



10 Years
40 issues of the Hilltop Star in ten years!
Many thanks to our loyal readership.
Mrs. Yedwab and Mr. Massina

FAMILY DAY 2012

An Adventure in our own Backyard

By Ana Rojas

Family Day/ Afternoon of the Arts held on Sunday, April 29, 2012, at PHS was a day full of excitement and joy. Everyone was simply having a great time!

Many clubs took part in this event and put on some great performances held in the auditorium. The opening act was a presentation by the Mexican American Club which performed two dances, "La Bruja" and "El Jarabe Tapatio."

Up next, was the school band which livened up the audience! More and more exciting performances were given by Club India, NJROTC, and the Drama Club which presented excerpts from the play, *Once on this Island*. The audience showed its appreciation by applauding and cheering for each act.

People were walking around enjoying what the clubs had prepared. For instance, the Octagon Club had little kids making bracelets and Student Government ran a scavenger hunt which included a prize of a \$50 gift card. There also was balloon making and raffles.

However, the biggest event that families couldn't resist was the enticing aroma coming from the school cafeteria, where various clubs catered foods from around the world featuring a large variety of ethnic foods from Spanish to French to Polish to African- American.

Mayra Cabrera, a contributor to *The Hilltop Star*, noted that the Spanish section was filled with homemade dishes that were "to die



Photos By S. Yedwab

for." She also gave special mention to a typical dish featuring white rice, beans, chicken/pork, and macaroni salad. She really enjoyed this platter and recommended it to everyone.

Next, Cabrera was pleasantly surprised by the African American section. She recommended trying this food because of the sumptuous variety of side dishes. The combination of all the vegetables and poultry truly satisfied her.

Family Day has been a PHS tradition for more than ten years, and some of the faculty have been a part of it from the beginning. Ms Perez, one of the founders of Family Day, happily serving up Caribbean food, noted, "It's the one time of the year that teachers and students bring the community together to experience the flavor of our unique diversity."

French cuisine is always a treat on Family Day. This year, Mrs. Nesser and Mrs. McGuinness, both

long time veterans of Family Day, were offering croissants, French Bread, elephant ears and really yummy fresh strawberries.

When asked what this day meant to her, Mrs Nesser said, "Family Day is when the community is invited into the school to experience the diversity of the PHS Family."

To Jordaliz Cruz, a sophomore, who attended Family Day to support her class, Family Day was fun. She especially liked the idea of experiencing different nationalities and cultures.

Of course, everyone agrees that one of the best parts of this great day is that it's all FREE! In this day and age, that's the magic word that everyone loves to hear!

Towards the end of Family Day, everyone left with smiles on their faces and it made us feel great! We knew we'd done something right. I say it was a successful day here at PHS, but isn't it always?



Photos by M. Peña

ROBOTICS CLUB

Robots Invade PHS

By Guadalupe Garcia, Jenny Hernandez and Odalys Cabrera

Building a robot may seem so unrealistic because it's only seen on television, but things just got real. A group of PHS students in the Robotics Club, built a robot. Two of the creators, Leandro Villar and David Martin gave an interview to *The Hilltop Star*.

Apparently, the club used Textrex, something similar to legos, although made of metal, to build the robot (pictured below). Villar and Martin, along with club

members, worked with programmers. Aall the information was given to an individual that made a presentation, that involved the use of nuts and bolts to hold the pieces together.

According to the creators, building a robot had its ups and downs. For starters, time is a big asset in every project as well as supplies. "It wasn't too difficult to build a robot, but the fact is that we didn't have enough pieces. We had to go back to Paterson three

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Photo by S. Yedwab

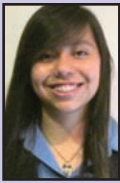
PHS students create a real live robot.

THE TOP FIVE PHS STUDENTS

#1 Paulina Cotzomi Valedictorian the Class of 2012

By Jenny Hernandez

As the school year comes to an end, the class of 2012 gets ready for its final celebration known as Graduation Day. After four years, the hard work finally pays off, especially for topped rank students of the class of 2012



Highest of all, this year's valedictorian, Paulina Cotzomi. in an interview with *The Hilltop Star*, revealed her happiness and humility concerning her class rank. "It is truly amazing. I never fancied the thought of being the valedictorian nor did the possibility of it ever cross my mind. It was a very pleasant and welcomed surprise," she exclaimed.

High school is not the easiest four years, but Cotzomi had enough time to make everything work and accomplish what she never strived to become. Cotzomi is motivated by a strong desire for success. "My wish is to succeed in life and to secure a bright future," she shared.

Cotzomi was very involved in extracurricular activities including taking guitar lessons because she missed being involved in the band. "I would hate to later look back on

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#2 Deepa Rana 2012 Salutatorian

By Gisel Santamaria

At the end of the road, Deepa Rana has been given the rank of number two in the senior class making her Salutatorian. Rana felt that it was an honor to be selected to this position.



She feels great to have achieved this rank because of the tough competition this year. Her motivation for achievement came from her parents. She said her parents strongly encouraged her throughout high school.

Rana has been a well rounded student in high school. She kept her grades up and has participated in many activities, including Interact, Future Meds, and Octagon Club. She has also volunteered at St. Mary's Hospital.

Additionally, Rana has held a variety of high positions. She has been president of the National Honor Society and the Zonta Club. She has also been Academic Team Commander in ROTC.

The teachers who have

Continued on page 2

#3 Jose Calixto Passionate about Life

By Yovanna Garcia

After a fascinating interview with number three in the class, Jose Calixto, there was no doubt that he is a hard-working, self-motivated student. He humbly stated, "It is an honor and privilege to be at the top of my class. It serves as evidence that with hard work and determination, anything is possible."



Calixto's motivation to succeed came from his parents. They were his inspiration and gave him all the drive to be persistent in school each and every day.

Because of his dynamic personality, it's not surprising that Calixto was able to balance academics and extracurricular activities. He was a member of National Honor Society, the Bio-Ecology Club, and the Varsity Soccer Team—Wow!

The teachers who influenced Calixto the most were Mr. Jernigan and Mrs. Savinskaya, who pushed him to become a diligent student.

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#4 Ruth Delgado Fantastic Fourth

By Guadalupe Garcia

At the top of her game, Ruth Delgado surprises herself by being one of the top five of her class. She had no idea how ranks were or how they worked. All she really wanted to do was to get good grades. This year, Delgado unexpectedly found out she was number four.



As she grew up, most of the people in Delgado's life didn't have much confidence in her. However, her parents pushed her to go above and beyond with her education. "My parents were always the ones to tell me to take advantage of the education given to me because, when they were kids, they never got a chance to get an education," said Delgado.

Throughout high school, Delgado found the time to get involved with the community. She would volunteer at her church or attend classes. Of course it's hard work, but Delgado enjoyed every second of it. "I got to meet so many amazing people, and I got to have many experiences that I will never forget," exclaimed Delgado.

Behind every great person, Continued on page 15

#5 Felix Zhang Journey to the Heights

By Odalys Cavbrer

Lastly, on the top rank, we have Felix Zhang who is graduating as number five. He was glad to have made it to the highest level of the Class of 2012.



Zhang told us that at the beginning of his freshman year, he wanted to set an example for others and do great in school. He also wanted an amazing social life. "I'm

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See 2012 Senior Baby Album on page 6

Viewpoints

Home Away from Home: *Living in the Dorm*

By Jennifer Rojas

Towards the end of high school, many seniors stress about whether or not to dorm in collage or to stay home and commute. Although many seniors decide that staying with their family is more convenient economically, others simply take that chance and apply for student loans. College in general isn't easy to pay for and neither is dorming, but you cannot put a price on an experience you're never going to forget.

Getting away from home can teach you what it's really like to have full responsibility for yourself. Being able to fend for yourself in different situations, that you would usually depend on your family for, like laundry and food, not only teaches you how to take care of yourself, but also makes you appreciate your family more. There is nothing greater than seeing all the things your family does for you, and having the right to say you can do it yourself.

Besides learning to fend for yourself, you get to share a wonderful experience with others. While dorming, you have the opportunity to meet people from all over the state and world. You have the potential to make friends with people from other cultures, which would never happen, if you just stayed in your town.

If you think you're not going to be able to dorm due to financial

troubles, don't let that stop you. Find different ways the state can help you, and think about taking out student loans. Don't let money limit you and all the places you can go. Take charge of your future, expand your horizons and take advantage of the experiences you are entitled to have.



www.citybeat.com

To Dorm or Not to Dorm: *It's Not for Everyone*

By Guadalupe Garcia, Odalys Cabrera and Jenny Hernandez

As the time approaches for college freshmen to make the decision whether to dorm or not, here are some highlights on what you may expect. Although dorming can be another step to freedom, it can also be a step to an environment full of distractions which may put your grades at risk; so be careful.

According to some college students, dorming was not that great of an experience. In some colleges, you can't expect to find a kitchen or your own private restroom in your dorm. Plus, running across campus is not as fun as it sounds.

Dorms are also known for small, limited space and no privacy, so if you think being at home is bad, imagine being miles away with no familiar faces that are in your business 24-7.

Sometimes, your roommate is not a guaranteed fit. There are

many personalities that can contrast with your own. Let's just say hygiene and cleanliness are not everyone's favorite things to deal with either.

Distractions are another thing to deal with while dorming, such as parties, boyfriends/girlfriends (just like high school) and the constant roaring in the hallways is impossible especially when you want to sleep; ALL THE TIME especially when you want to sleep.

Another problem is homesickness. If you're thinking of an out of state college, make sure you know someone in the area, or get that plane ticket booked to head back home. Dorm life can be very lonely when you don't know anybody. This is especially true when the "perfect" roommate isn't so perfect for you.

We're not saying there isn't an upside to dorming, but make sure the positives outweigh the negatives before you make the decision to dorm.

The Journey of High School Can Bring Much Satisfaction

By Gisel Santamaria

When we walked through the doors of our freshman year of high school, we had no idea what to expect. The environment and people could be really intimidating. We didn't know who to become friends with, or if our teachers would be mean. However, we soon realized we didn't have to be afraid because high school is a time to focus and to explore new things.

One should take advantage of everything high school has to offer from the sports to the clubs. The key is to get involved. When you join activities is when you make those lifelong friends, and where you find your strengths and weaknesses.

Joining extracurricular activities from the start of freshmen year is important. That's how you can move up and eventually hold an executive position in the club or become captain of the team you play for.

High school is a great experience. You learn and grow every minute you're here. Always remember that grades are important even when you

are freshmen. Colleges look at every grade. So start off your high school career strong, and end it strong too. When you finally do get accepted to college, that college will want a final transcript that includes your final grades.



Satisfaction Guaranteed

Trust me, when I say these things because I have had the pleasure of doing all this. I was secretary of LASO and Vice President of Zonta Club. I enjoyed every moment of it, and learned a lot. Interacting in clubs really

helped me grow and open up, and I learned not to be so shy. I was also able to go on many fantastic field trips like seeing *The Lion King* on Broadway in New York City.

All in all, one should take advantage of everything high school has to offer. One should never just come to school and go straight home because there is so much to do and see. when you take advantage of the opportunities given to you in PHS.

Just remember to stay involved, keep your grades up, and enjoy the overall high school experience. If you do this, at the end of your journey, you should be happy and proud at the path you took in high school just like I am.

Achieving Your Dreams: *Three Steps to Success*

By Diane Ortega

Many times in life, we as kids are given advice by the adults that surround us. Advice can come from parents or teachers, but also from our peers. Due to our age, the experiences and growth we go through are only tiny snapshots of what's to come. Hopefully you too will be able to reach your goals with the help of three simple steps of advice.

Perseverance is the first step. In life it is impossible to not hit a few bumps in the road or be blocked by the obstacles life puts in front of you. However, even when that happens, don't give up and don't back down. Even when times get tough, hold your head

up high. Continue to move on no matter how difficult it seems. As long as you persevere, you will surely reach your goal.

Keeping a positive mindset is the next step. I know that the conflicts we face every day; make it a struggle to always face each and every situation with an optimistic attitude. However, when life puts us down, getting back up requires determination and inner strength.

Try your hardest to keep a smile on your face and remember to be happy because, not only is that the most important thing in life, but it also gives you a better perspective on the subject and motivates you to keep on working harder.



www.clipart.com

Working hard is the last step. You can't expect to succeed without first putting your best foot forward. As long as you try your best, in the end, no matter what the outcome is, you will have nothing to regret because you already did all you could to

best of your ability. In the end, everything is possible, if you persevere with dedication, determination and, most importantly, a positive attitude.

www.radicalparenting.com

Don't Limit Yourself *Social Networks Expand Our World View*

By Alyssa Rivera

Social networks let us meet new people and keep in contact with old friends. They brings people together most of the time. I'm a cheerleader, so social networks have made my life somewhat easier because I can get in contact with people who are not near me. Also, it helps me stay updated on events around the world involving cheerleading.

However, even though I am surrounded by many people, social networking widened my social circle. For example, I met a famous football player, Adrian Peterson, from the Minnesota Vikings, through Twitter.

If it wasn't for that social network, I would never have met him. My point is social networks can add variety to someone's life. In addition, these network allow people who no longer live nearby to stay in contact.

Many people think that just because they live in Passaic, they are limited to Passaic. Most people do not realize that there is a whole world out there for everyone to explore and recognize. Due to social networks, they can expand their world view. Remember, there's more to life than what's just right in front of you.



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Graduation poetry contributed by the
Writer's Block Club

TOP 5 AT PHS: *Paulina Cotzomi* Continued from page 1

my high school years and realize that I just spent my time doing schoolwork," said Cotzomi.

In the interview, we found Cotzomi to be a super happy girl and proud of her accomplishments. She plans on attending FDU and majoring in chemistry to later attend veterinarian school because animals have played a major role in her life.

Cotzomi considers her teachers to be role models. Three teachers that stand out for her the most because they encouraged and influenced her are Ms. Kobus, Ms. King and Ms. Savinskaya.

