



Passaic's finest firefighters extinguish fires that threaten our school. Photo by staff

Fire Forces Evacuation of School

By Estaban Febles

It was the last day of May, and many of us were thinking about the weekend, but a huge fire that broke out just after 9:00 at 162 Gregory Avenue changed the normal progression of the day. This terrible fire has left 8 firefighters injured and forced the evacuation of PHS. All of the firefighters recovered. Most were treated for heat exhaustion and released.

As soon as the rumor of the fire spread, students were able to find out just how big this fire was through their phones. As the fire seemed to get worse by the minute, it became clear that something must be done at school. First, windows in the S-wing were closed to prevent any toxic smoke

from entering the building. Later, the school was evacuated to Lincoln Middle School, School 11 and even the stadium. It was a hot day and tempers could have flared, but the faculty helped all the students get to where they needed to be.

An orderly evacuation to various other schools of over two thousand students and staff is a tricky proposition, but PHS was up to the challenge. "I am always so impressed with the level of maturity of our students," said Mr. Weissman. He added, "I also wish to thank the faculty and staff who helped everyone get to where they needed to be."

After the smoke cleared, it became apparent that many students were affected by this fire

on a personal level. Some of our fellow students were of the over one hundred people who called 162 Gregory home. Immediately the members of the Octagon Club jumped into action. "We saw a need and went into action," said Mr. Sheridan, Octagon Club advisor. In a matter of days fundraisers were put together and donations for the victims of this fire were collected. Over two thousand dollars was eventually collected by the students and staff of PHS.

One thing is certain, that when there is a threat or a need the members of the student body and the faculty and staff of PHS is up to the challenge. Thank you to the Octagon Club for making our city a better place.



Photo by staff
(Sitting) Damian Calderon (Standing left to right) Mrs. Ackerson-Baez, Mr. Stroble, Katelynn Vargas, Maria Zuniga, Shane Dekle, Michael Martinez, Cristian Bastardo, Mrs. Bhutt

Students Learn Life Skills

By Gabriela Hernandez

CBI, Community Based Instruction, is a class in the Instructional Support Staff Department. The goal of CBI is to take students into the community to learn functional life

skills enabling them to be better productive members of the community after graduation. learn a lot about planning and giving, they were able to share a great sense of pride and accomplishment, in planning and carrying out this event that turned out so well," said Mrs. Ackerson, one of the advisors for CBI.

skills enabling them to be better productive members of the community after graduation.

To graduate a higher level of PHS student, a key focus for this year was the concept of giving or helping others without the expectation of getting anything in return. The students decided to plan a party for the teachers to thank them for all their support during the school year.

To plan an event like this, students used and mastered many skills, like budgeting, meal planning and area set-up in preparing for this event. CBI students worked diligently on many fundraisers throughout the year in preparation for this event. Furthermore, they received some personal donations.

Students were responsible for decorating and setting up the area, organizing and replenishing the food, greeting the teachers and staff members, and especially making sure that everyone was having a good time. The students were able to initiate conversations with many teachers and other individuals that they do not ordinarily see.

The CBI luncheon was a great success. Students and teachers alike enjoyed the luncheon. This event was not only a great way to thank teachers but also a wonderful learning experience for the students. The CBI students and staff wish to thank all who attended and who helped to make this event happen.

"Not only did these students



Beautification Murals Highlight What is Great About PHS

By Hilltop Staff

You may have noticed that there are many areas of the building that are getting murals painted by talented students. Images of famous painters and artists are by the art rooms, a patriotic mural of the American flag with the slogan, "freedom is not free," with the official seals of the branches of the U.S. military prominently displayed, has just been completed by the ROTC room, and even Mr. Walker's classroom has a mostly completed homage to famous figures from African-American history.

The patriotic mural was painted by senior, Adonis Jimenez. He said, "I just wanted to give the ROTC students and the rest of PHS a symbol of what we strive for in the ROTC program."

Both the mural by the art room and the one in African-American History classroom were painted by Robyn Henderson. She said of her work, "I love art. It is what has kept me sane at school. I just wanted to use my art to leave my mark on the halls of PHS."

The murals all have beautified our halls and classrooms. They add a cheerful presence to the school, a place we can be proud to go everyday.



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See 2013 Senior Prom Album on page 6-7

Voices from the Dark Tour:

Death Wolf, The Foreshadowing, Inquisition, Moonspell, and Marduk play at the Gramercy Theater

By Guadalupe Carmona

The long awaited announcement of the voices of Dark Tour was very mixed. Death Wolf was the opening act in support of their highly awaited album release "II: Black Armored Death." Since they feature members from Marduk this was a great opportunity to gain more support for their upcoming album.

One surprising aspect of this band is that they fall far from Marduk's black metal sound, to a more thrash/heavy metal onslaught. The overall theme of this concert was variety of sound.

The Foreshadowing, an Italian band, is also touring in support of their newest album entitled "Second World." It is filled with gloomy, melancholic lyrics and very gothic/doom sound. Their lyrics are deeper than most other bands and fit well with their gloomy sound. They surely are something new and worth checking out.

For a complete 360, Inquisition was one of the most anticipated bands on this bill. Though they do not have a new album, they were highly awaited here in NYC, since their last tour with Septicflesh. The crowd swelled during this segment of the show and they were not disappointed. It is always interesting to see such wild support for a two-piece band. Inquisition appeased their fans with their signature black metal style.

