammates and works very hard to reach his personal best. Even though he has such a great opportunity to get a career win, he tries to remain focused.

“I try not to think about it. The season isn’t over yet,” Sieng said.

Sieng has been a great contribution to Park View’s wrestling team.

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**Ballin’ With Baltimore**

Jonathan Baltimore is a junior and this is his first year playing on the varsity boys’ basketball team. Baltimore has been playing basketball since he was five years old. His dad was a basketball coach and began to teach him the rules and fundamentals of the sport.

“Basketball isn’t just a game to me; it’s been part of my life since I was a kid,” said Baltimore. In three words, he described the game as physical, intense, and nerve-racking.

Mr. Zach Orchant, the coach of the varsity boys basketball team, said, “JB has that passion, he plays his heart out. In some aspects you could say he is too emotional but that’s a good thing.”

Baltimore also plays football as well. He has many strengths such as having the fewest turnovers out of all five starters on the team and being the leading scorer. He is the only player to have scored over 100 points thus far this season.

“JB’s strength as a basketball player would definitely be scoring,” said Saif Quareen, a freshman on the team. Every athlete has a weakness, even the ones that we think are the best. Baltimore says that one weaknesses would have to be speed on the court, but he does not let that get in his way of being the best he can be.

Baltimore’s role model when it comes to basketball is NBA player, Kevin Durant who plays for Oklahoma City Thunder. Baltimore explained, “Yeah I would definitely pursue a career, it depends on if I get an offer.”

Like any sport would, basketball consumes a lot of Baltimore’s time. It is easy to see how busy he is because of his basketball schedule. Between having two hour practices, multiple games per week, and going to the gym for extra practice, Baltimore’s time commitment has been enormous and worthwhile.

Like most athletes, he has a pregame ritual. “I actually pray before every game,” said Baltimore. He felt very excited when he received the news that he had earned a position on the varsity team because he knew right away that the team had a lot of potential.

“If I could choose one word to describe JB, it would be family because he’s been like a brother to me for a long time,” said Quareen.

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On January 29th, Park View held a Reality Store for the senior class.

The Reality Store is an event where each student is given a job, salary, and family situation at random. The students are then supposed to visit different booths; buying things such as homes, cars, groceries, insurance, and child care.

The goal of the Reality Store is to give insight towards the duties and responsibilities that generally one has after college.

Some students were more successful than others because of the jobs they were assigned and the way they handled the situation.

Seniors Nico Drennan and Sarah Sultan chose to hypothetically get married which gave them more money and opportunities even though there were more expenses.

Sultan stated, “I wasn’t happy being a stonemason but my salary wasn’t too bad.” After buying all the necessities they needed for a month, Sultan and Drennan were excited to see that they still had money left over.

Other students were not as fortunate as those who succeeded.

Senior Isabella Pinoe found that she was not successful in the end. She stated, “I failed because I didn’t take life as serious as I should.”

More students found that they had the same problem as Pinoe. After making essential purchases that is necessary for survival, students realized that they were left with little to no money.

Financial instability is a concept that students became aware of and the Reality Store allowed students to explore options that one can take when getting into a struggling situation.

Even though some students were more successful in the end than the others, everyone learned from this experience.

Students with more money learned how to spend reasonably and students with less money learned how to ration the little money they had.

There were also many professionals at the event to give students advice and to guide them in the right direction.

There is no doubt that the Reality Store helped students to prepare for what could be in store in the future.

Overall, the Reality Store was a huge hit at Park View High School for not only the students, but for teachers as well.

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

**Joe’s Pizzeria**
Joe’s Italian Pizzeria serves lunch, dinner, and 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: 7:00 A.M. - 10:00 P.M.
Sunday: 8:00 A.M. - 9:00 P.M.
Spirit Club is an organization that aims to encourage students to become more actively involved in school events and to unify the school community. “We put on events and complete projects to help support students in athletics, fine arts, and other activities,” shared Mr. Michael Vereb.