As the interview ended, we asked her what advice she has for lower classmen. She replied,

"Focus on paying attention in class, doing your work, and doing your best. The good grades and ranks will inevitably follow while also ensuring an enjoyable experience in high school?"

Congrats to Paulina Cotzomi on a job well done!

TOP 5 AT PHS: *Deepa Rana* Continued from page 1

influenced her the most have been Mr. Jernigan and Mrs. Savinskaya because they challenged her the most and were always there to help her.

After high school, Rana plans on going to The College of New Jersey where she hopes to become either a nurse practitioner or a nurse anesthetist. We all wish her good luck.

National Honor Society Praises the PHS Crème de la Crème

By Yovanna Garcia

The National Honor Society is a national organization of students who have shown outstanding performance in academics as well as individuality. The students who are inducted into this prestigious group are expected to show excellence in areas of scholarship, leadership, service and character.

On May 24, 2012, the National Honor Society held its annual dinner in honor of the new inductees to this elite organization. Faculty, administrators and parents witnessed the new members'



inauguration; where each member pledged to maintain and uphold the four elements of the society.

The 2012 senior members received a rose. Each member was asked to give the rose to a person who steered him/her toward greater success in his/her life. It was a satisfying feeling for both the student and the person who was honored with the rose.

Undeniably, it was a memorable night for everyone who attended.

Kudos to Mr. Graham for organizing this cutting edge event!

Giving Back Dressing Up Africa

By Lodymer Pina and
Jennifer Rojas

Mrs. Gordon, teacher of Clothing 1 and Clothing 2, has found a great way to not only teach her students a thing or two about making clothes, but has also introduced the idea of giving back. Throughout the years, she and her classes have made and donated blankets for the homeless for the Salvation Army, tote bags for the Chestnut Nursing Home, and clothing for preemie babies in hospitals.

This year, Gordon decided to do something a little different. Hoping to broaden her horizons, Gordon was looking for a global project, when she stumbled across www.littledressesforafrica.org and was thrilled to get involved. Giving her students the chance to



Mrs. Gordon and her student displaying clothing especially made for Africa.

get involved along with her, has really made them happy.

The foundation accepts help from all over the world to give back to kids in Africa. Gordon, along with the help of her Clothing students, made dresses and then shipped them out to the foundation which sends them to the children in Africa who are in need. Gordon's students feel that it's a great way to give back. The project actually makes them

excited to go to class, knowing that they are helping to make a day better in the lives of children in need.

"I really enjoyed it! It was all for a good cause and was very enjoyable," said Kelly Lock, who worked on the project. Mrs. Gordon feels great about the hard work she her students have put into all their worthy causes. This proves that it is certainly better to give than to receive.

Jazz up Your Summer Five Great Family Vacations

By Diane Ortega

Planning a vacation is a much needed form of recreation. However, it could be stressful depending on how the planning goes. These are five vacation ideas that teens and their families will love.

The first place is Montreal, Canada which has a European feel. The city offers museums, boutiques and a club scene. All this makes Montreal a top pick among teens and parents. Montreal has street performers, jugglers and musicians that fill the former marketplace of Place Jacques-Cartier. Mount Royal rises above the center of the city offering beautiful parks, hiking trails and horseback riding.

The second place is San Diego, California which is full of beautiful beaches. San Diego's beaches are an outdoorsy counterpoint to the city's fabulous



<http://blog.paradizo.com/luxury-hotels/family-vacations-four-seasons/>

museums, world famous zoo, as well as the clubs and cafes of its Gas Lamp Quarter.

The third place is New Orleans's French Quarter which provides jazzy nightlife and outrageously wonderful dining possibilities.

The fourth place is Dublin, Ireland, one of Europe's many exciting destinations. In addition to the historical attractions and hiking possibilities, Dublin has many castles to visit.

The last place is Granada, Nicaragua, which is considered to be an undiscovered jewel. This Central American country's beach towns, towering volcanoes, lush

jungles and great cities, including Granada, make for an adventurous vacation. Granada is a colonial-era jewel on the shores of Lake Nicaragua., which is one of the largest freshwater lakes in the world.

As a result, of extensive research, I believe that these are the top five great family vacations spots. A summer vacation is always needed after a long year full of stress. Therefore, here are some places to go during your vacation. Why spend a boring summer at home, if you have the opportunity to travel.?

youngadults.about.com

Endless Possibilities Senator Lautenberg Visits PHS

By Yovanna Garcia and
Gisel Santamaria

Considering the possibilities after high school is a growing concern among students graduating this season. On May 14, 2012 representatives from the five military branches visited Passaic High School in an attempt to present options for students.

For many students, life after high school is not college-oriented, as they would rather pursue a career in the armed services. Such services include the marines, army, coast guard, air force and the navy where they would learn leadership skills.

If the military is an option, but a student wishes to pursue a degree before entering the service, there are possibilities for that as well. There are a few schools available for anyone not wanting to go into the service right after high school. There is

the U.S. Military Academy in West Point or the U.S Air Force Academy in Colorado.

The assembly also featured a guest speaker, Senator Lautenberg. Lautenberg spoke about his own experience in the army after having fought in World War II.



Senator Lautenberg

Growing up in Passaic County, Lautenberg noticed that Passaic's community has much more diversity today than it did fifty years ago. He encourages diversity in all communities, as it will help students become more cultured.

The assembly offered much insight into the possibilities presented to students after high school. Surely, more students were motivated to pursue something greater than they have ever imagined for themselves. This is, after all, the country of great opportunity.

Top Summer Plans for Teens

By Diane Ortega

Every teenager has a different idea of an ideal summer. Some like to stay busy and keep their minds occupied. For others, the summer is all about resting in the sun, and relaxing their minds. No matter what type of teen you are, as long as one plans early, there will be a variety of summer options.

Volunteering can be one of the most valuable ways to spend the summer. Volunteerism and service are qualities that appear on almost all applications for colleges or even high school honors clubs. A relaxing summer activity such as community service



can boost self esteem and give teens a sense of belonging.

Jobs are another option. Around the ages of 15 or 16, many teens start looking for their first job. A job can be a benefit to provide money for the expanding teenage social lives that come with licenses and cars. Summer jobs always require new employees each year.

The final option is to relax. After months of intense work at school, the summer is a chance to rejuvenate, hang out with your friends, go to the beach, take a trip, have a barbeque, and get a tan. These are just some suggestion to do in the summer.

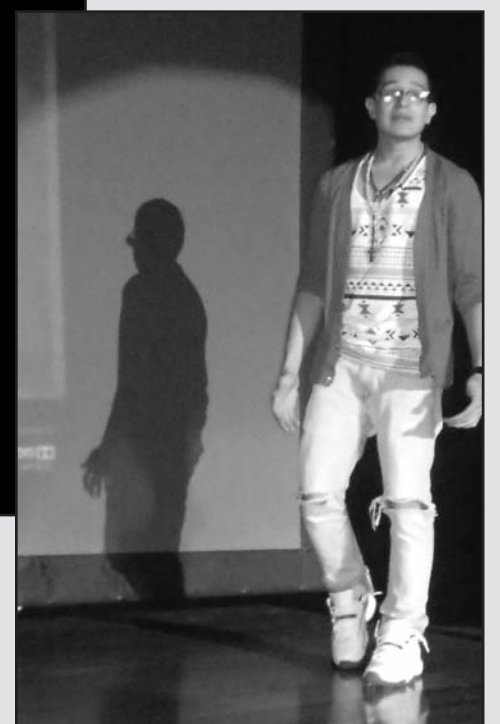
www.radicalpartenting.com

Principal Weissman, Playwright Weissman



Photos by M. Peña

The Leaf depicts The Holocaust and Mr. Weissman's personal story, as a child of Holocaust survivors. Pictured above is Mr. Weissman as a young man filled with the intensity of his mother's tragic narrative. Juxtaposed to Weissman is Eric Mixcoatl who portrays young Tabias as his heart goes out to the grandmother he never knew.



Fishing Is Great for the Soul PHS Visits a Hatchery

By Chuck Bobrowski

This school year concludes the 6th year of Passaic High School's involvement in the Trout In The Classroom Project sponsored by the New Jersey Division of Fish & Wildlife. Three separate classroom teachers participated. Dave Vollenweider, Chuck Bobrowski, and King Perry all involved their classes in the care, development, and ultimate release of more than 160 healthy specimens of our New Jersey state fish, the brook trout.

These fish were raised in the classroom from fertilized eggs supplied by the Pequest Trout Hatchery. They were delivered in late October by volunteers from

the East Jersey Chapter of Trout Unlimited.

This year's hatch date was on Halloween and they were released into N.J. trout streams in late April and early May.

The project entails a multitude of disciplines, some of which included the testing of water quality, mathematical calculations of the hatch date, recording growth rate, and keeping detailed journals of their progress.

During the culmination of the six month project, approximately 90 students toured the Pequest Trout Hatchery and Environmental Education Center in Oxford, NJ. Afterwards, they learned to fish as part of the Fish



Environmental Science student, LLUVIA ROSAS, during the fishing experience at the Pequest Education Pond.

Photo by S. Yedwab

Education Program and either practiced "catch & release" or chose the option of bringing home a nutritious meal to their families.

Plans have already been made to continue this incredible project next year and continue the exposure our students will have to the great outdoors and the importance of the natural world.

HEALTH & FITNESS

Run for Your Health, It's Worth the Effort

By S. Yedwab

The Future Meds Club of America held its Annual Run for Health this past May. As usual, a large number of PHS students showed up to run around the track in the stadium to the tunes of a DJ hired for the occasion.

In addition, the runners were treated to a variety of free healthy snacks provided by the club. Actually, the bright yellow bananas were an all time favorite.

Similarly to last year, a light mist began to fall, but that didn't stop anyone. In fact, the club members are very dedicated no matter what the weather is.

Tatyana McKinney, president of Future Meds, takes health very seriously. "Obesity is a huge problem," she said. "This run will help because it promotes healthy eating and healthy habits."

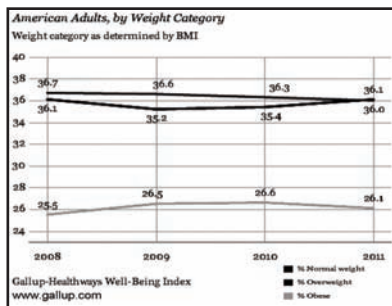
Another club member, Margaret Misckowicz, thinks the run is very important. "The run is helpful," she said, "because it encourages PHSers to improve their lifestyle. It promotes health."

Of course, a major driving force behind all this club does is the energetic and always optimistic, Mrs Cilento. "I'm having a great time," she said, "and I want this to go on every year."

Kudos to the Future Meds Club of America for sponsoring this all important run with its even more important message: Get Healthy!!



Photos by S. Yedwab



www.gallup.com

Obesity: Love the Skin You're In

By Jennifer Rojas and Lodymer Pina



Photos by S. Yedwab

Obesity is a very touchy subject that is starting to have a big effect on children everywhere. Adolescents can be affected by obesity at any age, but statistics say that most American children from ages 6-19 are in fact obese. Because overweight children have difficulty with development, being overweight can have several serious problems.

Some kids can suffer from diabetes and even heart problems. Many do not realizing all the serious effects from obesity that can be permanent.

Although serious health problems can result from childhood obesity, so can social problems. Depression is the most common result that affects children

throughout their adolescent lives which can become serious without help.

The best way to ultimately eliminate obesity from your life is to watch your diet. Acknowledging what foods are best for you and which aren't can definitely make a big difference in your health.

Taking steps to watching your diet and taking control of your body can make you feel better about yourself and nothing's more beautiful then loving the skin you're in.

Sources:
www.pamf.org/teen/health/disease/obesity
www.pamf.org/teen/health/disease/disability

ARTS

Heaven's Will: Teen Manga

By Lluvi Rosas and Branden Navedo



www.t3.gstatic.com

Sudou Mikuzu is a young girl with the power to see ghosts and spirits known as Oni. She is very afraid of them. She needs help protecting herself from these spirits. When Sudou met Seto Ashiya, he promised to protect her from the spirits for a very large fee. She compromises with Seto, and instead of paying him, she promises to bake him a cake.

Seto Ashiya is a young cross dressing, cake loving exorcist boy. "Seto" is not his real name; it's actually his little sister's. Seto has a little twin sister who died years ago while protecting him from an Oni. His goal is to get enough money to get a sex change, so that he can bring his sister's soul back and place her spirit into Seto's own body, much to Sudou's dismay.

Kagari is a handsome vampire who can turn into a black wolf. He is taken care of by his companion, Seto Ashiya, who gives him his blood to drink.

Kagari promises Seto to exorcize him before he dies. Kagari doesn't approve of Seto's choice of giving his body to his little sister. He only allows Seto to treat him like a dog and use him as he wishes.

Sudou has a terrible impression of Kagari and once treated him like a dog. Sudou does whatever she can to make sure Seto doesn't get money to

keep him from getting a sex change and giving his body to his little sister "Seto."

We enjoyed reading *Heaven's Will* because of the emotion packed into the entire book. The artwork showcased in the book is lovely, and matches the simplicity of the story. The best part of this book is how it was translated. It's very easy to understand compared to other manga.

Lonely Night

The night's beset by clouds
And even though the stars
Have gathered to accompany me
I have found none
that shine brighter
Than the sun that
came to embrace me,
With the warmth
of a love that's true.

—Brandon Navedo

Movie Review: The Avengers

By Julia Lora

Marvel's *The Avengers*, originally a comic book, exceeds all expectations. The cast selected were able to fully understand and act out their roles. Nick Fury brings together a group of superheroes, the Avengers, to save the world from Loki, a power-hungry god from Asgard and his army, the Chitauri.



www.movieweb.com

In this epic battle, the fate of the world lies in the hands of Thor, Iron Man, Captain America, Black Widow, Hawkeye, and the Hulk. A group of extremely different people with extremely diverse powers end up forming an alliance.