Inquisition has been around for a while now. Even though they are not new to the metal tour scene, they have a loyal following and are surely a delicacy for the black metal die hard crowd every time they tour. Not to take any credit from the headliners, but surely the crowd seemed to enjoy Inquisition the most.

Following Inquisition, the co-headliners, from Portugal, Moonspell and from Sweden, Marduk, took the stage. Moonspell has returned to the states after almost 4 years. It's fair to say that they still have a huge following in NYC. There were also many proud Portuguese fans waving their flag up high during their set. They were supporting their 2012 release "Alpha Noir," yet their set



Photos by Guadalupe Carmona

Marduk plays to loyal fans.

list contained more of the old and best Moonspell songs, which made for a very solid performance from this gothic band.

For a few minutes the venue was hectic as there a rush to begin the Marduk performance to avoid colliding with an event scheduled later that night. Marduk wound up starting late which led to a few songs being cut from their set list. Despite all the pressure to get their set done in a timely manner, they delivered an onslaught of sound with heavy drum blasts and a furious atmosphere that left no member of the crowd without the raw feeling of true black metal.

Overall this was a great concert. With varied sounds and a mix from many bands, there was something for everyone in the metal genre of music.



Photo by Guadalupe Carmona

Moonspell



imdb.com

I Fell Asleep in Iron Man 3

By Henry Hernandez

Yes, I will admit it. I fell asleep during one of the most anticipated movies of the year. It was also a movie that was on my own most anticipated movies of the year. So there I was, after paying my twelve dollars to Clifton Commons, to sleep. Don't let me give you the wrong impression. I loved this movie. (I have finished seeing it since going to the theater.) It was just a mistake to go to the late show after going to school all day. Every other show was sold out and I just wanted to see this movie so bad.

Marvel's Iron Man 3, puts Tony Stark (the Iron Man) against a new enemy who seems to be untouchable. As you might have expected the special effects are awesome. The performances by lead characters are good. The story line is surprisingly developed for a superhero movie, especially for the third installment of a franchise.

The biggest let down in this film is that the Iron Man's arch nemesis, the Mandarin, is actually a drunken British moron. It is actually the geeky turned suave Aldrich Killian, played by Guy Pearce, who is the real brains behind the villainy. He does a good job of being menacing enough to ruffle Iron Man's feathers.

How does Marvel create an interesting movie after the mega-blockbuster Avengers, last summer? How can a single hero film hold a candle to that giant assault on your senses? First you make the next film Iron Man, and then you make the story smaller. It is not about the whole world and aliens, but about a few key characters and how they relate to each other. There is an intensity in seeing just a few characters doing what they do best.

Of course there are enough explosions to fight a modern war, and not just one Iron Man, but a battalion of Iron Men, to entertain the masses. Some have suits have men in them and some do not. (You'll just have to see the movie.) It takes a mechanical suit, without a human in it, to see a softer side of Toni Stark. In this installment his character evolves from the beginning to the end.

It is no big surprise that the key to winning the day is the technology that Stark creates, even if he didn't work all the bugs out yet. He finds his world destroyed at the hands of a scorned enemy that he didn't even know he had. This tests his skills, much like the first film, where Toni was forced to work in less than ideal conditions, a terrorist cave in the first film and a North Carolina garage in this film.

In the end the bigger question for Stark is, does the man make the suit or does the suit make the man? I think that this was a fitting continuation of the Marvel universe and I can't wait to see the next installment, which is Thor 2 coming out this fall. I promise I won't fall asleep in that one.

Your Personal Summer Reading List: Top Five Summer Reads

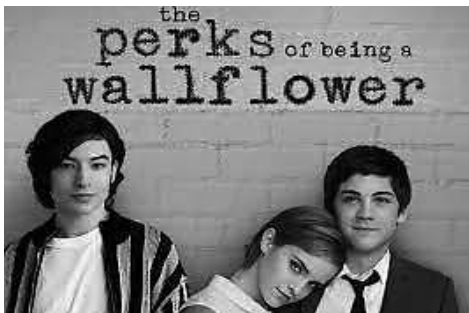
By Jessica Correa

The summer is finally here and with the warmer weather, longer days and no school, you get the chance to read for yourself and not for class. There is nothing like sitting in a comfortable spot, on a warm day, and reading a book, just for fun. Here is a short list of books for you to review. I enjoyed all of them and I hope you will too.



and comes to terms with the abusive relationship he has with his father.

Breathing Underwater by Alex Flinn – Nick is a popular guy with a beautiful girlfriend, but isn't the typical love story. This book is very realistic, unfortunately, of its portrayal of a teenage relationship. Nick is sent to anger management classes for hitting his now ex-girlfriend, Caitlin. The book is in the format of Nick's journal for class, where he recounts the relationship with his girlfriend



The Perks of Being a Wallflower by Stephen Chbosky – Charlie is a freshman in high school. This novel traces the many obstacles that he is forced to deal with, including drugs, grief and just trying to fit in.

Dreamland by Sarah Dessen – Caitlin lives in a fairly normal household until her older sister runs away. She then starts to date an abusive guy and her life spirals out of control. She finds herself in a relationship that doesn't have the ability to escape.



The Truth about Forever by Sarah Dessen

– Another novel by Sarah Dessen, this novel deals with yet another teenager, Macy, who tries to have a normal life, after the death of her father. Her superficial mother has a brainy boyfriend and Macy must navigate her difficult home life, with the job she gets at a catering business where she makes new friends and finally faces her grief.



Forever by Judy Blume – The innocence of a first romance, the peer pressures and parental pressures, and the desire of young love is what Forever is all about. It is a story about the way a relationship really develops and so it is a book that everyone could relate to.

