



Photo by Jennifer Slosarik

Dignitaries cut the ribbon at the opening of the newly renovated PHS stadium.

PHS Stadium Gets a Make-over

By Esteban Febles

The renovations to the stadium are almost done. These updates are long overdue and will have an impact on the sports teams that will play and practice there. Varsity Football Coach Delzotto mentioned that he and the team are very excited about the changes, that they have a new found excitement for their sport and that they want to compete and practice more inside this new stadium. Even though the Coach

was not consulted in the renovation process, he likes all the changes. The Passaic Athletic Director was in charge of the process.

It has been a long time since anything has been modified within the stadium and now everything will be renovated. That's extremely good news for the athletes in our school, specially the freshmen and of course the class of 2013 since we get to be the first to walk the grass at graduation in the newly renovated sta-

dium. Most students seem to really like the renovations and are excited about having a nice new stadium for sports and graduation.

The vice-principals are also pleased with the new stadium. It's about time that Passaic starts getting some changes. Hopefully these changes aren't the end, but instead the beginning for many to come throughout Passaic and its schools. "Our stadium will be the best in New Jersey," said Coach Delzotto.

Please follow all the latest important PHS news at our new website – hilltopstar.com



Photo by K. Fuller

DECA members Dyra Serda, Aldercy Batista, Loisy Holquin, and Daisy Salamanca, tell students what DECA is all about.

DECA Week Activities a Success

By Loisy Holquin

Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA) prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs in marketing, finance, hospitality and management in high schools and colleges around the globe. Formerly known as Delta Epsilon Chi, it is listed by the Department of Education as a career and technical student organization.

DECA week was held during the week of November 26-30, for the purpose of supporting the DECA organization. Many activities, supporting the DECA organization in PHS,

were held with great success. Most activities were student directed, but many were also for the teachers.

DECA awareness day was an informational day to make everyone aware of what DECA is, what it was a fun activity to get great facts about the DECA organization stands for, and how it benefits the youth of PHS. The scavenger hunt was a fun activity day where students scavenged facts about the DECA organization and received help from the wonderful staff of the Business Education Department.

The diamond day contest, was a new activity where gold

diamonds were placed around the school. The student who collected the most diamonds won. This year, sophomore Ahmir Glover was very excited when he won the contest.

The teachers also got in on the DECA action. On teacher appreciation day, teachers received thank you notes from their students and enjoying sweet treats in the faculty cafeteria during lunch periods. Teachers also donated money to DECA so that they can have a dress down day on Friday, November 30. These contributions helped support DECA's mission to raise funds for Hurricane Sandy victims.

Passaic, Are You Ready For PBSIS?

By Elizabeth Tlatelpa

Early in September, Passaic High School kicked off the school year with a mandatory kick-off. Positive Behavior in Schools (referred to as P.B.S.I.S form here on after) is a state mandated program, created by Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. This program is designed to lower the amount of negative behavior in school as well as reducing the sum of referrals to the principal's office. The most common challenges faced by school staff is the importunate behavior of students and discipline problems. This type of actions is where P.B.S.I.S comes to the rescue.

The kick-off day was an initial ceremony symbolizing the commitment of staff to students, and vice versa to this program, here at Passaic High School. Dr. Barbosa head vice principal of the freshman class as well as our administrator of P.B.S.I.S, is greatly excited about the overall program. Even though Passaic is viewed as having lower standards than other counties, Dr. Barbosa thinks otherwise. She believes students here at Passaic High School, have the potential to become refined, sophisticated, ethical, citizens of the community.

Caught doing a noble deed such as, wearing proper uniform, or ID, avoiding profanity can result in earning a POP ticket (Passaic on Point). Within receiving a POP ticket, the student is eligible to participate in a monthly drawing in which he or she can win a prize like an, iPod, Kindle etc. All in all P.B.S.I.S is promoting good behavior for students, we don't expect a miracle but small steps at a time make a big difference, according to Dr. Barbosa. Passaic High School let's show Passaic and ourselves that we can change and better our school community as a whole.