At first, they doubt they can work well together as a team, but as the story goes on, they begin to form a relationship.

Nonstop action with a touch of humor is the recipe for this successful work of art. This movie is definitely a must-see.

2012 SPRING PLAY 'Once on this Island' A Musical of the Human Heart

By Erik Mixcoat

Will love conquer death? That is the question asked in PHS's performance of *Once on This Island*. This musical, set in the Caribbean, is much more than an ordinary fairy tale.

It is a story within a story that tells the tale of a peasant girl named Timoune (played by Selena Navarro) who falls in love with a young grand homme named Daniel Beauhomme (played by Jean Bobadilla).

Throughout the play, the power of love is challenged by the people, elements, and the god's themselves. The play touches on the themes from *Romeo and Juliet* and *The*

Little Mermaid which make it universal.

The spectacular performance of this play is proof, that PHS students have great talent! However, it's important to realize that it takes more than actors to create a work of art. In this case, everyone involved in the show made it a great success!

The play was not only for student's eyes, but for the entire community. Local businesses, students, and faculty were all involved; without them the play would not have been possible. Overall, it was great entertainment.

Kudos to Mrs. Kostiak, Mr. Rusca and their crews for making this play possible.



Photos By M. Pena





The American Experience

Poland to Suburban America

By Allen Humphries

The life and experiences of a person not born in this country can be very informative. So to get insight on what coming to a new country and adjusting is like, I interviewed one of my managers, Piotr K. who was born in Nowy-Targ, Poland.

Piotr was nine, when he and his family left Poland by choice and came directly to America. It is common knowledge to all that learning a new language is hard, so Piotr told me that cartoons were a help in learning English, "...especially Cartoon Network and Nickelodeon."

Everyone who comes to America comes with a goal or plan. Well, Piotr's family's plan was to earn more money. When his family came to America,

A Family Journey

By Gisel Santamaria

I decided to interview someone very close who really defines what coming to America is all about, my mother, Maria Santamaria Fernandez, which includes her maiden and marriage name. She has been in this country for over twenty years. Now, she is the mother to my two older brothers and me. She recently has had the pleasure of having her first grandchild as well; thanks to my oldest brother.

My mother was born in the capital city of the Dominican Republic in. She was technically forced to leave because her father had already moved to this country, and wanted the rest of his family with him. My mother came to America after her father earned the money to bring the rest of the family.

She had just turned seventeen, when she and her family came to America. Her parents wanted a better life for her and her six brothers and sisters. The family came straight to Passaic where they found people who were Spanish and Dominican. When my mother arrived, she already had some friends and extended family in America. However, she still found it "very difficult," because she had to come and get a job right away to help sustain her younger siblings. Also, she had to learn the language quickly.

Happily, my mom doesn't regret coming here because she was able to work decent jobs, meet people, and have her children here. I then asked her, if she had the opportunity, would she return to her country, and with a laugh, she told me that, of course, she would because that's where she hopes to retire one day.

Winding down the interview, I was really interested to hear her answer to the question of whether she would prefer her children to marry someone from the same background. She told me that she didn't mind what background her children end up marrying. We ended the interview, when she confided she is grateful to have come to America because she has had the chance to earn a good living and to give her children a better life.

they had to start over with a new house, job, schooling, friends and language.

Piotr and his family lived in the suburbs and their community was of the same ethnicity. This was a great support system.

Though it was a little tough to start over, he does not regret the decision to move. If Piotr was given the chance to return to his country he said, "Well, I would for some reasons and not for others. There are family and friends I'd want to see."

One person Piotr met that influenced his life for the better was a kid named Fred who became his best friend. So all and all, Piotr is grateful, for the opportunities that were allotted to him by moving to America. Piotr has great plans for the future.

Growing Up Strong

By Yovanna Garcia

In 1989, Valentina, a confused Mexican girl, came to the United States by command of her parents. Her family gave no explanation as to why she had to leave her life back at home and start over again in a new place; she just knew that it was for the best. The young girl was only fourteen years old, yet, her world was about to change far greater than she had ever imagined. That young girl was my mother.

After having crossed the border between Mexico and the United States illegally, Valentina awaited the arrival of her younger siblings, hoping that they too made it across safely. There was a lot of border patrol; police who made sure immigrants did not try to make their way into America. However, all the children, aged ten and younger, were safe.

Soon after her arrival in the foreign country, Valentina began building a life of her own. She worked hard — manual factory jobs by the age of eighteen, and, by the age of nineteen, had three kids. Valentina learned English from her children and became very fluent in a short amount of time.

Valentina was a very motivated young woman. She applied for her residency in this country and quickly awaited the day she could become a United States citizen. She knew she could do anything she set her mind to; after all, it was a fresh start, her new beginning.

Valentina got her GED and began thinking about her greatest passion. There was no doubt that she loved to help people. Valentina was very appreciative to have had people help her through her adjustment process. She knew that her ambition would open many doors for her. She believed many opportunities would come her way, and she was right.

At the age of 36, Valentina has five children, and is still the same ambitious person she was when she entered America. She currently holds certification as a Medical Assistant, where she has had hands-on experience helping cancer patients and catering to their medical needs.

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Young Brit Living Among the Yanks

By Lluvi Rosas

Kc Cifuentes was born in England and is a charming and amiable person who is eighteen years of age. Kc first came to the United States when he was sixteen. He left his whole family behind, yet he still keeps in contact with them.

Kc only knew his mother who already lived here. The reason he came to the U.S was because his mother's boyfriend left her, so, like a good hearted son, he wanted to keep her company.

Kc regrets coming to the United States. Some of the people here aren't as nice as the ones he knew back in his country. He doesn't think they know how to have fun. He finds it difficult to adapt to the United States, and particularly doesn't like the way the people talk to each other here.

He didn't have to start over financially because he was rich. Kc's mother had a stable job which helped him adjust to his new home, but it was a bit hard to adapt to our society. He found the Americans a bit conceited and boring at first. However, he was eventually able to find friends.

Kc views the US as his home away from home. He says that he has been heavily influenced by most of the teenagers he's met during his life here. Lluvi Rosas greatly influenced Kc because she taught him how to actually get to know his new home. Now Kc Cifuentes is really living the American Experience.

New Life, Nice Life

By Alyssa Rivera

I recently interviewed a young male named Ricardo Flores, who is currently 18 years old. He was born in Puebla, Mexico and moved to the United States when he was 3 years old. By going to school and taking classes, he managed to learn English, not knowing any of it when he arrived.

Better opportunities and to live a better life were the reasons his family moved here. His family had to start over and they did, in fact, struggle for this cause.

Before arriving, he thought it would be crazy to move to the U.S. when he already had a nice, comfortable environment in his country. However, he seems satisfied with his life here now, and he does not regret moving here, although it's challenging.

On the plus side, he feels that it's easier here because in Mexico it's more difficult to earn a living. On the negative side, he says his parents tried to become citizens, but couldn't.

Flores doesn't think it's important for his children to marry someone of their same ethnic background. In fact, in Mexico, he was not involved in anything church related. He only practices the Catholic religion here.

Flores also mentioned that racial comments and disrespectful phrases made him feel discrimination. Although, by ignoring the remarks, he overcame those obstacles.

"I feel ten times richer than I was in Mexico," he said surprisingly. He's glad he moved here and he wouldn't know and doesn't even want to think about what his life would have been, if he stayed in Mexico.

He feels like he's a better person mentally and physically. He's learned to adapt and cooperate with his surroundings, and is proud that he has all of these opportunities.

ASK AIDA

Dear Aida,

I have a friend who is 25 years old and he is an alcoholic. He goes to the liquor store at least 5 times a day. Can you please help him?

Concerned Friend

Dear Concerned Friend,

Your friend sounds like he must be going through some difficult times in his life and this might be the reason why he has come to depend on alcohol. In order to truly help your friend, he must first realize that he in fact does have a problem and that he needs help. It might take him a while to get through more troubling times in order for this to happen, but, if you're obvious concern doesn't make him see his problem, then nothing anyone does will. He needs to see this for himself and choose to get himself help. When he finally does decide to reach out for help in overcoming his alcoholism, the best thing he can do is go to an Alcoholic's Anonymous program.

There, your friend will take part in a program that will help him find the core reason of why he is so dependent on alcohol, and hopefully find another answer. It will take a lot of effort and discipline for him to be able to stop drinking, but it's not impossible. Once he puts his mind into getting better, it will reflect on his habits and his life. Being supportive is the best thing you can do, and from then on, let him better himself.

Aida

Dear Aida,

Recently, a lot of my friends have been getting involved with drugs. I constantly try to convince them to stop, but all they do is ask me to join them. I'm just worried about their health and what the effect marijuana might have on them. What should I do? I really don't want to lose my friends.

Worried Friend

Dear Worried Friend,

In this situation, I think that you should talk to their parents. It's very dangerous to use drugs. But before you do that, give it one more try. Try talking to them again. Research the dangerous effects of marijuana and other drugs. Persuade them to look for facts that can change their perspective on drugs.

A recent study showed that students in high school and college tend to use marijuana as stress releasers. They might have problems at home or at school. Maybe, that's why they are using the drug.

Having friends that smoke marijuana is dangerous, but it would be more dangerous for you to join them. You have to be smart and think for yourself. You can care for them, but if they don't care for themselves, you might have to let go of them.

Remember, you can't help the ones that don't not want to help themselves. You're a good friend, but in the end, they choose their own destiny. Make sure, you choose yours. Good Luck!

Aida

Dear Aida,

I have a friend who's having problems with his girlfriend. He thinks he made a mistake choosing her. He liked someone else, but she moved to a different city. What should I tell him?

Good Friend

Dear Good friend,

It sounds like your friend is using his girlfriend to forget about the girl that moved. That's not really love. When someone loves someone else, they don't "feel they made a mistake" by choosing that person. In other words, he should feel like there's no one that can take her place.

Maybe now your friend and his girlfriend are having problems, which is why he believes the other person was better. But if he doesn't want to be with the one he's with anymore, he should tell her the truth and leave her.

Unfortunately, relationships with circumstances like this don't work out. Eventually one or another will end up getting hurt.

In the end, your friend needs to make up his mind, about whether or not he wants to be with his current girlfriend. This way, he won't be wasting his time or hers on something that might not be worth it. This will prevent or at least lessen the pain that one of them will go through. Good Luck!

Aida



Class of 2012



Beyrut Arenas



Raul Avila



Sojairy Brito



Ramon Cabrerax



Mayra Cabrera



Yesenia Delgado



Krystal Feliz



Salley Flores



Lyzbeth Garcia



Almali Liranzo



Estephanny Mendoza



Le'ona Miller



Ashley Nieves



Loddymer Pina



Auris Puello



Natalie Quezada



Luz Rafael



Karina Ramirez



Ankita Rana



Alyssa Rivera



Ana Karen Rojas



Jennifer Ruiz



Gisel Santamaria



Cristal Soriano



Jazmine Stevenson



Lourdes Tecoti



Desiree Vasquez



Maritza Villa



Shaheed Wallace



Sedeika

In September I plan to...

In September I plan to attend William Paterson University and pursue my career in Criminology.
Sally Flores

I'm off to the Navy.

Guadalupe Garcia

Go to college, get an apartment, and work.

Nicole D.

Attend college, work hard and to stay ambitious as always.

J.D.

Start college at Rider University

Neesha Corley.

Continue my learning experience at PCCC.

Ronny Siri

I plan to start college and take my first step into accomplishing my future goal of becoming a physical education teacher.

Rinadly Hidalgo

Go to college and set my wings to fly into the real world.

Suamarie Sous

Start my freshmen year at college and stay open minded to more learning experiences.

Susanna

I plan on attending Rutgers University in New Brunswick, and enjoy the college life, while still staying focused.

G. S.

Go to college and start a new life.

Deesha Supawla

Begin a new chapter in my life.

Marisol Xicotencatl

In September, I plan to start college.

Victor Caballero

I plan to go to college and start over as a brand new adult life. Have so much fun and enjoy what is coming.

Daisy C.

In September, I plan to be a freshman in college.

Yu'onna S.

In September, I will be in college, no summer vacation for me; no breaks.

Sullizey Gutierrez

Start college and begin preparing for my future.

George Marcelino

In September, I plan to be either in college or technical school.

Allen Humphries

In September, I plan to be in college and working.

Rudolfo Aguilar

I plan to be in college and remain focused on my education.

Yesenia Ramos

We Remember...



Photo by Mr. Gagliano

It's Time for You to Go

Class of 2013 will soon take your throne
Replace the crown with the cap & gown
High School was just a stepping stone
Seniors go out there and make us proud
Underclassmen that have looked up to you
Your friends who support you
Teachers who've seen you grow
Coaches who believe in you
Your parents who love you
You've cried and tried
You've been in trouble and praised
You've failed and succeeded
You've made it out of bed at 6 am with success in your head
Now make it out of PHS after graduation with success ahead
Class of 2012 your diploma is well deserved
This isn't goodbye
This isn't the end
It's a mere see you later
Congratulations (:

—Marcos Flores

What was your most embarrassing moment?

I spilled milk on my jeans one day and it looked like I pee'd myself.
Anonymous

When I fell down the stairs by the s-swing.

G.S.

When I tripped going up the stairs in the main building.

Sedeika Williams

I sat in the wrong class and wondered why I wasn't on the attendance.

Tracey Cuevas

I walked into the girl's bathroom, and, when I came out, there was a girl laughing at me. Then, I noticed I walked into the wrong bathroom.

Dervin Martinez

When I tripped on the stairs.

Daisy Martinez

When I fell down the stairs in front of a ton of people.

Elaajah Rosas

When my pants ripped and I had to call my mom to bring me some pants.

Corina F.

I fell going up the stairs in front of a large group of people.

Alfredo Aguilar

I am so clumsy there is not a day that goes by where I do not trip up the staircase closest to the first floor main entrance. I hope no one has seen me fall but I'm sure someone has.