Any one of these books will be an entertaining diversion for the summer. However all of them are rewarding, so get a book and enjoy.

ASK AIDA

By Jasmine Reynoso

Dear Aida,
I will graduate soon, but I don't know if I should go to college. Is it really worth it to go to college?

The only one who knows the future you want to build for yourself, is yourself. Depending on what you may want to do you might decide to go to a four or a two year college, technical school, vocational school, or the military. The choice is ultimately yours, just make sure that it will be worth it for YOU and YOUR success. Good luck!

Dear Aida,
There is always so much drama in school. Why do relationships have to be so difficult?

No two people are the same. Therefore there will be conflicts between couples. However, through communication and trust two people can work together to make their relationship last. It is all about communicating.

Dear Aida,
Do you like your job? Do you like working with kids? Do you have any of your own?

Being a member of the Hilltop Star student newspaper has been a pleasurable and rewarding experience. I have enjoyed giving advice to many of you this school year. Although I do not have any children of my own I feel my fellow students are like a great family for me.

Dear Aida,
Why does the issue of bed bugs have to go to a higher power? Why can't the principal just deal with it?

Actually Mr. Weissman is dealing with this problem. However, we all need to do our part. No food in the classrooms. There are professionals being brought in to help deal with this problem, but we all need to be part of the solution.

Dear Aida,
My sophomore year of high school my math teacher charged me for a book that I turned in. She passed away and now I feel bad because I want my money back! I feel bad because she died and can't get a clearance slip to get my money back. And that book was expensive too! What should I do?

You should talk to the department head of the math department. Explain your situation to her. They should be able to track the number of the book and figure out this situation. If not leave this issue at rest.

Dear Aida,
I have been in a relationship with this girl, for about a month now. There is only one problem. I love anime, but she hates it. This makes me sad, because there is this other girl that likes anime as much as me. We're close, but I don't know. Should I end a good relationship for a stupid reason like this?

One of the main things that brings two people together is the things that they share in common. However, it must not always be that way. Introduce your girlfriend to anime. If after some time she still does not like it respect her decision. I am sure there are things she likes that you do not. The most important thing is to communicate your feelings to her, so that you can better understand each other. Best of luck!

Library Media Center to go Paperless

By Jessica Correa

The library is renovating. Not only will there be improvements to the physical appearance of the library but there will also be a great deal more media opportunities. However, there is not enough space for the new media and all of the old books.

According to Mrs. McGinnis, library media specialist, the library is going to remove about half of the books. Reference materials, encyclopedias, indexes, and other large books will be given to any teacher who may want them. These large books are more easily accessible via the internet and they are more current as well. Various other books will be given to teachers in the various departments, art books for the art classes, biology books for the science teachers, and the like. These books will continue to be available in various teachers' classrooms.

Students will have a great deal of power to search and read all types of material by way of the chrome books that they will be receiving next year. The use of technology will aid students in their quest for education. However they will not need to search a data base and go from book to book looking for information.

The new technology for doing research will mean the final end of card catalogs, whether they are digital catalogs or actual paper cards. Actually, the library still has the cabinet that held the cards, where students would rifle through cards that

represented individual books. Then they would use these various books as sources for their research papers.

The library still possesses the actual card catalog cabinet used in our library up until the 1980's when the cataloging system became electronic. Winnebago was the first electronic system used at PHS and was used until the current Destiny system. Mr. Petrella and Mr. Garcia, of the Industrial Arts Department, are in the process of refinishing the old card catalog and it will be displayed as an antique artifact in the new library when it is finally set up.

The library will now focus on more

technological sources of reading and education. E-books will be available. Opinions vary as to whether the removal of books from the library is a good or a bad idea. While some students have said that they like the feel of a "real" book, others are wholeheartedly on board with the new technological advancements.

All of the books are not leaving the library, paperbacks, new books, and other popular books will remain. In other words, books that were popular before will still be available and the library is adding new technology along with the rest of PHS to help our students learn faster and easier than ever before.

National Honor Society

Honoring the Best of PHS



By Elizabeth Tlatelpa

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 June 12, 2013, 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.

This was a fun and memorable event for all those in attendance. Kudos to Mr. Graham for organizing the event; and congratulations to all those who were honored at this event. You make PHS proud.

Mr. Ledesma urges PHS to 'Stay Rich and Famous'

Antoney Ledesma to speak June 18, 2013 at Passaic High School's Shirelle Auditorium

By Hilltop Staff

Mr. Antoney Ledesma, a Passaic native and substitute teacher at PHS, is going to speak again in the Shirelle's auditorium, on June 18. It is the second presentation of "Stay Rich N Famous," a motivational speaking event for the graduating class of 2013. Mr. Ledesma, suffered a near-death experience caused by a bleeding ulcer in 2007. After he rebounded, he developed a motivational philosophy for youth which incorporates four key dimensions to life. He wants to tell students that positive thinking can change your life.

"Stay Rich 'N Famous" is a philosophy for students to develop an indestructible mentality," says Ledesma. Ledesma's story of rebounding from a major illness helped him shape the core values of this philosophy of positive thinking. Since its inception, the "Stay Rich 'N Famous"



Staff photo

motivational event has impacted more than a thousand students urging them to develop a positive attitude and at the same time, find their purpose in life.