PBS-IS Caught Being Good Ticket

Name: _____

H.R. / Grade: _____

Staff Member: _____

Teacher: Sign before giving to student.
Student: Fill out and place in POP bin.

Photo by staff

LMTI Shows Teachers a Random Act of Kindness

By Daisy Reyes

PHS senior, Cassidy Evering had the idea that students can make a big difference by simply showing a random act of kindness and that one act of kindness, however small, can change the entire school culture. This idea was an offshoot of a summer camp activity she attended, presented by the Lindsey Meyers Teen Institute, where students saw how random acts of kindness can change people's perspectives.

The Lindsey Meyer Teen Institute (LMTI) is a teen program of the Lindsey Meyer Memorial Foundation, a non-profit organization. Their mission is to guide young people to realize their leadership potential and become empowered to create positive changes in themselves, their

schools, and their communities.

With all the stresses of the normal start of the school term, this year especially, Evering and other LMTI members wanted to show teachers and other staff just how much they are appreciated and valued by the student body. She used the imagery of the age old apple for the teacher as the perfect random act of kindness, by giving teachers apple themed gifts in their mailboxes every Thursday in September. Teachers received apples, apple juice, and applesauce.

Teachers seemed to really enjoy the kind thoughts of gratitude from students. Perhaps, these random acts of kindness were passed on from LMTI students, and then passed on to other classes, and maybe, just maybe, change the culture of PHS, making it just a little nicer.

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DECA Officers Gain Leadership Skills at Conference

By Lisaura Garcia

DECA officers and advisors attended the NJDECA Colt Conference at the Boys and Girls Club of Clifton, New Jersey, on October 17th. At this conference the Northern Region DECA officers gained leadership skills needed to facilitate DECA activities throughout this school year. Advisors also gained valuable professional development. All the activities were not only fun but very informative.

DECA officers were welcomed by state officers and then introduced to motivational speaker Keith Hawkins of Real Inspirations, Inc. Hawkins helped to customize the DECA program to help local chapters of the organization. "He really is able to connect on a personal level with everyone who hears him speak," said Senior Lisaura Garcia. "He speaks with conviction, purpose, and passion." More than a motivational speaker, Hawkins also en-

tertained his audience, by inspiring them to make changes in themselves, their education and their career.

Attendees from Ridgewood, Fairlawn, Leonia and Vernon High School attended this meeting, and were able to meet with each other. They completed various team building activities to get to know people from other schools. "Getting to know members of DECA from other schools allowed us to see how DECA positively affects the lives of students around New Jersey," said Senior Ana Mestre.



(Above) PHS DECA students meet with motivational speaker Keith Hawkins at conference. (From left to right) Lisaura Garcia, Jenny Sanchez, James Murray, Ana Mestre, Loisy Holguin, Tatiana Contreras, Keith Hawkins, Mrs. Fuller, Mrs. Sadlon, and Erika Carrion.



(Left) Lisaura Garcia, Nakayla Lloyd, and Ana Mestre pose for a picture during a break for breakfast.

Dreams Can and Do Come True

By Guadalupe Carmona

A path of hope was opened to many young undocumented students and it comes in the form of the DREAM (Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors) act. This law would allow undocumented students to have a legal status in the country and pursue their careers paths successfully without facing the risk of deportation. You have to remember that there are certain requirements to be eligible to apply.