Demie Butler

I tripped and fell going up the stairs in front of a senior when I was a freshman.

Ty Roberts

My most embarrassing moment was walking into the wrong class, mostly on lab days! (Yes, I did that more than once!)

Jenice Gerena



My most embarrassing moment has to be walking into what I believed were my classes, making myself comfortable, and finding out I didn't belong there. Oh how I hated freshman year!

Tatiana Marte

My most embarrassing moment of my high school career was probably tripping in front of everyone in the hallways.

Jennifer Rojas

My most embarrassing moment was always being the target in gym and constantly getting hit with balls on my head. That 's probably one of the reasons I joined weight training.

Marwa

Practiced Korean in school, but everyone thought I used a derogatory word for African Americans.

Glenn Nunez

My most embarrassing moment was when I was caught cutting school with a bunch of people that were supposed to be my friends. It was the last time because my friends put me on blast in front of my V.P. and the students.

Octavio Reyes

My most embarrassing moment was when I cut my mohawk off and had short hair.

Hector R.

I slipped in the courtyard and there was a puddle of water. =(

Mayra C.

I dropped all my books and tripped going up the stairs.

Krystal Feliz



How have you changed over the last four years at PHS?

I became much more of a responsible person and I do not take no for an answer.

Guadalupe Garcia

I completely changed, attitude wise.

Michelle Chaves

I broke out of my shell when I came here. As a freshman, I was completely quiet and wouldn't talk to anyone, and now I talk more and to everyone.

Anonymous

I definitely changed for the good.

C.T.

I matured a lot.

Jennifer Ruiz

I evolved so much over the last four years. When I first entered high school, I was so timid and quiet. Now I'm confident in myself, outspoken, and can care less what others say about me. A lot of people might hate me for saying this, but Drake is right. You only live once. Life is too short to hold back things and not go after your dreams.

H.R.

Yes, I am much funnier and full of life.

M.C.

I have become more responsible and respectful to others.

Ahaheem Curry

I made new friends along the years, and I went from being 270 lb freshman year, to being 190 lb senior year.

David Urena aka Ted

I became more independent, responsible, and open minded about things.

Yarissa Chavez

When I was a freshman, I just wanted to make everyone laugh and become funny and popular. Now, I focus on my grades and I could care less if I'm popular or not. I am now my own person getting ready for college.

A.J.

I've changed tremendously. I don't trust everyone, and I don't give up without a fight. This last year has taught me a lot! It has shown me I can actually be happy, if I stick to the books.

Jenice Gerena

I'm more responsible now.

Ivonne Moreno

My attitude towards my life changed, and I became a mother.

Cristina Aguilar

I became more mature. I learned a lot of things the hard way, but it was for the better. Just by looking at my school ID. I saw a lot of change.

Yasim Lopez

I've become more intellectually curious. By the end of April, I've become partially knowledgeable in Korean and American Sign Language.

Glenn Nunez

I have changed in many ways; physically, mentally and emotionally. I've become a smarter and wiser person throughout the past four years.

Marwa

I'm definitely not as shy as I was before. I learned to take on responsibilities and not let people walk all over me. I changed for the better.

Sha'Corra Wells

I've become louder and more outgoing. I became a totally new person in every type of way; physically, mentally, etc. Big time great change.

Edgar Ramos

I've become more responsible and friendlier.

Ty Roberts

I've definitely matured throughout the years and I have a better outlook on life.

Wendy Escalante

I have become a much more social person.

Felix

I barely grew, but I have matured a bit and have become more social with people.

Erik M.

I have been able to become more social and more outgoing.

Mayuri Rana

I have become more open and learned not to take things seriously.

Arleth Mendoza

I've been more involved and social. I am now able to talk to anyone, even a stranger. I am more confident, but I'm still short.

Jovana Calalpa



Senior Prom 2012

June 7, 2012



What was your funniest moment?

When I walked in the wrong class, and I sat down. People stared at me until I noticed where I was.
Guadalupe Garcia

When Ms. Hiller yelled at me my freshman year during central for writing my name in pink pen.
Cristal Soriano

Burning honey in AP Chemistry and causing the fire alarm to go on.
Jackie M.

When everyone was in the hallways making beats on the locker, singing and dancing and then a teacher came and we thought we were going to get in trouble but the teacher started dancing with us.
Tatyiana Lee

My first day of school I tripped on the stairs.
Jennifer B.

Having Ms. Kowaleski as a teacher.
Michael Garcia

When I dropped the cupcakes my teacher made by accident and I ran away.
Anonymous

My third day of my freshman year, I tripped down three stairs and broke my sandals. I had to walk around with a broken sandal for the of the day.
Anonymous

The assembly in the gym during the three days
Leticia Rojano

Period 5 Ms. Keller's class!
Naji Mack

Ms. Keller's period 5 class
Famm

When Mrs. Keller scores on people
Ashley Tapia

When in sophomore year my homeroom did the Cha-Cha Slide-
Corina F.

When Mark Arroyo tried to pick up a girl but failed and dropped her-
Arturo Almonte

I saw Ms. Rivera dancing and jumping eight months pregnant.
Demie Bzutler

Too many to decide from.
Kevin Jose

Everyday was funny in the high school.
Sha'heed Wallace

My funniest moment was when we returned to school after Spring Break. I worked 17 hours a day the whole week, so I fell asleep at school and I started snoring.
Octavio Reyes

All the Times...



My summer plans are...

Enjoy the beautiful weather, travel, rest physically and mentally, and prepare for the college life!
T.S.

My plans are to play softball, work, rest, and go on trips.
Sedeika Williams

Attend the EOF program, and train for my new job at Chase bank, and then hopefully go on vacation.
Susana Gonzalez

Work, relax, and enjoy myself.
Raven

Work, enjoy life, and get ready for school.
Lily Flores

My summer plans are to get ready for college, party, and b.s. with apple juice!
Edgar Rogers

To spend time with my daughter and get ready for college.
Cristina Aguilar

To enjoy the weather with friends and family, but also prepare myself for college.
Yarissa Chavez

To see my friends during the summer and go to college.
Scarlyn Morel

Enjoy the weather and try to chill with most of my friends as much as I can.
Iterberto Jimenez

To go to the Dominican Republic, Pennsylvania, and just chill with my friends. Go to parties, beaches, lakes, and get tanned.
Yasmin Lopez

March Drum Corps Baby!
-Jovana Calalpa

Enjoy a good book.
-Michael Garcia

In a Time

Oblivious to the mysteries of life
Some may be afraid of what's ahead
So they continually gaze back
Clutching onto the comfort of yesterday
Pretending that it's still here
Knowing that yesterday is long gone
One must find comfort in the present
While accepting the challenges of tomorrow
Then create new memories
Starting a new chapter of life
—MiNg



What is your biggest regret?

Not trying harder – to work on time management.
L.M.

Not asking Hayley Almonte out.
Sha'heed Wallace

My biggest regret was meeting a certain guy.
Mayra

My biggest regret is that I never asked out a girl that I liked the most.
Octavio Reyes

My biggest regret was messing up sophomore year.
Hector R.

My biggest regret was being absent a lot during my school years. And also not making honor roll my four years of high school.
Ambar Bello

My biggest regret is making the worst kinds of friends.
Jenice Gerena

My biggest regret is procrastinating.
Ankita R.

Not doing my work in the first two years of high school.
Luz Rafael

My biggest regret is doing really bad my sophomore year and getting probation.
Jessica Europa

Wasting time my freshman year is my biggest regret. I now see that my final year.
Amanda Mirkov

Being late.
—Leticia Rojano

Not having an ID sophomore year
Miyi Mack

Getting suspended.
—Famm

Nothing.
—Ashley Tapia

Failing Algebra 2 made things worse.
Luigi A.

In September I plan to...

Go away to college and start studying to become a social worker.
Ty Roberts

To begin army boot camp.
Anonymous

I plan to go to tech school.
Jonathan Gonzalez

Already be in college going to my classes.
Bhumi Vyas

In September I plan to go to MSU and start my college life! ☺
Marwa M.

Start college which is about a four hour drive from here!
Krystal Feliz

Be in Robert Fiance Beauty School.
E.F.

Be in Capri Beauty School.
Leticia Rojano

Be in college and working.
Naji Mack

Be in college. —Elaajah Rosas
Be in college with my car.
Ashley Tapia

Start Capri. —Claudia Angeles
Be finishing my basic training for the Army.
Corina F.

Go to Rutgers New Brunswick.
Juhi Shah

Attend William Paterson University and live my dreams.
—Demie Butler

I plan to work full time and attend college.
Brittney Howard

Be in college and have a new job.
Stephanie Schmeltele

I plan to be in college or under my bed covers.
Edgar Reyes

I plan to be in PCCC and studying to be a Nurse.
Christina Aguilar

I plan to be part of the marines.
Kevin Modesto

I plan to go to college of Saint Elizabeth and dorm there.
E.L.

I plan to go to college, keep working and never look back.
N.R.

I plan to go to college and have a job to support my son.
Jennifer Ruiz

I plan to start getting ready for college to attend. And to prepare for the rest of my future.
Diana A.

I plan to start going to college in the fall to start a new beginning.
Anonymous

In September I pay to be in college. Ready to start a new chapter in my life.
Anonymous

To be an official Penn State Nihany Lion.
Kevin Jose

I plan to start college and move into my dorm.
Hayley Almonte

I plan to be taking classes and dorming at Kean University
Wesley W.

I plan to go to Rutgers Newark and start life out in the world. Hopefully be able to travel around
Mayra C.

What was the funniest excuse you ever gave to a V.P. or teacher?

So what happened was I got jumped, robbed and there was a huge fight in the hallways, so I couldn't get to class on time.
Marwa

My gynecologist told me I can't move this today, so I can't play gym.
Rosemelly Rosario

I wasn't cutting I was getting something from my friend in the lunchroom.
Ty Roberts

I left my work in my mom's car.
Andrea T.

I was not going to cut. My car light was on and I wanted to turn it off.
Jonathan Gonzalez

I got shot, so I had to leave early.
Christian Paulino

The reason I left school early was because I had to use my bathroom.
Leonnah Dorch

When I was late to class, I told them because I had to take a dookie. Lol.
Jazmine Stevenson

My teacher asked where my book was, and I said "in my locker." She replied "Um, go get it!" and I said "I can't because I'm to short to reach the top!"
Jocelyn Velazquez

Bananas!
— Mark Colon

My funniest excuse to a teacher has to be when I told my teacher that I didn't do my homework because my mom hasn't paid the light bill and I couldn't do my homework in the dark.
Yu'onni Stegall

Telling my V.P. I haven't tried harder because I had to take care of my son, yet I have no children.
R.P.

I forgot we had homework.
Anonymous



When I totally came up with a story blaming it on the nurse as to why I cut.
G. S.

I forgot my homework at home.
Anonymous

Girl issues.
— M. U.

Monkey was giving birth in the hallway, that's why I was to class. Whomp!
Raven

I was saving this student who was getting jumped by aliens. That's why I'm late.
Suemarie Solis

I was late to class because I fell down the steps.
Sedeika Williams

I cut class because my mother was calling my phone.
Tatyiana Lee

I did not forget to do the homework. You just forgot to give it!
Ronny Siri

They jumped some girl in the bathroom and I stopped them.
Tracy C.

I fell down the stairs, so I got to class late every day.
Bhun Vyar

How I have changed in four years at PHS...

I've learned to become my own person, and do things for myself without caring about what people think.

Aimee B.

I can now call myself a well rounded person. And I am sure of whom I am. My faith is strong and my priorities are straight.

Whitney Caridad

I have realized that there is not fear to step in front of the class and talk. We all make mistakes; I wish I have learned that before.

Y.G.

My freshman year I was very immature but over the years I matured. I learned a lot in 4 years.

Sedeika Williams

I have become more wise mature and independent. What other people think doesn't matter at all. As long as you like it, doesn't matter.

S.G.



Photo by Yovanna Garcia

I've changed my ways by getting all the negative energy/people out of my life. I'm much happier.

Suemarie Solis

I grew up as I should have. I learned to stop focusing on relationships and more on school. I learned what others have yet to learn and probably never will.

Edgardo Ramos

My summer plans are...

To do what I want just because I can.

Edgar Ramos

I plan to spend all the time I can with my friends and prepare myself for college. I also hope to meet new people and enjoy myself.

-Yesenia Ramos

To live every moment to the fullest.

L.M.

To hopefully complete my EOF program at Rutgers.

M.C.

To enjoy summer and prepare for college

David Urena aka Ted

To go to "Mix 'Em Up" in Linden to study mixology and become a bartender. Then leave to start school at Penn State.

Kevin Jose'

To start working on my career in music management!

Jenice Gerena

Live life and have fun.

Amanda Mirkovic

To work.

-Daisy Martinez

To move out of Passaic.

-E.F.

Work and go to college.

Leticia Rojano

Get money.

-Naji Mack

Find a better job.

-Luigi

What three things would you put in a time capsule?

My journal, novels, and my cell phone.

M.C.

I would put my favorite books, pictures, and a laptop to show how technology has changed.

G.S.

Three things I would put in a time capsule are my music, like lyrics I wrote, my mixtapes, and my family pictures.

David Urena aka Ted

My poetry notebook, my concert scrapbook, and my favorite pen.

Jenice Gerena

A picture of my senior class, a great book, a hot letter.

J.H.

My little mermaid charm, my favorite book, and a letter to myself.

Rosemary Medina

A letter, my cheer uniform, and a picture with all my girls.

Tracey Cuevas

My poem notebook, picture book of my track team, and a list of my future plans.

Ronny Siri

A picture of my senior class, my grades, and my friends.

Ana Martinez

I would put Ms. K, Mr. Graham and One Direction.

Jessica D.

Who were your favorite teachers?

My favorite teacher is Ms. Fuller. She is honestly the best. She's cool yet she takes her time teaching us. I love her!