Spirit Club has been led by only a few individuals, but they have been growing in their organizational skills and concern for others. They have practiced a sort of “leadership” where their efforts have been dedicated to helping those around them, with very little recognition for the work they have completed. “I hope that the Spirit Club helps teach our student body about supporting others. High school is really the most unifying thing in any community, and I want the Spirit Club to be a part of enhancing the community,” added Mr. Vereb. The club helps create an environment where students are excited to be involved in the school and where being a spectator involves active engagement rather than passive participation.

Spirit Club was formed at the beginning of this school year by Coach Andrew Robertson and Coach Bryan Gallo. The Club meets Monday mornings at 8:15 every week in Room 2222 to plan out what events and activities they will complete that week. They look over the athletic calendar and brainstorm spirit-building events and also consider what other clubs are active in the school so they can support them. Coach Robertson and Coach Gallo had the idea of creating the Spirit Club, and Mr. Vereb decided to also become involved. He thinks that they are all driven by a similar desire to see a place where the student body can enjoy spending time together before going to support both our men’s and women’s basketball teams in a double-header. Be on the lookout for other exciting events during our spring sports season!

Park View has many clubs and one of the newest additions is the Photography and Video club. In this club members participate in activities such as taking pictures of students, other clubs, and much more. They record videos of messages that could help make the world a better place, such as bullying prevention and texting and driving.

The club sponsor Ms. Michelle Menna teaches history, but she also teaches photojournalism and is in charge of Park View’s yearbook, which makes her a perfect choice for club sponsor. “I love the passion the students in this club have for photography and film” said Mrs. Menna.

Junior Luis Ramos, was actually the one to approach Ms. Menna and asked her to start this club. When asked why he wanted to start a club such as this one, he replied that “it’s a way to tell people about problems in this school, also just the fact that we have so many clubs and not this one.” Ramos says “it’s a very fun club and we’re always learning something new. Clubs are never amazing in the beginning, but they get better”.

He hopes that in the near future more people will join the club. In the Photography portion of the club, members take pictures of many different things. Some of their photos even make it into the yearbook. “They are energetic about taking pictures as well as learning about different ways to catch the perfect shot, it also surprises me to see how many members want to attend Park View after school events to take pictures,” stated Ms. Menna.

Students that show interest in Photo/Video club should consider taking their passion one step further, and take either a yearbook or journalism class. “I don’t think students should choose this club instead of taking yearbook or journalism. I hope that this club will guide students into choosing to take one of those classes,” stated Ms. Menna. However, this club does help students with an interest in photography to practice without using an elective in their schedules. Photography/Video club teaches skills that could benefit students in the future and gives them the ability to have a great time and learn something new.

Recording Memories with Park View’s Photo/Video Club
by Mamona Raja

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Patriot Mystery Spotlight
by Kisha Lim and Ibtisam Tora

Hey fellow Patriots! The Patriot Press Staff has a new addition to our newspaper. Each edition, we will choose a random student to be our “Mystery Spotlight” and you have to guess who that student is based on the description we give you. If you choose to participate, please leave your guess in the Mystery Spotlight box outside of Room 203 with your name, 8th grade number. If you are the student we pick, you win a prize.

This edition’s Mystery Spotlight has been a football lover since day one, loves to work out, and is a big fan of classic rock. This student was born on August 27th, 1999, and is currently a sophomore at Park View high School. His favorite class is biology, “I find it a lot more interesting than all of my other classes,” said this edition’s Mystery Spotlight. As he is almost half way through his high school career, he has set a goal to attend his dream school, Virginia Tech University. In his free time he will often be hooked on watching Breaking Bad, his favorite show of all time. When he is not watching his favorite show, he loves playing with his dogs, Rebel and Murphy. “I’m a dog person,” explained this edition’s Mystery Spotlight. This is because of his past bad experiences with cats.