The DREAM Act is legislative bi-partition proposal first intro-

duced in the Senate on August 1, 2001 by Dick Durbin and Orrin Hatch. It has gone through several stages of revision and reintroduction. It has been a long, rough road to passage this law. On June 15, 2012, President Barack Obama announced that his administration would stop deporting young undocumented immigrants who match certain criteria previously proposed under the DREAM ACT. What speaks well of this legislation as it would boost up the economy and reduce deficit by about \$1.4 billion over the 2011-2020 period. This would also increase projected deficits by

more than \$5 billion in at least one of the four consecutive 10-year periods starting in 2021 according to a December 2010 report by the Congressional Budget Office and the Joint Committee on Taxation. Basically by giving these young teens access to easier access to colleges, funds and work permits it would be an immensely beneficial and also radical measure that would pay off every penny put into it. It's a chain effect, these young individuals get a better education, which leads to better positions, more jobs being created, and a major contribution to the economy.

Eligibility Requirements

- To be no older than 30 years
- To have arrived to the US before the age of 16 and have resided in the country for 5 or more years continuous years.
- The applicant must have graduated from High School, obtained a GED or currently be enrolled in College, a Trade School or another type of Institution for Higher Learning.
- To continue to reside in the US
- Have a clean criminal record/ (people who do not are immediately ineligible to apply)

Sources: <http://dreamact.info/>, www.immigrationpolicy.org/issues/DREAM-Act, www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis

To many of you, this is the piece of hope that was keeping you from reaching your full potential. All you have to do is strive to do your best because there are those of you out there who are looking to take advantage of this great opportunity. A word of advice is that many of you may be seniors, so remember not to mess up this last year. For the lower classmen, remember that High School is never a time to slack off, and now that you have this opportunity stay out of trouble in and outside of school, and remain focused. For all of those feeling helpless; dropping

out it's no longer an option, do this for yourself and your future!

For those taking the chance at this OPPORTUNITY (There is no better word for it) be cautious. Remember to always seek a lawyer before getting anything done. There are scammers who will keep you from your dreams and the money you are willing to invest for pursuing them! Inform your parents, and inform yourself, don't be fooled by individuals. Only seek information from legal sites like the official US immigration service's website (<http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis>).

Scene in the Hall

Courtesy of Ashley Casarrubias



A Messages From Your VP

Freshmen from Mrs. Barbossa:

"Stay focused, positive and on task and remember that our office is always open to you."

Juniors from Mrs. Taylor:

"Do your absolute best. Know that every great achievement was once considered impossible. Believe in yourself, believe that that anything is possible, believe that you can make things possible then do what is possible."

Seniors from Mr. Estrick:

"Pay for your fines, serve your centrals, go to class, respect everyone in this school at all times and I'll see you on the turf on June."

New Teacher Joins PHS Faculty

By Henry Hernandez

Ms. Kush has joined the faculty of the science department here at PHS to teach chemistry. Graduating from William Smith College in Geneva, NY, she wants to teach in Passaic because the science department here is so well run. She wanted to convey her appreciation to her colleagues in the science department for all their help and professional.

She knew from her own school experience that she too wanted to become a chemistry teacher. Mr. Morse her high school AP chemistry teacher inspired her to teach, and teach chemistry to high school students.

Ms. Kush is excited about teaching this year and she wants to get some students excited about Chemistry!

"Each day I am more excited to teach my students," Ms. Kush said.

Vadimvon/Grave/Dark Funeral/Morbid Angel Live at BB King's NYC 9/26/12

By Guadalupe Carmona

Vadimvon, Grave, and Dark Funeral hit BB King's in NYC to support the tour of death metal legends Morbid Angel. Though many fans were disappointed with Morbid Angel's last album release, they surely made their presence known and filled up the legendary jazz club.

Vadimvon managed to warm up the crowd, despite lacking a drummer and having faulty drum tracks. A relatively unknown band they surely earned some fans with their dedication and songs. As they ran out the few minutes left of their set, they to conclude without a last song all thanks due to the drum tracks which were impossible to be redeem and gave the stage to Grave.

Sweden's death metal pioneers, Grave, with a 20 year plus career brought cemented their style, school vibe to the stage. They tore it down and made the crowd go wild starting up the first moshpits of the night. Unfortunately another technical difficulty their set was cut short by one song making room for their Swedish comrades Dark Funeral.