Loddymer Pina

My favorite teachers are Ms. Weiner, Ms. Moogan, Mr. Becker and Ms. Cooper.

Guadalupe Garcia

The moment I will never forget is...

When Ms. K did the Perculator in class.

Whitney Caridad

The day I actually realized I'm leaving high school behind, and entering the "real world."

Aimee B.

Walking to class with my friends. It is never silent. We always have something to say, especially, the arguments.

Jovana Calalpa

Meeting some outstanding teachers that helped me out and influenced me into being someone successful in the future.

Anonymous

Being in Ms. Moogan's junior English class.

Cesar E.

When I met my best friend Caterin Jimenez.

Nathalie Reynoso

When we laughed ...

In September I plan to...

I plan to be well on my way to becoming a music manager by September. Fingers crossed!

Jenice Gerena

Propose to Hayley.

Sha'heed Wallace

To find a job and try to plan for college.

-Jennifer B.

To have as much fun as I can before I start college.

-George Marcelino

Enjoy every moment because time is flying.

-Natalia G.

Going to college!

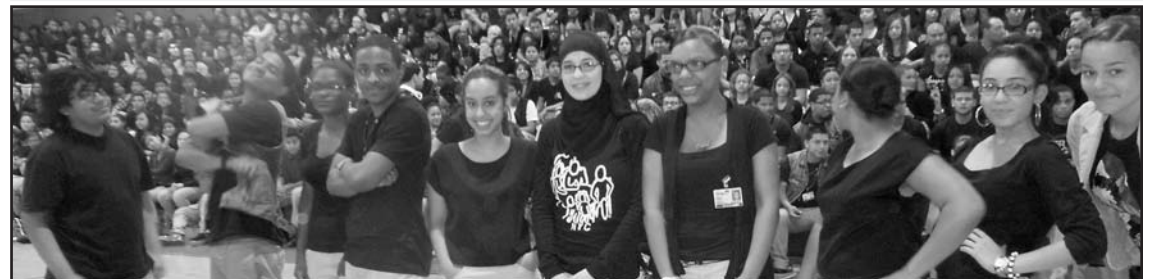
-Josely Gerald



SENIOR GRADUATION POEM (:

It has never felt so good, to see these beautiful colors being able to strive
 Here, in this very moment, they are preparing themselves to fly.
 Spreading their wings towards real life, an adventure awaits to complete the time of their lives
 It has never felt so surreal, to realize, that we have truly made it throughout the lows and the highs
 Here, we stand filled with joy and excitement, wearing nothing but a cap and a gown
 Even though we are look down nervously, we are proud to represent this town!
 Yet, if time could grab us by the wrist and direct us where to go
 It would take us right back to this stadium, where we feel like home
 One step, two step, here we all go
 Accepting this award, we all jump high enough to show our entire glow
 It's time to show the world what we know;
 it's time to make a home on our own
 I guess, we are completely ready so let's go
 It has never felt so bittersweet, having to say goodbye
 Goodbye to something that meant so much to me, but there wasn't enough time
 Freshman, sophomore, Junior and senior year, hold memories that are worth more than a gold mine
 May you never forget the teachers the sculptors of young lives, always available even for advice
 One step. Two Step.
 Cheers! To the new chapter opening the possibilities coming by!

—Genairis "DJ" Dones



What is your biggest regret?

Trusting the wrong person.

Claudia Angeles

Making wrong decisions most of the time.

Corina F.

My biggest regret is not joining the swimming team since my sophomore year.

Bryan Castillo

Not staying on top of my grades from freshman year.

George Chindnay

Getting suspended my entire sophomore year.

Arturo Almonte

Not working hard enough & failing classes.

Nicole D.

Not working to the best of my abilities.

Jose H.

Getting off track and falling behind freshman year.

Neeha Corley

Failing two classes' sophomore year and having summer school and not joining clubs.

Sedeika Williams

Slacking off and getting summer school freshman year.

Tracy Cuevas

My biggest regret was not trying hard enough in biology... leading my first 'F' ever.

Rosemary

The biggest regret I have was not doing my work, and hanging out with the wrong people.

Ana Martinez

My biggest regret would have to be not taking challenging courses and procrastinating every day!

A.R.

My biggest regret was wasting time, and not caring as much as I should have.

Ana V.

My biggest regret would be not joining the NJROTC Drill Team my Senior Year.

Rodolfo Aguilar

My biggest regret is not taking junior and senior year as seriously as freshman and sophomore years.

Allen Humphries

My biggest regrets are not working harder on the state tests and not joining the Drill Team in the NJROTC program.

Kassandra Soto

My biggest regret is not doing well in school because I was lazy.

Jimmy Hernandez

Having the wrong friends, annoying people who think they are better when they just have a big mouth.

Ruth

Who will you miss the most?

I will miss all of my teachers who encouraged me to be successful and I will miss my Accounting teacher, Mr. Ruys for sure!

Yhalit Leon

I will miss Petty Officer Nuyen the most. He has a weird way of encouraging kids, but it is effective. Also, my crazy English teacher, Mooganator, and Ms. K., Mr. Barbara, and Mr. Jernigan.

Jovana Calalpa

I will miss Mr. Galan because he always encouraged and pushed me to do my best in everything.

Aimee B.

Ms. Gawthier, Ms. Moogan, and Ms. K.

Whitney C.

The one teacher I will miss the most will be Ms. Cooper. It's over!

A.R.

I will miss my friends, new and old, and the ones who got left behind.

Sally F.

I will miss the ones who I can really call friends.

Ana R.

I will miss Ms. Fuller, Mr. Tossing and Mr. Peña. They are the teachers that I have been really cool with and taught me well.

Loddymer Pina

I'm going to miss that random teacher that will greet me every morning.

L.F.

Mrs. Valerian.

—Famala Rustam

Ms. Fuller. —Elaajah Rosas
Mrs. Valerian, Mrs. Sasion, Mrs. Keller.

Ashley Tapia

Ms. Valerian and Ms. Keller.

Naji Mack

Ms. Valerian, Ms. Keller, Mr. Maria.

Luigi Abreu

I will miss Mr. Meyers, Mr. Tourian, and Mr. Faulch even though he left last year.

Glenda T.

It really is hard to single it out to just a few people. All my friends and teachers are amazing and remarkable people. Off the top of my head I can truly say I will miss Ms. Moogan, Ms. Yan, Mr. Walker, Mr. Graham, Ms. King, Mr. Wizbiki, and Mr. Frank.

Cesar Espinoza

The person I will miss the most is my best friend Jennifer Sanchez. I met her my freshman year and she has been nothing but a wonderful person to me. She is the definition of a best friend. I know I can always count on her no matter what.

Daniela Camano

I will miss my friends and teachers!

Guadalupe Garcia

MOVE ON BUT NEVER FORGET

Don't think of it as a goodbye, but more of a hello

Think of it as a restart button, but only your age continues to grow

Don't run too fast or walk too slow

Remember, that you have to try your best and keep up with the rest

You no longer need someone to hold your hand while crossing the road

For you are wiser and stronger now to do things on your own

Try not to befriend danger because He will only lead to trouble

Leave your youth behind and don't forget your maturity

Forgetting your past is kind of impossible

So use it to solve your problems and jump high over your obstacles!

—Cassidy Everings

I'm going to miss my three greatest friends, Liliana Flores, Ana Vazquez, and Ana Rojas.

A.M.

I am going to miss my coaches Fazio, Contaldi, Smith, and Grant

R.H.

I'm going to miss all the awesome people I have met and all of the happy memories that started out here.

TJH

I'm going to miss playing my instrument in band and pushing myself to my limit at practice; feeling the lights reflecting off my face at competitions.

Hiraysa Reynoso

I'm going to miss basketball a lot. I'm going to miss Coach Slappy say "common mann!" Also I will miss Mrs. Slosarik. She doesn't know this but she is my favorite teacher.

A.J.

I won't miss most people, but I still won't forget them.

Janice Gerena

There are three people I will definitely miss the most which are Ms. Moogan, Mr. Walker, and Mr. Newman. They are truly the best.

Sha'Corra Wells

I will miss Mrs. Keller and the staff in Mr. Denaples office.

Jessica Europa

Mrs. Valerian.

Elizabeth Fuentes

Mrs. Budds.

Mariela Espindola

Mrs. Valerian and Ms. Williams.

Leticia Rojano

Mrs. Valerian, Mr Lockwood, and Ms. Keller.

Jerry Santana

The person I will miss the most will have to be Diana Laura Ramos. She has been there for me since day one!

Claudia

I will miss Ms. Rinker even though she left.

Nelly H.

My best friend Michelle Chavez.

George Chinchay

My bestfriend Tykker Jamie Womack.

Stephanie Schmeltale

I will miss Deepa Rana and Demie Butler.

Anonymous

I will most definitely miss Yhalit Leon during my Gym/Health and Forensic Science classes. She makes the most out of every moment. I laugh and cry with her. This year in Passaic High School was special because of her.

Demie Butler

All my teachers. They were all pretty cool this year.

Diana Flores

The laughs with my classmates.

Lourdes L

I miss my friend.

Juan Lopez

I will miss coming to PHS and all of my friends.

Heriberto Jimenez

I will miss the friendly environment in PHS.

Cristina Aguilar

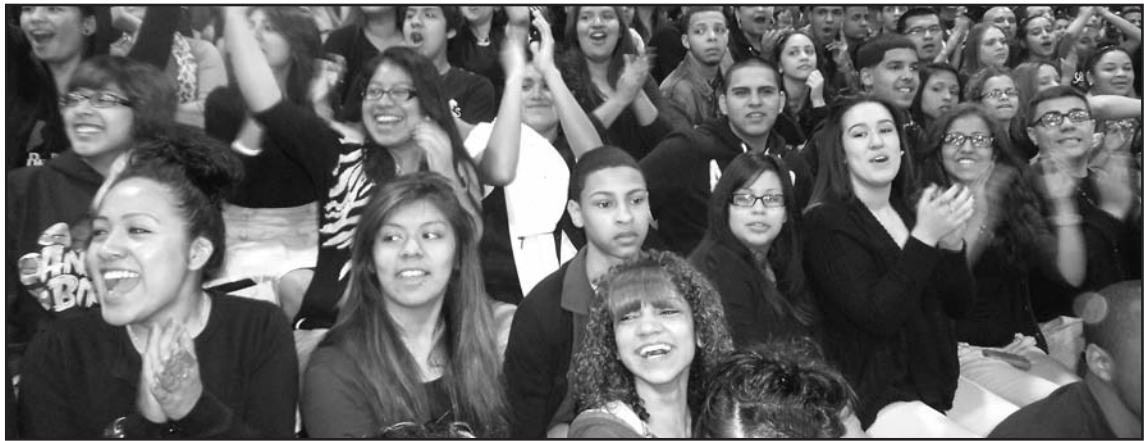
I will miss the funny moments I shared with my friends, Hakeem, and AJ.

Shaheem Curry

I will miss the friends left behind and walking my girlfriend to class.

Raul Avila

...And were together...



What three things would you put in a time capsule?

My I.D., my uniform and my textbooks.

J.P.

I would put old fashioned things in the time capsule. That way, people in the future will think that we were really old fashioned, when we actually weren't.

P.C.

I would put in Tania Bello because she would represent how the class of 2012 really was.

B.M.

Aimee Berman, because I love her, picture album of all my friends and memories, Also, the Lucky Charm (four leaf clover).

Jovana Calalpa

My bible, a pair of toms, and cool CD's.

Whitney Caridad

The moment I will never forget is...

The moment a random janitor came up to my boyfriend and planned us a fake wedding, then married us!

Jamaris Solis

The moment I will never forget is when we had the juniors vs. seniors activity at the gym. Priceless! I had a lot of fun!

Zuleyka Ortega

The moment that I will never forget is the pep rally and how much fun we had with under classmates.

Nishma Nadyadhara

The day I stopped talking to a special person.

Diana Placido

The moment I will never forget is walking the grass in June. Let's go Seniors!

Saishali

When I met the most amazing person in my life!

Guadalupe Garcia

The moment I will never forget is the first ever Mexican American Club meeting and how we are now.

Ana R.

The day I walked into Ms. K's class for the first time.

Tania Bello

Not being able to open a box in Physics.

Johanna P.



Who were your favorite teachers?

My favorite teachers are Mr. Tyler, Ms. Cooper, Mr. Billar, and Mr. Tossing because they are the teachers who have impacted my life with not only a great education, but life lessons that will follow me to college.

TJH

My favorite teacher would have to be Mrs. Cawthorn because in a way I feel like she helped me be more responsible. —R.H.

My favorite teacher is Mr. Messina. He teaches very enthusiastically. His jokes liven up the class and his lectures are very interesting. Hi lives the YOLO life and is awesome.

Yesinia Ramos

Believe it or not, Ms. Cooper was my favorite teacher. She pushed her students to their great abilities and prepared them for the real world. I will never forget her famous sayings and the "Cooper Looks" "shots fired!"

H.R.

Mitchell Cooper, Mrs. Peterson, Mrs. Boudalis and Mr. Maria. They all keep it real and always push you to do better.

R.M.

Mrs. Cliento, Brandwein, Ms Cooper and Ms. Nicodemus. They all helped keep me focused, helped me to learn and I always had fun in their class.

S.W

Mr. Graham, Mr. I, Mr. Mitchell and Ms. Jose are my favorite teachers. They have the most fun in they're class.

M.E.

Mr. Martinez & Mr. Contaldi.

J.L.

Mrs. Kostick.

J.H.

My favorite teacher is Mr. Messina, YOLO! He's the best teacher out of all my four years in high school.

Edgar Reyes

Mrs. King.

J.D.

Mrs. Slosarik & Ms.Bohomalac.

A.J.

Mrs. Ruiz and Mrs. Cooper.

Y.G.

Ms.Cooper, Ms. McQuade.