The idea for this event goes all the way back to 2008, when, during his first year during a long term substituting position at Passaic High School, a student filled the classroom chalkboard on behalf of the

entire class with appreciative comments, to wish Mr. Ledesma a speedy recovery. This simple act of kindness by a PHS student was the catalyst for Ledesma to develop his "Stay Rich 'N Famous" philosophy and motivational message, which he considers to be self-therapy, allowing students to believe in themselves.

In addition to substitute teaching, Mr. Ledesma has also volunteered as a baseball coach for Passaic's Deich Brady League. He has also mentored and assisted students with behavioral challenges, including those on probation, teenage parents, and foster kids. He even works with the NJ Children's System of Care to help youths who have become involved in gangs.

A substitute teacher at PHS, Mr. Ledesma believes in inspiring today's youth to reach their potential. He hopes to build a "Stay Rich 'N Famous" foundation, release a book, and even develop a curriculum.

Octagon Club is Full of Optimists

By Hilltop Staff

"I promise to honor my parents and those to whom wisdom has come through years of experience, respect the beliefs of other, prize friendship and keep its sacred truth," is the first line of the Junior Optimist Octagon International club. Associated with the Optimist Club of Passaic, this club focuses on honoring others. It is the core of this service minded club, which is comprised of a special group of students.

"It is a club that provides fun, fellowship and community service learning opportunities for youth of all ages," said club advisor Mr. Sheridan. He has been advisor of this club for six years and doesn't plan to quit any time soon. "I hope to assemble special students who want to make the world a better place," Sheridan continued.

How do they do this? Fundraising allows the Octagon Club to make donations to worthy causes locally and around the world. They have sponsored



Hilltop Star file photo

Mr. Sheridan enjoys Christmas event with Octagon club.

many fundraising events including the Youth Appreciation Dinner, Thanksgiving Luncheon with Passaic's Bravest and Wisest, and many canned food drives. Other fundraisers include many cookie sales, concession sales, and water and balloon sales at the graduation ceremony.

After fundraisers are held donations can be made to many worthy causes. Donations have included the Passaic

Senior Center and the Passaic Boys and Girls Club, even the Outreach Ministry of Guatemala. These PHS students have made a difference to many in need both near and far.

Most recently the Octagon Club helped to raise money for those affected by the tragic fire of May 31. "It started out as a dress down day that was already in place, but I decided to get the word out that all proceeds will be donated to the families affected by the fire," said Sheridan. He added, "It is amazing how many teachers have helped me to raise funds and organize activities."

Donations have ranged from three to over a hundred dollars, and every single donation went to help the victims of the tragic fire, so close to the school. Mr. Sheridan and all the members of the Octagon Club would like to send a huge thank you to all who contributed.

If you would like to participate in the Octagon Club they meet every other Wednesday, in Caf. E, after school. Everyone is welcome to attend and join.



Photo by staff

The T-birds rock the stage with dance and song during the "Greased Lightning" number.

Grease is the Word!

By Elizabeth Ttatelpa

This year the drama club produced the famous musical, Grease. Not only was the performance top notch, but the work that went into the entire production was amazing. Many of the details that often get overlooked like the posters and ticketing were actually part of the production. There wasn't just one poster that was plastered around the school, there were multiple bulletin boards that were dressed up in glitzy fifties style. There must have been

thirty different posters and they were each individual and represented a different aspect of the play or the fifties setting.

As for the performance itself, the acting was great. It is always fun to see friends playing various characters, especially in a musical that is as fun as this. My favorite scenes were when Ricky Washington "drove" greased lightning on stage. The imagination that went into that key prop was good. Another favorite scene was the "Summer Nights" number. It was really great to see how well so many

cast members were able to work together to make this number work. The small details that many cast members put into their roles to make them funny shows just how much work went into this production.

The finally number "We Will Always Be Together" was a nice ending to the well thought out, directed, produced, and acted play. Both the acting and the singing were great. I hope the drama club will continue in the future, as it has in the past, to create great entertainment for the PHS students.



High School Grease Act 11



2013 PASSAIC HIGH SCHOOL "WE'VE GOT TALENT" SHOW

By Jessica Correa

As part of a plan to strengthen the student body and demonstrate just how special we are, the PBS-IS team sponsored a talent show on June 6. This well attended event showcased the talents of many of our PHS students. The PHS Band drum line kicked off the event with an exciting demonstration of their percussion abilities. Another interesting and really different instrumental musical group was the Steel Pans. Both bands were great and they demonstrated their ability well.

There were many singing acts too. Jasmine King was first with "I Was Here," later, Raquel Simon sang, "Can't Take That Away From Me." Estephany Flores sang "Halo" to great applause, and Khadijah Malloy sang, "Falling,"

which was also well received. Other songs were "Brand New Me," by Shanik Garcia.

The girls weren't the only singers though. Representing the boys were Table Cypher, with an original work of rap. This was a highlight of the evening because it was original. This song was not an interpretation of someone else's song. It was his. One of my favorites was seeing Yamile Butler and Mr. Tourian playing guitars and singing in a male duet of the song, "More Than Words."

We have some talented dancers in the school too. Mansi Rana did the "Barsore," and Dhaval Rana did an athletic Indian Mix. There were many other song renditions and some other dancing. Everyone was entertained and had their eyes opened to the fact that Passaic has talent.



High Brass, High Class

Congratulations to all the participants.



Dhaval Rana in Indian Mix dance.



Table Cypher rapping an original work song.



'More Than Words' performed by Mr. Tourian and Yamile Butler.