The "ineffable", corpse-pain wearing, "Kings of Swedish Black



Photos by Guadalupe Carmona

(above) Death Metal Band, Morbid Angel, from Tampa, Florida, performed for their exuberant fans. Pictured David Vincent (bass and vocals) and Trey Azaghoth (guitar).

(left) Swedish Band, Dark Funeral, bass player, Zornheim (Thomas Nilsson) performs at BB Kings, NYC.

metal," Dark Funeral lived up to that hype as they tore down the place and everyone in the crowd went wild. Their always loyal NYC fans screamed out their lyrics as they went crazy and the moshing pace picked up, for the evening.

Morbid Angel's long set did not include any of the newer songs. David Vincent AKA "Evil D" led the newer Morbid Angel line and tore the venue down. Their diehard fans were surely many as the whole crowd chanted to the old school Morbid Angel.

There was a moshing throughout their whole set which was acknowledged by David Vincent thanking the crowd every instance he had.

This was a great mix of performing bands. They each brought a different vibe to the

stage thus showing the NYC fans have a variety of taste for metal. The technical difficulties, though somewhat disappointing for some, weren't enough to ruin the night for the great bands and their loyal fans.

MOVIE REVIEW

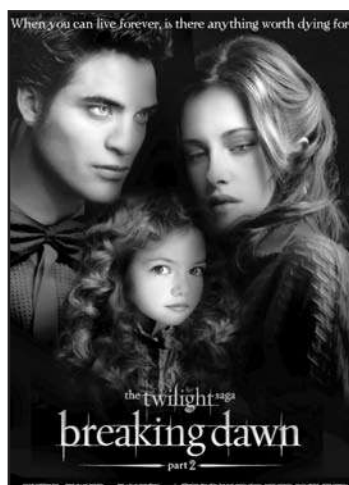
Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn, Part 2 Ends a Great Debate

By Daisy Cortes

Released on November 16, Breaking Dawn Part 2 instantly became the number 1 movie in America. In just one week it domestically grossed \$141,300,000. I was part of that tally, watching this film at Clifton Commons on opening night.

With this film, the Twilight saga is coming to a close. The last movie in the franchise finally ends the debate about the victory of either Team Jacob or Team Edward. In part one Bella nearly lost her life giving birth to her half-human, half-vampire daughter, Renesmee. The only thing that saved Bella's life was being turned into a vampire at the very last minute by her husband, Edward. Newborn vampire Bella awakened from her transformational slumber and wasted no time in trying her new supernatural vampire powers.

Unfortunately, after being reunited with her daughter Renesmee, Bella meets her one time



love interest and werewolf, Jacob. He vowed to protect her at all times. But they are separated, when spotted by Cullen family "cousin" Irina. Irina mistakes Renesmee for an "immortal child". Irina reports the Cullens to the Volturi, the vampire ruling class who want to maintain the purity of the vampire bloodline. They have their own secret police force, known for their ruthless handling of similar situations in the past.

In order to clear their names from the Volturi, the Cullen reveal the truth about Renesmee's parentage. The Cullens recruit a group of international vampire "witnesses" to help clear the Cullen name, or if the Volturi think they are guilty, help fight them to the death.

The action of this film is intense and the tension built throughout the entire saga really culminates in this final installment. If you are a Twilight junky this movie will not disappoint you. I wasn't disappointed. Sharing snacks and watching this movie with friends, is the perfect ending to a day.

Environmental Club Cleans Up

By Hilltop Star Staff

Seventy-three Environmental Science Club members successfully participated in a clean up day at Third Ward Park. Working from 8:00, on a SATURDAY, and continuing until Noon, they collected a full 23 bags of garbage. Club advisor Mrs. Anguiano supervised the project and would like to thank Mr. Gagliano, recycling supervisor of Passaic City, for supplying the students with gloves and plastic bags. She is also very proud of the students in the Environmental Science Club.