Ana Martinez

My favorite teachers are Mrs. Patel, Ms. Cooper and Mr. Tyler.

Forum Gandhi

My favorite teachers are Ms. Cooper and Mr. Walker.

Susana Gonzalez

My favorite teacher is Mr. Messina. He knows how to cheer everyone up with his jokes. He makes our English class more interesting and fun.

Oscar Valleaillio

Mr. Contaldi.

A.R.

Ms. Kobus and Mr. Meyers.

Raven

Mr. Rays, Ms. Copper and Ms. Pyron.

Lily Flores

Ms. Kobus.

—Guadalupe H.

My favorite teachers are P. O. and Ms. Bolton. I picked P.O. because he has made the biggest impact on my high school life and because of him I stayed in ROTC. P.O. was one of the most inspiring instructors I've met in high school.

Also, I didn't really enjoy high school until I had Ms Bolton. She inspired me and she always kept it real me. She made me think that I was good in English.

Dhara R.

Ms. Moogan.

— Jenny Hernandez

Mr. Christopher Rusca.

— David Perez

Mr. Walker.— Josely Gerald

My favorite teachers are Mr. Messina, Mrs Sadlon, and Mrs Peterson.

Ivonne Moreno

Mr. Maria and Mr. Peña.

Natalia Quezada

Mr. Messina, Mr. Barbara, Mrs. Simckowics, and, of course, Mrs. Nuzzo.

Anonymous

Mrs. Aparicio. — Johnathan T.

Ms. Kowalewski, Mr. Walker and Mrs. Cassidy.

Coral Morel

Ms. Gilligan, Mr. Walker, Ms. Moogan, Mr. Contaldi and Mr. Graham.

Odalys Cabrera

Mr. Walker, Mr. Stavondre H, Mr. Stowe, Mr. Graham, P.O. Nuyen, Ms. V, Mr. Paterla, and Mr. Kida

Jazmine Stevenson

Mr. Bonnington, Ms. Moogn, Ms. Nickodemus, Mr. Galan.

Jennifer B.

Mrs. Patel, Mrs. Gilligan, and Mrs. Waxmonsky. Tough teachers are the better teachers. They push their students to do better

Kassandra Soto

My favorite teachers are Mr. Tossing, Mr. Graham, Mrs. Carter. I learned so much in those classes and had lots of fun.

William Polanco

My favorite teachers are Mrs. Keller and Mr. Maria.

Janet Peña

Mr. Graham, Ms. Moogan, Ms. K., and Petty Officer Nuyen.

Jovana Calalpa

My favorite teachers would have to be Mr. Tossing, Ms. Gilligan, and Ms. Ditta. They are great all great teachers. They push you hard so you can succeed no only in their class but in your future. They are also very funny and entertaining.

George Marcelino

My favorite teachers are Mrs. Keller, Fuller, Zibi, and Mr. Giron

George Chinchay

Mr. Peña, Mr. Meyers, Ms. Cooper, and Ms. Cauthern.

E. Ramos

My favorite teachers are Mrs. Savinskaya, Ms. San Jose, Mr. Jernigan, Mr. Tyler and Ms. K.

Jose C.

Who will you miss the most?

I will strongly miss all my fellow classmates and all the laughs and good times we had.

Yarissa Chaves

I will miss Mrs. Bohomolec; she was always there.

Jennifer Ruiz

I will miss all my teachers, my friends, and the good moments I used to have in school. I will also miss all the laughs and all the moments from the morning to the afternoon.

Yasmin Lopez

The person I will miss the most is Galan.

E.L.

I will miss Mrs. Cilento's funny self.

N.R.

I will definitely miss Mr. Walker, Mr. Peña, Mr. Tossing, Ms. K and Ms. Fuller.

Estephanny Mendoro

I will miss Ana Ramirez, Lily Flores, Jennifer Bautista, Gisel SantaMaria, Ashlie Ponce, and Deesha S.

Amarilis

I will miss my soccer coach, Fazio.

Hector R.

I will miss my friends, especially Mayra.

Ankita

I will really miss Ankita, Jessica Dominguez, all of my friends and most of all my B.F.F., Johanna Perez.

Mayra C.

I will miss P.O. the most.

Dhara R.

I will miss all of my friends that I have made. I will also miss all the amazing teachers that gave me so much help in studies and advice. Also the clubs I have been in and Naval Science.

Rahul Rana

Ms. River because she was always there for me.

R.M.

I will miss all of my friends I have made throughout high school and all of the teachers and guidance counselors who have been there for me whenever I needed them.

Le'ona M.

I will miss the great teachers and friends I have made along this journey. (And maybe Diana Aguilar...)

Jenice Gerena

I will miss the teachers who have helped me achieve what I have throughout my four years, and guidance counselor, Mr. Gilbert, for always being there to guide me through all my decisions. Also, those close friends that I've grown to love.

Diana A.

Definitely, I will miss, Miss Kobus and guidance counselor, Mr. Gilbert. They are great mentors and have been there for me all these years.

Samantha Rodriguez

Mrs. Mena, Ms. Bolton, and Ms. Moogan.

Kevin Jose

I will miss many of the great teachers I had. My guidance counselor, Mr. Kleiman, and all the people I met in PHS.

Wesley W.

I will miss all of the teachers I had in PHS, and all the close friends I made as an upperclassman. David Urena aka Ted

Derrick my social worker, Mrs. Moore and Ms. Copper because they helped me become a better person.

S.W.

My friends! - J.H.

Ms. Moore and Ms. Yedwab of course.

G.S.

Mrs. Moore, Ms. Williams, and Ms. Copper for being one of those teachers that you just can't forget about.

A. L.

I will miss every teacher I had over the course of my four years, and my coaches like Galan, Contaldi, and Smith.

Rinadly Hidalgo

I will miss Mrs. Patel and Ms. Hiller the most.

Foram Gandhi

I will miss Ms. Kobus, Ms. Belle, and Ms. Hiller.

Raven

What was your funniest excuse to a teacher or V.P.?

My funniest excuse was that I told a teacher I left school because my dog was at the doctor, but I don't have a dog.

Scarlyn Morel

Finding a bottle in my pants and saying it wasn't mine.

Yasmin Lopez

I cut early because the lunch I ate messed up my stomach.

George S.

I told my teacher I wanted to drink water. He asked why, and I said I was hibernating.

Loddymer Pina

I was late to class because I was sucking the venom out of little Timmy's arms because he got bit by a snake in the S-wing.

Kevin Jose'

Walking into class late and saying that I was putting lotion on, and could not walk at the same time

Mayra C.

I told a teacher I rolled down the stairs, took kids down with me, and helped us all back up. All fun and games until you "roll" down the stairs.

Jenice Gerena

My funniest excuse to a teacher and V.P. was that I was the best student ever and I shouldn't be suspended, when I fought and beat this guy. My excuse made them laugh and they gave me 15 instead of 20.

Octavio Reyes



The Journey Coming Ahead

Four years ago, a new journey began
The adventure seemed like it would be forever
But in a blink of an eye it started to end
There you all are in your cap and tassel
Ready to share your knowledge to the world;
For the knowledge you have gained will help you later on in life
When you face and tackle the inevitable changes life has for you,
Be true to yourself;
Hold onto your values, your work ethics, and, most importantly,
Your humanity; for these qualities will guide you further in your journey
As you start your new journey, don't forget the friendships you've made,
Don't forget the memories you've created and the most important thing,
Do not forget the person you have become.
—Jasmine King

...the Class of 2012



My goodbye wishes are...

To be able to come back to this school and be able to visit all my teachers who have influenced me to do well in school.

Mayuri Rana

To every teacher that allowed me to feel comfortable in the classroom: Ms. Moogan and Ms. Gawthier!

Whitney Caridad

I want to say goodbye to all of my good teachers (Mr. Messina) and to PHS.

Karen R. Suarez

I'm going to say goodbye to everyone I know.

Miguel H.

I want to say goodbye to my friends that are still in this school and everyone who changed my life.

Anonymous

My goodbye wishes are to all my friends and teachers whom I will miss!

Carlos Garcia

That you all have a wonderful and happy life and live each day to the fullest.

Anonymous

Everyone be successful and enjoy life because it's short and you only live once.

Anonymous

For everyone to have a fun summer and good luck on their college careers.

Sedeika Williams

Don't become heartless, be kind, develop a good character as best you can, and fall in love, but only if that other person is truly worth it, and even if you don't know how to be the judge of that, please give it a chance. It is better to have loved and lost, rather than not at all.

Ronny Siri

Never stop believing in yourself.

Tracey Cuevas

Follow your dreams and disregard discouragement.

Neeha

I hope the juniors have a great senior year. They better fight for their rights!

Glenn

Well I wish things get better for lower classmen of school, and always remember to never give up.

Anonymous

Wish everyone the of luck with their future after high school. Especially to the class of 2012, we finally did it!

Krystal Feliz

That all the underclassmen work to the best of their ability.

Le'ona M.

Hope all of the Class of 2012 has a successful future. Also going to miss some of the underclassmen.

Mayra C.

My goodbye wishes are that I hope for the best to all my upperclassmen, and much love to all my teachers. You guys are the best, hands down!!

David Urena

My goodbye wishes are that everyone in my senior class end up being successful.

A.J.

I hope everyone in my class of 2012 follows their goals after high school, and becomes successful, and doesn't end up in jail.

Wesley W.

To every teacher that I was able to layback and hang out with, I will miss you! (Moogonator) To every other teacher, GOOD LUCK!

Jovana Calalpa

Don't give up, class of 2012 - you have come so far! May you all be happy and successful in the future.

Jenice Gerena

Who were your favorite teachers?

Ms. Keller arrives to Passaic High School every day at 6:30 am and sometimes stays until 6pm. I admire her dedication to her students. She has helped me so much this year. She is my favorite teacher and I will never forget her.

Demie Butler

My favorite teacher is Mr. Brandwein. He's too funny.

Suemarie

My favorite teachers have to be Mr. Maria and Mrs. Keller. They are both great at what they do, and they push you till you've done your best.

Tatiana Marte

My favorite teachers are Ms. Kobus, Ms. Cooper, and Ms. Cawthern.

Ana R.

There is no need to copy when you can produce your own exceptional work - Ms. Harrison

Ronny Siri

My favorite teacher is Petty Officer Nuyen. He always made me smile.

Cristina Aguila

My favorite teachers are Mr. Rays, Mrs. Cawthern, Mr. Barbara, Mrs. Almario, Mrs. Aparicio, Mrs. Junco and Mrs. Kobus!

Y.L.

My favorite teachers are Mr. San Jose, Ms. Kowaleski, Mr. Jernigan, Ms. Kobus, Ms. Carter and P.O Nuyen.

Johanna P.

My favorite teachers are Mrs. Savinskaya, Ms. San Jose, Ms. K., Ms. Kobus, Mr. V, Ms. Cawthern, Mr. Sontz, and Mrs. Eyal.

Blanca M.

My favorite teacher is Ms. Bohamelac. She guided me.

Jasmin A.

My favorite teachers are Ms. Cooper, Ms. Patel, Mr. Tyler and Ms. Olga Perez because throughout my senior year, they all helped me a lot and motivated me.

Faram Gandhi

My favorite teachers were Mrs. Boudalis, Mrs. Perterson, Ms. Cooper, Mrs. Cilento, and Mrs. Fuller. They were all SO much fun!

Jenice Gerena

My favorite teachers this year are Mrs. Keller, Mrs. Valerian, and Mrs. Fuller, because they are actually teachers that care about our students.

Diana Flores



SENIOR CLASS OFFICERS

PRESIDENT WITH A BIG HEART
Yovanna Garcia

By Mabelly Tejada

During an interview with the class president, Yovanna Garcia, it became obvious that she is very dedicated to her responsibilities as a class officer. Garcia became involved with student government in middle school. She always enjoyed the feeling of being a part of a whole and making a change.

Garcia mentioned that this position helped her develop greater leadership characteristics and molded her into a stronger person. She takes pride in knowing that she had an extremely powerful effect on the results of the great class of 2012.

As president of the senior class, Garcia has much responsibility and an important role to play. "I could not have accomplished my duties without my other officers, Samantha, Felix, and Krystal." They were all able to accomplish their goals together and efficiently, said Garcia. "They helped make me to be an effective leader and I don't know what would have happened without them."

Garcia's advice to freshmen is to deviate from the path of many students who suffer from: laziness. She explained that it is a huge transition from the middle school structure to the high school structure. However, each student must remain focused on his or her studies. Motivation to learn and participate helps anyone to reach his/her potential. Garcia said, "Freshmen should become involved with clubs and activities right from the start." She believes they will be more focused on school and can become independent students themselves.

"If more people would have been involved from the start, senior year could have run a little smoother," said Garcia. A lot of students complained and did not like a lot of what the class advisors and class officers, including Garcia, did. The lack of students at meetings upset Garcia and because of this, many of the classmates did not agree with last minute decisions. However, the class officers found a way to make it work.

People who personally know Garcia can be sure to say that she is a very intelligent and dedicated individual. She fits the perfect description of what a class president should be. Garcia has played a great role as our representative and her leadership skills will continue to follow her in her future endeavors.

Many thanks go out to Garcia for the successful outcome of our high school years.

DYNAMIC V.P.

Samantha Rodriguez

By Jennifer Rojas

As the school year comes to an end, the class officers reminisces about the year. Vice President Samantha Rodriguez felt that the best part of being a class officer was the ability to help her classmates by being someone they could rely on.

Many seniors aren't always aware of what is going on with their class, so Rodriguez is always quick to let them know. Questions on anything that have to do with her class are always welcomed.

Although it is a big responsibility to keep up with everything, it's something that Rodriguez wanted. "I had to make many sacrifices to have this position," said Rodriguez. "Juggling work, AP classes, and being able to wake up in the morning were definitely tiring, but it was worth it."

There are some regrets that Rodriguez has, such as not having had as many participants in each fundraiser, as she would have liked. However, in the end, she was able to bring people together.