Choir Sings at Carnegie Hall

By Henry Hernandez

The PHS choir has been busy this year. They just completed their spring concert, which was a big success. "I really enjoyed seeing my friends singing in the choir," said Elizabeth Tlatelpa, "They have really improved over this year." The choir has progressed in skill and technique steadily over the years through constant practice and performance. "Practice is the key to perfection," said Mrs. Gauthier, choir director.

Other successful performances this year were the Annual Holiday Concert on December 20, and the Holiday Performances at City Hall, the Senior Citizens Center and at the Trinity Assembly of God Church. The holiday season is always a busy time for the choir. This year the choir did more performances than in past years because there was such talent and dedication by the student singers.

The choir was also busy during February singing during the Black History Month Celebration. A unique fundraiser this year was the Glee Club Sing-a-grams. Students from the Glee Club took orders and performed live for sweethearts and Valentines. The Glee Club rose over \$800, which is a pretty sweet Valentine, fundraiser, indeed.

In May, the PHS choir participated in the Music in the Parks Competition. Choir competitions are stressful for the

students. "It is hard to sing in front of people when they are rating you," said senior, Anthony Gonzalez. He added, "I am glad I took this class because it helped me learn how to use my voice." During this competition our choir received a rating of EXCELLENT.

The highlight of the entire season for the choir was the performance at Carnegie Hall. This was a three day singing extravaganza of singing and music. It started with ten hours of intense rehearsal. Then the PHS choir was combined with other choirs from around the country. This combined choir sang in Carnegie Hall. Senior Selena Navarro succeeded in getting a solo by auditioning for it. "I can't believe I got to sing a solo in Carnegie Hall," she said. "It was amazing," she added.

Reminiscing about this year's concerts and activities, senior Cassandra Fernandez said, "If you like to sing and perform then you should join choir." She said that going on trips and singing with her friends was the best part of joining choir, but the best was singing at Carnegie Hall. Fernandez said, "If you ask any of the choir members they will tell you how awesome it [Carnegie Hall Trip] was." How does the choir get to go there? It is just like that old joke, "How do you get to Carnegie Hall?" It is like Mrs. Gauthier always says, "Practice, practice, practice."



Senior Picnic

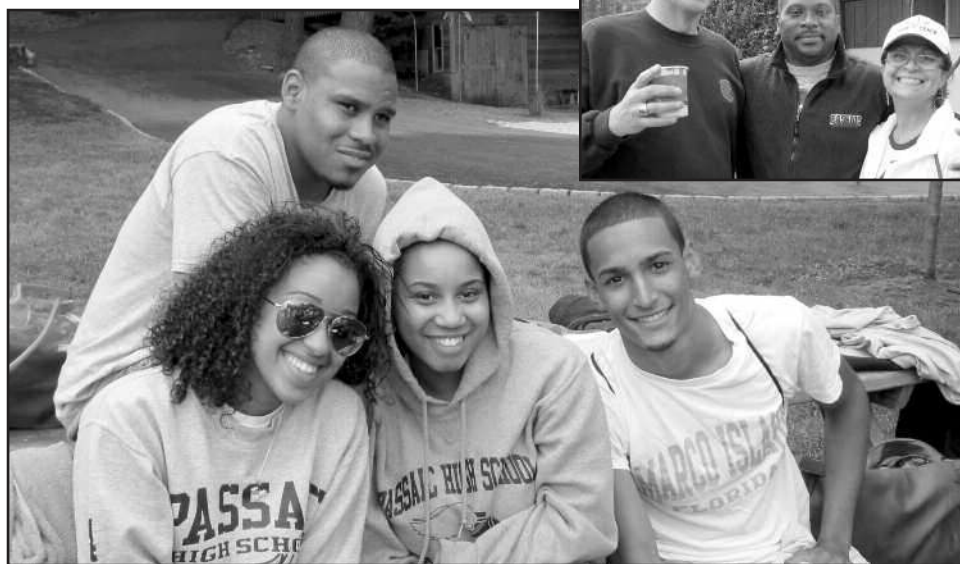
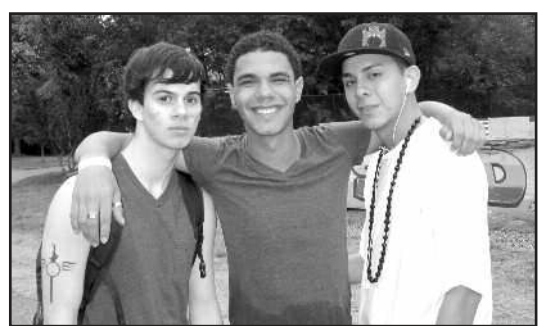
By Maria Ramos

An annual tradition, the senior picnic is a day for the senior class to get together and have some fun, reminisce and celebrate. Usually the weather cooperates and the senior class has a great day, but this year, like hurricane Sandi in October, the weather was definitely an issue. However, a rainy day could not dampen the spirits of the class of 2013 and the day went off without a hitch.

"Even though it was a rainy day, I still managed to have a great time with my friends. The food was very delicious as well! It will definitely be one of my best memories," said senior Yissel Duran. This sentiment was echoed by many other seniors.