This edition’s Mystery Spotlight is a part of the varsity football team, and has been since his freshman year. He is on the defensive line and plays center. “I love playing football and hitting people, it relieves stress,” explained this edition’s Mystery Spotlight. Football has been a part of his family forever and is now the reason why he plays football.

Along with being involved with football, he enjoys listening to music. He appreciates all types of music, such as classic rock and R&B. One of his favorite rappers is Big E. This dog loving, well-rounded football fanatic is an all-around good person who gets along with people in his community. One day he wishes to travel the world, get into his dream college, and be successful.
Sophomore
Amy Luu

Arkay Luu, a sophomore, is a hardworking and well-rounded person. Her parents are from Vietnam, but she was born and raised in America. She is the youngest in her family while having one older sibling. Luu takes her education very seriously but also manages to have a good time. “I am serious about it sometimes, but sometimes I’m not,” she said. She takes all honors classes and AP World History. Her favorite classes, she said, would be P.E./Health and Biology.

Her goals for the future are set high. She wishes to attend the University of Virginia. It is her first choice and dream college. She hopes to keep up with her studies and is a very determined student.

In her spare time, Luu participates in extracurricular activities such as FEA (Future Educators Association) and FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America). In addition to clubs, Luu plays on Park View’s JV girls basketball team. “Basketball is my favorite thing to do outside of school,” she explained. She also does track & field during the spring.

At home, Luu has a large collection of sunglasses. She buys and finds all types of colorful and stylish sunglasses she can find. “I am close to fifty pairs of sunglasses now,” stated Luu. When she’s at home she also likes to relax by watching television. “I don’t watch TV much, but when I do, I watch competition shows that are usually on the food channel,” Luu added.

With the support of her friends, family, and her determination, her success will be inevitable.

Senior
Nina Motazedi

Mighty, mighty senior Nina Motazedi is an intelligent and wonderful Patriot. She is loving her senior year and really enjoys her classes. Motazedi hopes to graduate high school as well as earn senior exam exemptions.

Her favorite classes this year are AP Chemistry and AP Literature. AP Chemistry is one of her favorite classes so far this year. “It’s fun going into depth about what we learned last year,” she said about the class. Motazedi also enjoys AP Literature. “It’s fun seeing the different possibilities in a novel,” she said.

She also is a member of several clubs. She participates in Mu Alpha Theta, The National Honor Society, French Club, Global Ambassadors, It’s Academic, and the SCA. She joined Mu Alpha Theta because math is one of her favorite subjects. She is also a part of French Club because she loves to learn about the French Culture. When talking about It’s Academic, she said, “You learn a lot and makes good friends.” Motazedi is part of SCA because it makes you feel more involved.

After she leaves high school, Montazedi hopes to attend either one of the following colleges: George Mason University, the University of Virginia, or the College of William and Mary. She has not decided which one she would like to attend, but says that they are all good in-state colleges. Motazedi also states that she “wants to be closer to home.” Motazedi is hesitant about declaring a major because she is interested in Psychology, International Relations, and Law.

When Motazedi was asked to give some advice to underclassmen, she said “Don’t procrastinate, challenge yourself, and plan things out.”

Junior
Dakota Clark

Dakota Clark is a hardworking student when it comes to school. His main focus are his grades and he is always striving for excellence. He mentioned that his success is partly due to the staff, “I really like all the teachers at Park View.”

Clark has been part of marching band for the past three years. He enjoys marching band because they have a lot of fun but also work extremely hard. He also loves color guard, and always works to get better.

Although marching band and color guard are the two sports he is passionate about, he thinks soccer would be a fun sport to participate in as well. When Clark is not at school or practice, he enjoys hanging out with his friends. He is an outgoing student that can achieve anything by just working hard.

He has had a great high school experience so far, and hopes for it to continue. His goal is to go to college. He would like to attend The University of Central Florida. “I like Florida. The temperature is really nice and they have a lot of great programs,” he shared. Clark would also like to remain active in marching band and color guard in college while majoring in German.