Rodriguez is satisfied with how the year has ended, and with the events that she actively spear headed. The great Class of 2012 couldn't have done it without the passion and dedication of Samantha Rodriguez!



Photo by S. Yedwab

Yovanna Garcia, Krystal Fliz,
Felix Zhang, Samantha Rodriguez

TERRIFIC SECRETARY

*Krystal Fliz*By Mabelly Tejada and
Tracey Cuevas

It was apparent to tell that Krystal Feliz was very intrigued with her position as secretary among the class officers. Feliz has dedicated a lot of time to making sure everyone in the senior class contributed. "It was difficult deciding on what would make the student body happy with the decisions we made for the senior class," stated Feliz.

Even though her least favorite part was staying after school to sort out paper work or agreeing with certain decisions, she was still committed to getting the job done. Feliz has been working hard as secretary, since her sophomore year, and has done everything possible to keep her class satisfied.

Since senior year has major stress, she surrounded herself with positive energy to get things done the right way. Her favorite part was making an impact and having a say in decisions for the class. "Everyone should contribute, speak up and not miss any important events. They benefit you, your class and future events," exclaimed Feliz.

Feliz has accomplished much during her high school years. "I am very proud to be a contributor of my class and to have worked with the rest of the officers as well," Feliz said. With that stated, it is obvious that not only did she accomplish her responsibilities, but she also enjoyed doing them.

CLASS TREASURER

*Flexing with
Felix Zhang*

By Lodymyer Pina

Felix Zhang is the treasurer of the Class 2012. His responsibilities as a student officer were to keep track of the money and assess the finances of the class to ensure accurate estimates of expenses. Although all officers help each other with their responsibilities, there were some obstacles. Zhang's greatest obstacle was getting the class of 2012 to participate in and contribute to all of the fundraisers and activities.

Zhang explained "I love being active, and since I always wanted to be heard, being a class officer was a great activity for me." Zhang likes to take charge and likes to be heard. The office of treasurer allowed him to be heard and he was able to take charge. He was able to contribute to the class by planning fundraisers which helped to build up money for senior events.

Zhang finds it very enjoyable to play an active role in his class. "Being part of the class officers helped me make many friends with my fellow classmates," he said. He has a lot of class spirit. He recommends that upcoming students should become active in their class events.

Although it might be hard at times to communicate with the class and others, the rewards are worth it.

Farewell Seniors
Class of 2012Passaic Public Schools
PASSAIC HIGH SCHOOL
170 Paulison Avenue
Shirelles Boulevard
Passaic, NJ 07055Office of the Principal
Tobias Weissman973-470-5531
Fax 973-470-5135

Mr. Weissman

The Fondest of Farewells
From Principal Weissman

Once again, I am privileged and honored to serve as your principal and strongest supporter of your future endeavors. Although I have not been with you during your freshman and sophomore years, I was fortunate enough to be cheering you on through your junior and senior years. I must tell you that all visitors, faculty and staff compliment your maturity, character and your willingness to share your ideas and thoughts.

From the moment I began working at Passaic High School, I knew, without a doubt, there was something very special about our student body. I observed a group of students that were compassionate, sensitive and more than willing to learn the lessons of life.

Success does not come easy and failure is part of "making it." You may have obstacles and challenges to overcome to fulfill your dreams, but you will find a way to bridge success upon success. Our faculty and staff at PHS have worked with you diligently and with great confidence in your ability. We will continue to root for you and want you to always know that we are here if you need advice, guidance or an infusion of the PHS spirit.

All the best! Mr. Weissman, Principal

Seniors:

I have truly enjoyed being your vice principal. The time together has been one full of laughs, tears, accomplishments and growing pains. Dear, My most memorable memories of the class of 2012 are when I have seen your competitive side at all our events. There are my proudest moments.

This time of the year, is a sad time, but also a very exciting time for those of us, like myself, who have seen you laugh at the top of your lungs, cry with passion, throw tantrums and then flourish into mature adults. We have worried about you when you were quiet, and worried about you when you wouldn't stop talking, and now you are leaving, and we will still worry and pray that all your dreams come true. We hope you remember every life lesson we have taught you, and that others respect you and see the potential we have always seen in you.

Always remember to hold your head up high even when others don't see you for who you are. Work hard, and don't let others ever tell you that you can't succeed. Reach for the stars, but if you fall down, pick yourself up and try again. The road ahead is not an easy one, and no one is going to hold your hand, but it is not impossible. You have accomplished a lot and will continue to do so, if you truly believe in yourself.

Good luck, never settle for less and, last but not least, always remember your PHS Family.

Love, Ms. Rivera



Ms. Rivera



Mrs. Micik

I decided to become a class advisor because I thought it would be fun to help the students prepare towards a successful senior year.

I did enjoy being a class advisor and getting to know the students. We had many successful fundraisers, like the carwash, the empanada and pizza sales. However, this year, it was having the first dance party that started us off very successfully.

Sometimes, I felt there was not enough input from a lot of the students, yet there was always a great group of students that stepped up to help their class. I guess the most stressful situations would be when we had long queues to purchase all the fun senior things and activities.

My proudest moment will be watching all the beautiful young men and woman walking in their caps and gowns to start the next exciting chapter in their lives. My final words to the great class of 2012 is to always follow your dreams, get the most out of life, enjoy everything and every moment.

Prepare for the future by getting the most education you can. Stay safe always; I will miss all of you! With lots of love I wish my class the best.

Mrs. Micik, Senior Class Advisor



Mrs. Mena

To the Graduating Class of 2012,

I want to congratulate every one of you on your success at Passaic High School. In the classroom, on the fields, in the arts, or in the service of others, each of you have grown and given of yourself; and for that you should be proud. As you leave PHS, you will take with you many friendships and endless memories of the last four years that will stay with you for a lifetime.

If I can give you any advice, I want you to keep challenging yourself and the world around you. Continue to DREAM BIG and don't let anyone or anything stop you from reaching your goals. So, in closing, I wish you all the best as you head off for the next exciting stage in your life. Come back and visit Passaic High School often; you will always be welcomed!

Mrs. Mena



Mrs. Slosarik

To the Senior Class of 2012,

The reason that I decided to take on the role of class advisor is because it gives me the opportunity to work with the students in a completely different setting. Getting to know them outside of the classroom and watching them grow and mature into amazing young men and women these past four years has been my privilege. I have enjoyed all the fun activities and time spent with the Class of 2012. Selling cookies is a great fundraiser, but our most successful in my mind was our Car Wash. We had so much fun and it was great watching the community support and involvement.

The Class of 2012 was very committed but of course there is always room for improvement. Many of our students have many other commitments both in school and in their homes but I have to say we always had people ready to step up when we needed them, especially our class officers Yovana Garcia, Samantha Rodriguez, Felix Zhang and Krystal Feliz. The most stressful situation that I had to deal with as class advisor, well if you mean besides them continually trying to teach me how to dance, was definitely the class changing their minds. There were a few situations where we voted on what the class wanted and they changed their minds. It is frustrating but looking back now I can laugh. Sometimes I think that they secretly enjoyed making my head spin, but I realize that they are teenagers and it comes with the whole package, even with kids as amazing as the Class of 2012.

My proudest moment was when they won the Spirit Week trophy senior year. The entire class worked together not just to win but to be an example of true school spirit. Numerous faculty members approached me to compliment all of their hard work. The trophy was just an added bonus the real reward was seeing them come together as leaders for the school.

My final words to the Class of 2012 are remember not to allow the challenges of where you began dictate where you can go. But, most importantly, never forget the people and places that have helped to shape you into the amazing young men and women you have become. You truly are shining stars who have lit up my world! I would also like to thank Ms. Rivera, Ms. Slappy and Ms. Bell who supported and encouraged us throughout the last four years making our job that much more amazing and definitely entertaining! Thank-you to the staff and Class of 2012 for making me smile these past four years. You are the best!

Thank you!
Mrs. Slosarik

Seniors, no more worries about whether you have enough credits to graduate. You need not panic about that speech class that you thought might not have been the performing art requirement needed for graduation. HSPA, SRA, AP, AND SAT will be distant memories as you ascend that platform to receive your diplomas. CONGRATULATIONS to the Class of 2012!!!

PHS graduates, know that you are all unique, and that you have something special to offer. You will enter various capacities that will allow you to use your creativity and ingenuity that PHS has prepared you for. It was a privilege and honor to get to know and work with so many of you. Your enthusiasm and eagerness to prepare yourselves to move on to the next phase in your lives were great. I was astounded by your readiness in meeting the appropriate deadlines, and maintaining the determination to follow through with your plans. I applaud your courage in making these next steps into colleges, technical schools, military, and the work force.

Be confident as you embark upon unfamiliar territory. Be focused when making life-changing decisions that will determine your path in life. Be compassionate when you have the opportunity to show humanitarianism. Have a willingness to respond and assist in areas where you are well equipped to perform.

An indeed, a heartfelt farewell goes out to our many talented graduates as they commence new goals and challenges!

Sincerely, Mrs. Beverly Moore,
PHS School Counselor

Mrs. Moore

To the Class of 2012

Good Luck and guidance in all that you do

Reach for that star and don't let go

Approach your future with hope and a positive outlook

Do what your heart tells you and where it leads you

Under that graduate cap is a wonderful, capable person

Another time, another place, I hope we meet again

Take the lessons learned and friends made over the past 4 years with you

Education is a wonderful thing - make it a lifelong adventure

We'll miss you!

Love, Mrs. Hains
Guidance Counselor

Mrs. Hains

It's hard to say goodbye...

I'll miss you all

I started my career as a teacher's aide in 1982. As such, I worked with ESL teachers and helped Indian students. Mrs. Scheraga, the ESL teacher, and I started CLUB INDIA in 1982. Every year, CLUB INDIA gives scholarship to deserving seniors.

I became a Bilingual/ESL teacher in 1992. Currently, I travel between LMS and PHS. I teach Social Studies to the Indian students at LMS and ESL/SRA at PHS.

I've enjoyed working in the Passaic School District. I'm retiring this year, but I'll miss my LMS/PHS family. It's very difficult for me to say good bye. I thank all my supervisors, administrators and department chairpersons for their help and support during all these years. I will miss you all.



Mrs. Shah

Mrs. Shah

If I could write a rhyming verse...

It would be to someone with whom I converse
He listens, he is patient, and is very kind,
As he always asks what's on my mind.
He helps me with lessons and programs galore
Sometimes he even texts me at the Gregory Avenue door.
He organizes our Computerized Babies and things to be carried,
You may have guessed- it is the guy to whom I am married.



Mrs. Peterson

When I began at PHS, I was afraid to start
But he was the one person who gave me heart.
Now that I'm at the end of my career at PHS,
I want to let you all know the secret to my success,
My husband
But I also want to let you know how much
I've greatly enjoyed working with everyone here,
It will be really hard not seeing you all next year!

Mrs. MaryAnn Petersen

My Saga

I would like to thank all the teachers, staff and students of Passaic High School for their support and the many good friendships that developed over the years. I have gained much more than anything that money can buy, as through your help, I now have a basic understanding of the Spanish language and a profound respect for the Hispanic culture.

Most of all, I will truly miss my students. You were the reason I liked my job and came to work. I never gave less than my best as a teacher. You deserve nothing but the best, since you are the future of America. You will always be a part of me. I will never forget your smiles and the looks on your faces when you discovered that through hard work and determination you could succeed.

Goodbye, my fellow Americans. I will truly miss you. To all past and present N.J.R.O.T.C. cadets: "Fair Winds and Following to Seas."



Mr. Yule

Senior Chief Yule
U.S. Navy (Ret)**Hugs and Kisses from Mrs. Gibbs**

December 23, 2011 was half a day of work and I was filled with mixed emotions. There were moments of sadness jading the warm happy memories belonging to me and PHS.

The last bell rang, and I said, "Happy Holidays" XOXO to several of my co-workers, locked the door to G-138, my classroom, when I was a student and my work place for 36 years and 10 months. That day was my last day of work.

I truly miss the many friends I've made and bonded with over the years. Their friendship, love and support will always be cherished.

I miss my students from the past, who would randomly stop by to give me an up-date. I'm sending a hug or just saying, "Hi," to my last Class of 2011-2012. I miss you.

XOXO Ms. Gibbs



Ms. Gibbs

TOP 5 AT PHS: Felix Zhang
Continued from page 1

proud to say that I achieved this goal," he said.

Even though he has been trying to be able to keep his grades up and be at the top of his game, he still finds time to join clubs. He told us that he loves getting involved with school and that he has joined many clubs and he holds officer's positions in four clubs "I was very consistent with my clubs and activities in and outside of school," Zhang said.

His rise to the top, is very much due to his family and teachers who inspired him to keep striving for more. "They have all sacrificed many hours and resources to ensure that my success was a palpable target," Zhang said. The teachers that influenced him the most have been his math and

science teachers from his junior and senior years.

He told us that they also taught him valuable life lessons along the way. "The math and science teachers specifically have stayed countless hours with me and also invested so much effort into the education of others," Zhang said.

After graduation, his journey doesn't stop. In the future, he plans to attend Stevens Institute of Technology and major in environmental engineering. His ultimate goal is to either go on to medical school or work for the EPA to clean up after environmental disasters.

There were many challenges for Zhang to get to his position. "The largest challenge for me was managing seven AP courses," he said. It was painful for him to turn down friends because something

was due the next day.

Zhang's advice for lower classmen is to manage their time wisely and to enjoy high school, as you only go through it once.

With that said, we wish the best of luck to Felix Zhang who will never stop striving for more.

Growing up

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She is at the middle of her life, but the road does not end there.

My mother is truly an inspirational figure in my life, and I could not have asked for a better mother. She has shown me what a role model is and how I should never give up. She taught me the wonderful opportunities this country has to offer, if you have the right mindset to obtain a bright future.