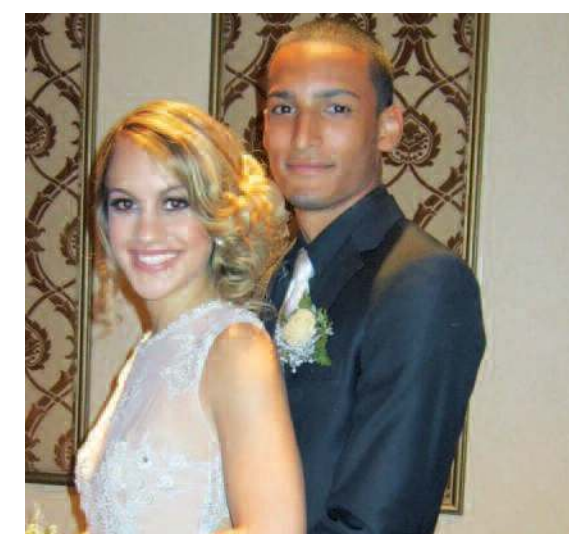
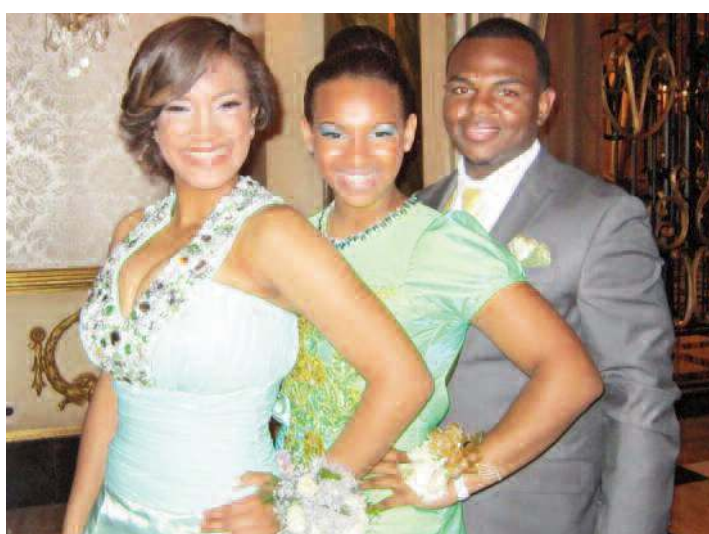
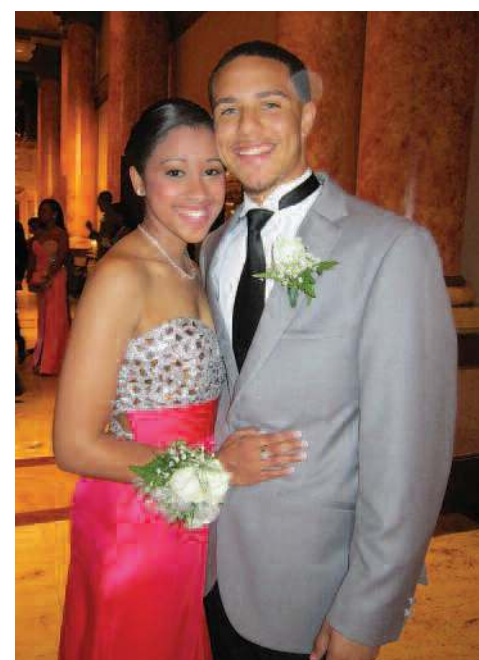
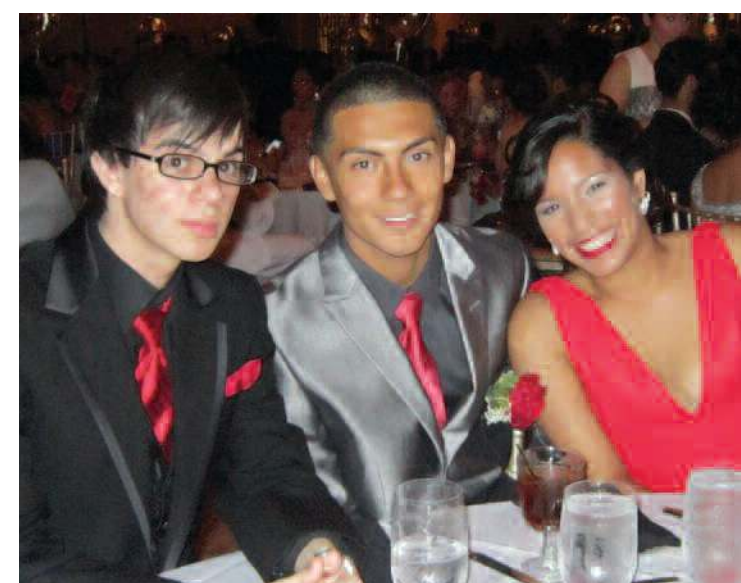
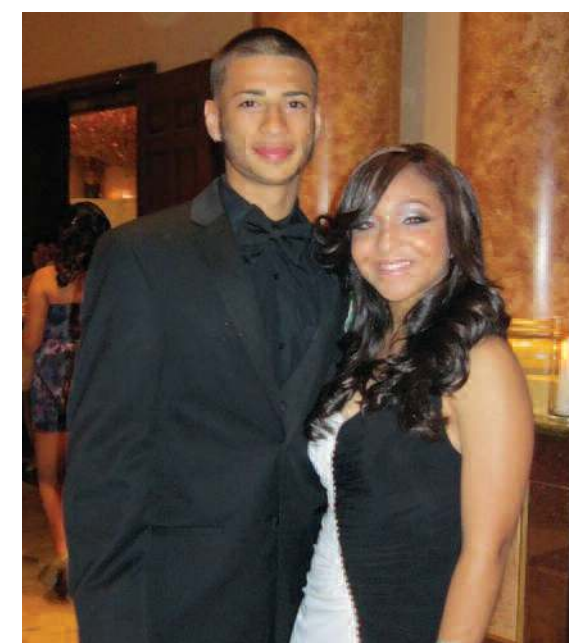
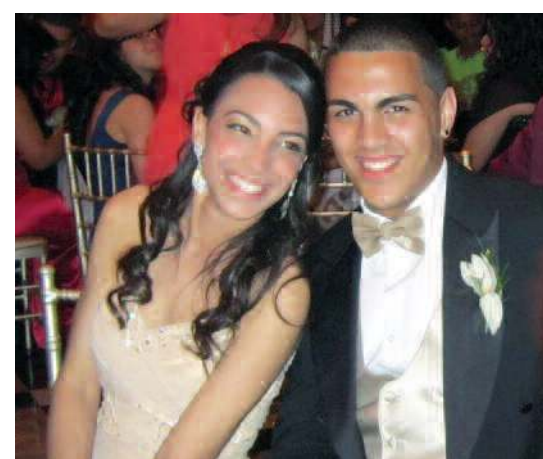
"The food was good, but the weather was not," said Diana Elfar. She added, "It was fun overall, I just wish it wasn't raining."