ASK AIDA

"Hey, I am being bullied at school because of my height. I'm very short and need to stop the bullying. What do I do?"

Anonymous

Dear Anonymous,

You asked a very good question. "What do I do?" Many people don't know what to do when they get bullied because they are afraid of the aftermath. If you are being bullied consulting a teacher you "trust" would be the best solution.

Another option is to talk to Mr. Estrick, his office is right by the Old Gym. Most of all you must know that you don't have to take it, so don't!

VIDEO GAME REVIEW

Leon and Chris Reunite for New Challenges in 'Resident Evil 6'

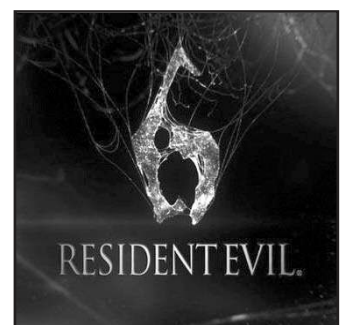
By Henry Hernandez

The new installment of the Resident Evil saga just came out October 2, and of course being a fan I went out and purchased a copy for myself. The game brings back old heroes such as Leon, Chris, along with appearance of another "special" character. I enjoyed the game; it was well worth the money.

The latest Resident Evil games have strayed away from what once put it at the top of the survival-horror genre. Now Resident Evil 6 brought back the

zombies but the game did not bring back the sense of fear that was felt for every encounter. There was fear for the character's life. The ammo was scarce and only used in dire situations. Now as long as one can achieve a kill, ammo is immense.

Also to achieve a kill is pretty simple. One has a variety of choices with varied weapons and also old fashion melee moves. The melee is nice but the fact that one can use them disappoints since in the original Resident Evil games one would never dare to attempt a melee



google images

move because of the fear of instant death.

Finally after reading a lot of reviews and playing the game myself, the game was fun yet it will never be as memorable as the first three games. It is worth the cost of admission but it is no classic.

THE HILLTOP STAR

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Memorable view of the PHS Stadium scoreboard showing the final score between Passaic and Clifton.

Photo by Jennifer Slosarik

INDIAN FOOTBALL

Team Tames Wild Mustangs

By Hilltop Star Staff

Passaic has not beaten Clifton for 13 years in the annual Turkey Day Game. That sad fact has now been remedied, because this year the Passaic Indians have beaten the Clifton Mustangs. "Beating Clifton is an unexplainable feeling!" said Senior Dennis Morris (fullback/linebacker), "I felt like I was playing for the city of Passaic, my coach, and most of all my brothers (teammates)."

The Passaic football team has had a difficult season, losing most

games. Students often criticized the team for not winning games, and many of the players were dejected and a little disheartened. However this season was the year that Passaic finally beat Clifton for the turkey day trophy. "We changed history, we rewrote it, our names will forever be remembered in the city of Passaic by the people, by our coaches, by everyone. I'll never forget how we finally came together and finished what we started," said Senior Bryan Espinoza (Left Tackle).

"This is the greatest feeling

ever," said Espinoza, "to beat Clifton in my senior year." "Hopefully this is the beginning of a new era in the Passaic football program," said Morris.

Only future games will prove whether this was just an aligning of planets, allowing the Passaic team to win, or if this is the beginning of a new era. Coach Delzotto believes that the success of this team was inevitable. "There ain't no indian that ain't been born that can't ride a wild mustang," said Delzotto, to motivate his team. They certainly did.



Photo by Jennifer Slosarik

PHS players celebrate after the final play of the game.

PASSAIC GIRLS' TENNIS

Tennis is not only a one-man game

By Jessica Correa

This year's girls' varsity tennis team is very competitive, but yet pretty young. "Most of the girls are just getting used to this level of competition," said coach Cotaldi. Although the team lost a lot of the varsity players, the team has worked very hard and made up the loss.