He would like to give a small piece of advice to all students, especially freshmen. “Don’t freak out. High school is not that scary,” he said. As and upperclassman, he is more than willing to help any students who need help.

Clark also already has in mind what his senior year is going to be like. He hopes to have more free time. He also wants his senior year to be as fun as possible and relaxing. Although he has been great time during his junior year, he wants to have even better experiences next year while putting in all his effort to achieve his goals and succeed with all his work.

Freshman
Caleb Donofrio

Freshman Caleb Donofrio, a freshman, considers himself to be a hardworking and determined person who always strives for success. “Whatever I am working for, or trying to accomplish, I work hard to get it and don’t stop until I do,” he said. Many of his friends will also attest to his character. “Caleb’s an amazing friend, super outgoing, truthful and respectful,” stated one of Donofrio’s closest friends, freshman Javier Pleitez.

Donofrio not only enjoys spending time with his friends, but stays active by skateboarding and playing football.

He started playing football when he was seven years old, and plans to continue playing throughout high school. He was on both the JV and Varsity football teams this past fall.

Although playing a sport and handling school work might be difficult, Donofrio managed it just fine. “Yeah it made it hard to find time to get my work done, but my parents helped me after practice and after games to get it done,” he explained. Although he loves football and wants to play in college, he does not plan on pursuing a career.

Donofrio is unsure of which college he would like to attend, but is positive he will go. “Of course I want to go, I want to be someone in life and have a good job. I don’t want to be the person being told what to do, I want to be the person who’s telling others what to do. I won’t get that just with a high school diploma,” he said. Although he does not know exactly what kind of career he wants, he says that he does not want to be confined to an office. “I have always wanted to travel, and what better way to do it than getting paid for it,” stated Donofrio.

With the support of his friends, family, and her determination, her success will be inevitable.
### Mrs. Kelley
**English**

Mrs. Brittany Kelley is very excited to be teaching English and AVID at Park View High School this year. Altogether, Mrs. Kelley has taught for four years. Mrs. Kelley loves spending time with her family, baking cookies, and knitting. She is heavily inspired by her students and loves helping students achieve their ambitions. “You guys have so much life ahead of you, and watching students realize their dreams is awe-inspiring.” Mrs. Kelley enjoys teaching and helping others succeed, and she plans on doing it for the rest of her life. “I have tried other careers, and nothing is as fun, or rewarding as this one,” she stated.

Mrs. Kelley wants to help young people be the best that they can be, and firmly believes reading and writing skills are a huge part of success in life after high school. She also loves books, and thinks teenagers are hilarious. She says it is the “perfect combination.” Mrs. Kelley’s favorite quote is, “Folks are usually about as happy as they make their minds up to be.” She has high expectations for her students and has study habits she recommends to them to enable them to succeed.

Mrs. Kelley recommends that her students outline their notes, re-read them, and summarize what they read. She also believes it is best to study without electronics, as they can be a distraction and often prevent students from getting the full benefits of studying.

Outside of school-related activities, Mrs. Kelley is busy taking care of her one-year-old son and watching football. Among the different sports that he plays, football is her favorite. His favorite football team is the Washington Redskins. “I say it proudly although most shutter at the name,” she says.

Mr. Johnson shared, “In the summer of my sophomore year of high school, I lost two good friends of mine within a month. In those instances, I realized just how short life can be and I wanted to live a life that made an impression on people.” This unfortunate event inspired him to become a teacher. He was sure that government was definitely the subject he wanted to teach because he feels as if most people do not fully comprehend how it works. “I always wanted to teach AP so it was cool to get to that right off the bat,” he shared. He appreciates the dynamic at Park View and commented, “The community’s very supportive. It’s very much a role-with-the-punches kind of group.”