Mr. Estrick, Senior Vice Principal, noted, "I am so proud of this class of seniors. They always have a positive outlook and make every event fun." This sentiment is echoed by Anthony Navarro, "Rain or shine, I personally believe that senior picnic was a great experience and I had a great experience. With the right people surrounding you anything can be turned into a great time."



PHS Seniors Celebrate *at the Prom*

June 5, 2013



What advice can you give to next year's freshmen?

Be the best that you can be! ... Poke-mon. —Ashley C

The advice that I can give to the next year's freshmen would be to start off on the right foot. Do not follow those 'friends' who pretend only to have fun and leave school. Try to get food grades so at the end you don't need to rush. Keep studying and have fun too. Good Luck!—Alma Hernandez

Knowledge is power —Bryan Espinoza

Seek out higher knowledge, look beyond what you see. Keep your eye on promise and you'll succeed. —O. Anderson

For every minute you are angry, you have lost 60 seconds of happiness. —Anonymous

Live for the future, no in the moment. Plan your life, not just tomorrow. —Sheila H.

Be like the samurai, and bring honor to your family—Ashley C

Join clubs and sports!—Anonymous

Join Cross-country!—Yesenia Lopez

Do good in these four years of high school, otherwise you'll regret it at the end and it will be too late. —Anonymous

Don't slack off, work hard till you hold that diploma. Work now, chill later.—Victor

My advice for the next year freshmen is to make sure to stay focused that the year that really counts.—Kimberly D.

My advice is to work hard but have as much fun in your four years as you can.—Kevin D.

Start saving up money!—Daniela E.

Always do good in school because in the end you won't be stressing.—B. R.

Join clubs, please join clubs. You don't know how many cool things you are missing out on. —Gerardo P. Torres

Don't mess up, your going to regret it later on.—Felix M.

Don't forget those who are there for you.—M.A.P.

Be smart in the choices you make, and enjoy every moment you can. —Andrea Perez

Don't wait until the last minute to do your homework. Don't procrastinate!—Mayra Cortes

Freshmen year counts! With that being said, try to do your best freshmen year but most importantly, enjoy your first year of high school. By the way, there's no pool on the forth floor. —Amber Mendez

Do not mess up your freshmen year. Summer school is not fun.—Isreal T.

Do all your work and don't slack because you don't want to start off badly, you will regret it senior year. Also, don't get up on the first bell when you don't play gym, unless you want to embarrass yourself.—Pasla Castillo

Simple. Be yourself.—Steven A.

Be careful this school can suck the life out of you. Be sure to remain true to yourself.—Brendon

Transfer to a different school. —Enrique Z.

Always do you work and be on time to school.—Jacqueline Ramirez

Don't ruin it during your first year. —Karen M.

Stay focused—H. Arenas

Don't end up like me in SRA classes.—Alex Arand

Don't forget to enjoy your time here, but study hard.—Jackie Garcia

Hit the weight room, and lift weights everyday.—Sebastian Vallejo

Work hard now, chillax later. —Anonymous

Get a job, work up to Junior year, then senior year spend that money on your senior activities.—Crystian (Like-a-boss)

Pass all your classes through junior year. It will make your senior year so much easier.—Xavier Martinez

Do NOT mess up your freshmen year.—Kimberly Gonzalez

Do not mess up your freshmen year. It is an important year, just like every other year.—Jennifer Soriano

Worry about your grades, not about whether your are known or not. —Taryn Aldridge

Join clubs, they get you connections, opportunities, and doys off from school through field trips!—Danielle Rogers

Worry about your grades, don't slack off, and have a fun senior year. —Sebastian Giraldo

Have fun in school but work hard with your grades so that you can chill your last year (a little) —Sade Leandry

Keep your grades up, don't mess around, join clubs and activities, pass every class even if you think it isn't important. Try your best.—Paola Lopez

Don't mess up your freshmen year . You'll pay for every class you fail later, when you have to make them up later. Show up everyday for school! Stay focused! Remember school should always come first! —Shayna Polanco

There is always another day to show the world just who you are. —Javier Garcia

Don't screw around and actually do all of your work. If you feel that your need to join a gang, don't. Join a club instead, or you will ruin your education.—Javier B.