"Tennis is a team sport as well as an individual sport. If you are competitive but at the same time love the team spirit, tennis is perfect."

—Vidhi Gandhi

Krishna Patel playing in the third singles is the varsity tennis captain. "I chose Krishna Patel as our captain because she has been on the team for four years. She also has respect for her teammates due to her excellent work ethic. She has been the leader of this team since day one of the season," explained Cotaldi.

Krishna Patel has been interested in this sport all her life. "I've been watching tennis since I was a little girl," Patel commented. Being captain is very frustrating but also rewarding. During the journey of a season, the captain comes across challenges. "The greatest challenge I encounter during the season is not having enough confidence in my skills," Patel said. A side from

the frustration and the weight of being captain, Patel is enjoying this season. "... The girls on the team make it worthwhile. The coaches are the cherry on top of my fourth season."

Vidhi Gandhi, another Varsity player, has demonstrated her outstanding skills. She started to play tennis because most of her friends played. However, after a few practices she felt in love with the sport. "We are like a family, always motivating each other. I love the time I spend with the team," Gandhi stated. All great players have difficult times. Gandhi faced a great challenge this season. "...make up for all the 3 years I did not play tennis very well. I had to improve my game drastically in a very short period of time." After all

"This sport is more than just a man/woman sport a team sport. We win together, we lose together. When you start believing in yourself and in each other; that's what really makes the season memorable."

—Krishna Patel

the challenges that this team faced, they made it through together!

Both Patel and Gandhi want to see their team have future success so they offer this advice.

PASSAIC SOCCER TEAM

It's more than a game



Photo by Jessica Correa

The 2012 PHS Boys' Soccer Team.

By Jessica Correa

After asking some questions to both senior captains of the Varsity Soccer Team, Christian Arriaga and Robert C. Chavez, is clear that both have an amazing passion for this game.

Christian Arriaga plays center defensive middle. He started playing soccer at the age of 11 and since then he fell in love with this sport. "Soccer is like my escape from reality and just playing the game calms me down," said Arriaga. Robert Chavez is a midfielder. He's been playing this sport since he was little, although being forced by his dad to play at first; he ended up loving the game. "...as time passed I started playing more and more and now it's my passion," said Chavez. Coach Fazio explained that his captains were selected because they are true role models, leaders on and off the field, always putting their teammates first.

However, not only the captains show excellence. Fernando Calixto playing right defense shows many of those qualities. "In my 7

years as head Varsity soccer coach, he's the one kid all others should aim to become; well mannered, respectful, hardworking, dedicated and a good student," said Fazio. Calixto has been playing since he was 5 years old. "I really love this game. All my family members have been playing this sport. Soccer is my passion."

All of them agreed that it has been a challenging season for both the coaches and the players, both physically and mentally. "One of the greatest challenge I have encountered this season is being a senior and having all the younger players look up to me, knowing that I can't mess up...", stresses Arriaga. There have been a lot of obstacles that the guys have overcome from having nine players in the field to trying not to give up when the other team scores. However, this team knows how to stick together, to have the heart for the game. "...if we all step it up we can accomplish anything," expressed Chavez.

Some advice for students that might want to join the sport:

Coach Fazio: "Soccer is for you if you're in it for all the right reasons. Athletes need to be eligible meaning doing well with their academics, committed which is making to all practices and games. Last but not least: Coachable, respectful and well founded."

Christian Arriaga: "If you're planning to join this sport be ready to do a lot of conditioning training, working hard and being able to play as a TEAM and remember, no matter how hard things get keep your head up and keep working hard. Good things are bound to happen."

Robert Chavez: "I wish the best for every player. Always play with everything. Leave it all out on the field. Don't let anything stop you from winning and no matter how difficult the season might get, NEVER GIVE UP!"

Fernando Calixto: "If you are going to join be ready, this sport is very physical. You have to be ready to do a lot of exercise and a lot of conditioning. If you join this sport, work hard and never give up. Always play with your heart."