Some of his hobbies include fishing, rock climbing and playing sports. Among the different sports that he plays, football is his favorite. His favorite football team is the Washington Redskins. “I say it proudly although most shutter at the name,” he says.

Mr. Johnson says he’s proud to be here at Park View! “This is not me sucking up, looking through the experiences and obstacles it took to get to this point, it’s overwhelming to have made it.”

### Mrs. Friedman
**Marketing**

Mrs. Lindsay Friedman is the new marketing teacher. Before coming to work for Park View, she studied at Virginia Tech University. “They had a great business school and I wanted to go to school in a college town,” she commented.

When she was in high school she took every marketing to school in a college town, “she commented. Eventually she made her way to marketing in college.

The diversity that Park View has to offer is the main reason she decided to teach here. “I love how diverse Park View is, and I knew that this is where I wanted to teach. My students are very engaged and involved in their classes,” she stated. Which makes loving her job really easy. “The teachers are very wonderful as well,” she added.

In marketing she teaches about goods and services and how they are distributed to consumers. She also teaches a lot about advertising, promotion, and careers too.

Some of her favorite hobbies include spending time with her family, watching sports, reading, home projects, and going to new restaurants to try new foods. Mrs. Friedman loves to travel to warm places, especially the beach. She enjoys going to Florida because her parents live there. “Even though it’s sometimes hard to find the right timing to go somewhere nice,” she said. Park View is incredibly happy to have such a wonderful new teacher.

### Mrs. Klug
**Science**

Mrs. Lisa Klug is a new Earth Science teacher this year. Although it is her first year teaching at Park View, she has taught various aspects of Earth Science in other locations. She has had a long history in the area of science. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Anthropology with a concentration in Archaeology and Paleobotany. It took about eight years to complete her schooling to obtain her degree, but with her dedication she was able to succeed.

Mrs. Klug was an archaeologist for 15 years. As an archaeologist, she worked in many different areas of the United States. “When I worked in the Northeast, I worked on projects excavating and analyzing the early history of New York City, as well as Ellis Island,” she stated. She also worked on various projects in the Midwest related to the late prehistoric period as well as a very big project with a prehistoric time span of about 5000 years in the West.

Afterwards, Mrs. Klug was an Assistant Director for the Paleobotany lab at UCLA. There she trained students to process soil samples, identify plant remains and research historic records so they could use them. “We analyzed plant remains from archaeological sites with the purpose of discovering what types of plants were used for food, fuel, and medicinal purposes by prehistoric Native Americans. Other Archaeologists would contract us to process, identify, and analyze the plant remains from their sites,” she said. She was responsible for the final analysis of the plant remains and would report the findings to other archaeologists.

Later, Mrs. Klug joined the Loudoun County Public School system as a special education assistant. “I really enjoyed that position. I was assigned two students that I worked with in their classes. I really liked trying to discover how I could get them to learn information that was challenging for them,” she explained. Eventually she made her way to Park View, where she has been an extraordinary asset.
Park View is home to some of the most amazing school spirit. During the week of Bermuda Day, students got psyched up by dressing up for the different spirit days, such as Mathlete/Athlete Monday, Tired Tuesday, Wacky Wednesday, and Throwback Thursday. On Friday, students dressed up in summer attire for Bermuda Day, where students participated in fun games that really got the crowd pumped.

Bermuda Day was a fun celebration that was not only an enjoyable event, but a charitable one as well. Every morning, students would contribute money for Project Linus and Loudon County United Way. In total, the Park View community raised $7,500 dollars. Each grade raised an extraordinary amount of money that really showed how giving the community is important to students at Park View.

During the Bermuda Day games, each class put up a good fight as they hurdles, jumped, and ran, but the Junior class took the spirit stick because they raised an incredible $1,800 dollars. Even the teachers got in on the fun during the Bermuda Day festivities. All in all, Bermuda Day was a major success that provided for many entertaining moments.

Photos by Liana Jackley

Photos by Larry Wharton