TOP 5 AT PHS: Ruth Delgado
Continued from page 1

there's always a motivator. There were actually two people that had an impact in Delgado's life, Ms. Romero and Ms. King. Ms. Romero was Delgado's language arts teacher in eighth grade. Ms. King was Delgado's AP chemistry teacher.

Both teachers would give Delgado life lessons, causing her to reach a high rank. They taught her to give back to the community and to learn from her mistakes.

During the interview, Delgado discussed her plans after graduating high school. She stated she will attend the Catholic University of America, to major in chemistry. After she achieves her BS in Chemistry, Delgado would like to go to medical school. "The reason I would like to go to medical school is because I grew up in a neighborhood that had people who would suffer and didn't have the proper medical attention," said Delgado.

It was a challenging road for Delgado to get where she is today.

In elementary school, she was in ESL classes up until second grade. As her English progressed, however, she was placed in the Gifted and Talented Program at the Learning Center. Going through tough obstacles as a child gave her hope and made her believe she would be able to make it in the real world.

Want to have a spot in the top five rank in the future? Delgado has a few pointers. "Reach for the stars," she said. "High school can be a stressful environment, but there are moments where relaxing or just hanging out with friends makes the whole high school experience worth it. Just breathe, because everything will fall into place. It is just a matter of how one wants to look at the situation," shared Delgado.

It was a challenging mission to get to where she is today, but it was never impossible. I wish her luck with everything she does and Passaic High School wishes to see her help those who need it the most in the future. Congrats on being the fantastic fourth of Passaic High School's Class of 2012!

TOP 5 AT PHS: Jose Calixto
Continued from page 1

Calixto plans to attend Rutgers University and pursue a career in architecture after he graduates high school.

As the interview came to a close, Calixto wanted to give advice to all the lower classmen: "I encourage them to do extracurricular activities and challenge themselves by taking AP (advanced placement) classes."

Not only is Calixto an excellent student, he is also a role model to all students attending PHS. He is a prime example of what an ambitious and well rounded student looks like. Keep it up, Jose!

**Congratulations
to all the
PHS Senior
Athletes**

How to Say Goodbye...

How do I say goodbye to the halls
I've walked for 30 years?

How do I say goodbye to the stairs
I've climbed for 30 years?

How do I say goodbye to my great parking
spot in front of the school for 2 years?

How do I say goodbye to teaching Black Boy,
The Great Gatsby and Our Town?

How do I say goodbye to teaching journalism and
putting out The Hilltop Star?

How do I say goodbye to knocking my head against
the wall at faculty meetings?

How do I say goodbye to all of you, faculty, staff,
and students, whom I've grown to love?

It's simple...I won't!

Rather, I'll keep you in my heart...always!



Mrs. Yedwab

Sharon Yedwab

John Delgado

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wish is that the future volleyball teammates will work hard and continue to get better, and most, importantly have fun!

Last but not least, Delgado has a shout out for the coaches! He feels all his coaches were very influential in his life. However, "Coach Gomez has taught me more than just the game," he exclaimed, "His demanding

personality has pushed me to always do better!"

In wrapping up the interview, his last words were for the coaches. "Thank you to all my coaches who have prepared me to perform at my best. They have shared their knowledge and experiences with me, not only about sports but also about life. This is priceless information that I will cherish as I go onto another stage of my life," he said warmly.

Ramon Cabrera

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of us!"

Cabrera believes swimming was the sport that taught him the most. He especially admires Coach Cerdan: "He was one of the most influential coaches I've had because he always worries about my education and future. He

helped me get into WPU."

His most memorable moment in high school was in sports. "It was when the PHS Baseball Team won the first round of County in baseball. I remember the hard work we put into it to win that game," said Cabrera.

The Hilltop Star wishes Cabrera the best of luck.

Tykkar Womack

continued on page 16

influential mentor. Coach Grant worked with him everyday making sure he didn't lose focus. One of Womack's most memorable moments was when he won Most Outstanding Award in wrestling at the Secaucus championship.

Joshua Morrissey

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captain for two of the four. Morrissey believes his high school experience helped him to become good at making decisions. "I learned to think about every decision I make before I do it," he said.

One thing Morrissey feels is

His advice to the future athletes of PHS is: "Always stay strong as a team, not as individuals and lift weights to get stronger."

The staff of *The Hilltop Star* would like to thank you on behalf of PHS for all your effort and congratulate you on your accomplishments. We wish you the best in all your future goals.

more important than great memories are the teammates you shared them with. Morrissey urges next year's bowlers to, "Not get so upset when you do badly and you are having a bad day. It is not the end of the world!"

Morrissey is certainly a great athlete and we wish him the best in his post-graduate endeavors.

jobs like miners in coal mines.

When we asked these two gentlemen if they would like to do this professionally, they both said, "Yes." Martin is thinking of making robotic appendages for people with disabilities and amputated limbs. Villar would like to go to a technical school and become a computer scientist.

As these masterminds prepare for the future, they would like to bring back an award next year. We wish these men good luck with their robot!

Special thanks to Mr. Petrella and the Robotics Club for moving PHS into the 21st century.

Cheerleading

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Cheerleader, and I will also miss my football and basketball players. It was a great high school experience. Now I'm ready for college cheerleading.

Robots may seem to be built for fun, but they can be an asset in everyday life. "Robots might be able to help carry things like groceries, and annoying children," chuckled Martin. They can also replace people who have dangerous

Senior Sports Retrospective



Alyssa Rivera

Photo by Sally Flores

**Passaic Varsity Cheerleading
A Truly Great Sport**

By Alyssa Rivera

Cheerleading is more than just a sport to me, it's my life. As a cheerleader for these past four years, and captain for two years, my physical appearance has improved and my mental outlook has grown. This sport forced me to keep my grades up because, if I didn't, I couldn't be on the squad. However, school work has always been a priority for me.

Cheerleading is not just about dancing around in miniskirts or about the popularity. It's about being an ambassador for the school. Many different people have come to me weekly and told me I'm an amazing cheerleader.

They look up to me because of how much potential I have. Some would also say they would love to join cheerleading because of how much fun it seems to be. Furthermore, they want people to look up to them. It's actually an amazing feeling to be admired by others.

It was a great feeling wearing that uniform because it made me feel as if I meant something; not to just one person, but to the whole school. The squad kept the spirit and the motivation towards the school up because that's what we do.

Cheerleading means more to me than just simple dance moves. It's what I love to do most, and it helps me realize hard work pays off.

Furthermore, these past four years as a cheerleader opened my eyes and made me see that I can't always think about myself. Our squad worked as a team, and we had successful seasons. It wasn't always good all the time, but no matter what, when we had that uniform on, we were a team, and we worked as a team to make the best out of it.

I am seriously going to miss being a Passaic Varsity

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**Joshua Morrissey
A True PHS
Athlete**

By Allen Humphries



Photo by Cristal Soriano

It's fascinating to take a peak into the high school experience of an athlete. Therefore, in this issue, we chose to divulge Joshua Morrissey's inner life.

Morrissey is a graduating senior, varsity member, and captain of PHS Bowling Team. He has worked hard and done what he loves. Our aim is to unfold some of his high school experiences and discover what he wishes to experience, post-high school.

"I plan to continue working, go to culinary school, and to move out," said Morrissey. Sports are Morrissey's love, but he would try to pursue them no further than recreation and fitness, for he is happy with his career choice.

He bowled for PHS for four years, and was

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**Ramon Cabrera
Maintains
Excellence**

By Cristal Soriano



Photo by Sally Flores

Ramon Cabrera, participated in three sports during high school. He did 3 years of swimming and baseball, and 1 year of cross country. Cabrera was swimming captain for 2 years, and Athlete of the Month his junior year.

He plans on pursuing his love for swimming at William Paterson University because of the great swimming team they have. There are many things Cabrera plans to do after he graduates, but he mainly wants to major in engineering at WPU.

"I don't have any regrets upon leaving high school, I have enjoyed my time here and it's time to move on," said Cabrera. As a senior, his advice is: "Keep working hard, push each other and give it your all every day, so we can make PHS proud

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**Tykkar Womack
An Athlete
with Style**

By Cristal Soriano and Sally Flores



Photo by Cristal Soriano

Tykkar Womack has dedicated himself to play sports throughout his four years at PHS. The two sports that mainly held his interest were football and wrestling. Womack was wrestling captain for two years and football captain for one year. He plans on pursuing his love for football by becoming a pro. Womack will be going to Temple University to major in accounting.

Womack regrets not going to States for wrestling, "I know I could have done better," he said. However, Womack still won many honors. He has won District Champion for two years and placed 2nd in Counties. Womack was also Secaucus champion.

This athlete believes wrestling was the sport that taught him the most during high school. "It taught me responsibility because I had to maintain my weight," said Womack.

His wrestling coach was also his most

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**John Delgado
An Athlete for All Seasons**

By Cristal Soriano

John Delgado, a magnificent athlete, participated in PHS's basketball and volleyball teams throughout high school. He completed three years for basketball and four years for volleyball. Delgado is nearly done with his senior year of high school and is planning to attend PCCC through the New Jersey Stars Program after graduating. He isn't sure if he will be pursuing sports in the future, but if the opportunity presents itself, then, "Sure," he said.

While on the PHS Volleyball Team, he received many honors. For example, he was volleyball captain for one year and received "Volleyball 1st Team All League" in 2011.

Delgado felt volleyball was the sport that taught him the most. "It takes physical and mental preparation," he said. One of his most memorable moments was beating rival Clifton at our home for the first time since 2006. The team also beat them for a second time at their home. "It's such a sweet feeling!" said Delgado.

The only regret he has upon leaving high school is not bringing home a County Championship. His

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**Serafin Ariza
All around Athlete**

By Sally Flores



Photo by Sally Flores

Dedicated, hardworking, and motivated are a few of the many words that describe Serafin Ariza. It's now senior year at PHS, and Ariza has all his plans set in motion.

During his time at PHS, Ariza participated in four years of soccer and one year of track and field. He served as captain for both the Junior Varsity and Varsity Boy's Soccer Teams. He also has received the 1st All County Soccer recognition.

Ariza's most memorable moment in sports at PHS, as for the whole Varsity Soccer Team, was the time they beat Wayne Hills for the first time in PHS history. Upon leaving PHS, his only regret is that he should have joined more clubs.

After graduation, Ariza's plans are to enroll in a four year college like La Roche College in Pittsburgh, to pursue a major in criminal justice, and eventually be chief of an investigative team.

As for sports, soccer will always be his favorite and he'll continue playing it in college. If one day he gets to the professional level, he is committed to giving it his all.

Soccer has been the most prominent sport for me. It taught me how to work together and be respectful of others. Ariza has the following words of advice for his teammates: "In order to have a successful season, you must work from beginning to end. Play strong through the whole game, and play as if it were your last game, because your time will soon come."

He also has words of praise for Coach Galan. "I want to give special recognition to Coach Galan. He was there for me since freshman year and gave me great advice. He always motivated me, trusted me, and for that he has been the most influential human being throughout my four years in high school."

Congratulations! PHS appreciates your dedication and effort. We wish you the absolute best in the future.

**Rinaldy Hidalgo
Senior Captain
Farewell**

By Allen Humphries



Photo by Cristal Soriano

With the impending graduation coming fast, we've decided to conduct a senior sports retrospective on varsity members. My interviewee is Rinaldy Hidalgo.

"After I graduate I'm going to PCCC for a year, and then I'm transferring to Kean University," said Hidalgo, who wants to be a physical education teacher and a wrestling coach.

He participated in cross-country, wrestling, and track & field. Hidalgo has dedicated himself to physical fitness because he has participated in wrestling for four yrs, cross country for three years, and track & field for three years.

Hidalgo was rewarded for his hard work and dedication by excelling in all these sports. He was captain for both cross-country and wrestling for two yrs. After having put his best foot forward, he has no regrets. In fact, he feels he has done all he could do to make these four years into a "wonderful experience."

His parting words to his fellow teammates are, "Pour your heart into anything you do because, when you do, that is when you succeed." He also wants to say that in all the years he spent on his sports teams, the coaches imparted very valuable information about life and about each particular sport.

Having said that, he would like to recognize one coach who was very influential, Coach Contaldi. "He was always on top of what I did academically and athletically," shared Hidalgo.

In closing, Hidalgo mentioned, "I would like to thank all of my coaches, teammates, and teachers for always supporting me and always being there for me through thick and thin."

**Christopher Lopez
Loves to Play Soccer**

By Cristal Soriano

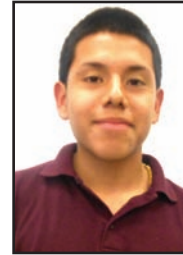


Photo by Sally Flores

Christopher Lopez, one of the most dedicated soccer players, was a teammate for the PHS soccer team all through his four years of high school. Now a senior, Lopez is leaving with no regrets and enjoying his time in high school.

He is planning to attend college and study criminal justice. Lopez is also planning on pursuing his passion for soccer after high school. He said, "Soccer will be in me no matter what."

He actually sees soccer as more than just a game, "Soccer taught me a lot. It taught me how to be a leader, and to be committed," he shared. Lopez not only played soccer for four years, but he was once part of spring track during his junior year.

He's won many awards and honors, including All-League Second Team for two years. He was also captain in his senior year along with Jerry Tlatelpa, Serafin Ariza, and Jose Calixto.

When asked who his most influential coach was, he said, "Without a doubt, Coach Fazio. Not only did he prepare us for soccer, but also for later on in our lives. He was always there for us and never gave up on us."

Lopez's most memorable moments include the times he spent together with his teammates, beating Clifton and scoring a goal against Wayne Hills.

Lopez gave future teammates for next year the following advice: "Believe in each other. Nothing is impossible. Work hard, not only in soccer but in school!"

Finally, Lopez believes very strongly that teamwork is the key to success. "Passaic has a lot of young talented soccer players, but to be a successful team, we have to work together, and believe in each other," he said.