This is the most important year, until next year.—Anonymous

Don't mess up this year or any year for that matter, every class counts. —Anonymous

DO NOT PROCRASTINATE! Just do what you have to do and get on with your life.—Erika Carrion

Abstinence is the way to be. —Tatiana C

Do all of your work and try to pass all your classes, because you will regret it if you don't.—Xinena Zumaran

Dear Freshmen. Behave, don't cut class; don't cut school; Don't hurt others, and take care of yourselves; no drugs or other distractions.—Luis D

Do all your work and stay focused. —Tatiana C

Always do your work because in the end you would regret it. When you are a senior the choices you make all four years are readily apparent. —Jessica Nazario

Don't do stupid things to try to be cool. Stay away from trouble. Remember all the hard work is worth it in the end.—Jacqueline Duarte

Don't cut class, get good grades, so you can get scholarships for college. You are setting yourselves up for your future. Finish High School! —Shayla Parks

Don't cut your classes. Always be good with your teachers. Do all your work on time. Don't fail any of your classes.—Anonymous

Enjoy your time here! Take advantage of all the clubs!—Maria Martinez

Enjoy it while it lasts! —Erika Carrion

Don't mess up! Stay on task because the fun will come!—Adonis Sanchez

Don't mess this year up, or you will be trying to catch up when you would rather be having fun.—Anonymous

Don't let anything outside of school affect what you do inside of school. Stay on track!—Henry Hernandez

Start strong so you can finish strong.—Anonymous

Get involved in all the school activities.—Bryan Rivillas

Join a sport! Don't let boyfriends get in the way of your enjoying your high school years. Everything goes by pretty quick.—Johanna Miranda

Do something. Get involved in school activities. High School is actually pretty fun and whatever you do, DON'T CUT.—Jazmyn Xique

Join clubs and sports so you can interact and meet with new people. Always do your best. —Adriana Romero

Incoming freshmen should know that they can do anything if they apply themselves. I wish I would have learned that early on. —Yahaira Santos

I have changed a lot since my awful middle school days. I have become someone I can be proud of.—Ashley C.

I have changed in many ways. I have matured and have become a better person.—Anonymous

I have changed a lot, compared to what I was way back. I learned to be more responsible and I have learned to deal with problems in life on my own. I have become more mature and make better choices between good and bad in my life. Now I am ready to be on my own.—Alma Hernandez

Many Life Lessons.—Anonymous

Each year I've learned different things, experienced drama in my life, and have changed into the person that I am today, in some ways a stranger person. —Evelyn Flores

I became a way more responsible person than I was before and learned from many mistakes.—Anonymous

I have become a better person, mature, and more responsible.—Senior

I became more cynical... Oh and I can finally tell the difference between Hispanic ethnicities.—Timothy Huelgar

I am a more mature individual. —Lucy Diaz

I have become mature and overall a better person. I have realized that life will be hard sometimes but it is about how you handle them that will make you the better person.—Jazmin Garcia

I became more mature and responsible.—Sandi Aguilar

I realized a lot, learned a lot of valuable lessons, because I have dealt with a lot of different people.—Anthony D

My mentality and personality changed so much and because of that I am the person I am now.—Omar Perez

I have become more responsible and open minded about a great many things.—Rosario R.

I have understood that life is always full of challenges. I have had many challenges here at school. I was very weak and now I feel I have become even more mature, strong, and I am more dedicated.—Maritza Villa

I became more independent and outgoing. I've learned how to be more spontaneous, take risks and stop worrying about what other people will think.—Aldercy Batista

I matured and learned that you really are alone in this world. You should be careful when choosing your friends, because the wrong friends won't be there for you when you need them the most.—Maritza Barrales

I have achieved new things in life in school and out of school. I figured things out about myself. I have found out things that I thought I would never be able to figure out, which made me more mature.—Kenny Comano

I have made more friend than in middle school. I still feel like an awkward person, but I am good with that. —Brett Lee

I have gotten stronger both mentally and physically and my view on life has definitely changed and matured. —Tatyana McKinney

I learned to choose my friends better too.—Adonis Sanchez

I have learned to be a more accepting person.—Sammy Arojjo

Started to do all my work and be a better student.—Anonymous

What was the funniest excuse you ever gave a teacher or principal?

I was saving a dying squirrel. Every time I am late I let Mr. Cantaldi know I was in the ER saving a dying squirrel. —Jairo Hernandez

The funniest excuse was that a person was using my name for the centrals that I was getting. I hope they caught that kid.—Anonymous

I want to change my French class to Spanish because I want to become a bilingual teacher.—Anonymous

My homework went on vacation. —Lucy Diaz

I was checking the time. —Sebastian Giraldo

What had happened was that there was this guy and he was like 'join our gang.' I was like, 'ok' and then I joined and got in a fight. And that is why I have the cut on my hand.—Timothy Huelgas

How have you changed at PHS?

Personally, I have learned to maintain a positive attitude no matter how much stress or how many obstacles appear in my life. I have also learned to have confidence in myself and in my ability to complete hard work.—Diana R.

I have learned to be independent, very independent in fact. Also, I have discovered that there will be so many barriers, but I can overcome them. —Ariano Velez

I went from a child who thought he knew everything, to a man who understands he knows nothing. —Anonymous male senior student

I have changed my goals and have improved my way of behaving for the better.—B.

I have changed my impressions of people and learned to never give up on someone.—Anonymous

I have learned to become more social.—Used to be shy person

PHS has changed me in so many ways that I can't really explain it. From my friends to the way I have become a more mature individual, I thank PHS for a huge turn for the better in my life.—Kimberly Diaz

I have learned to become more independent and to be true to myself. I have learned that I do not need follow the crowd.—Andreina H.

I think that I became more social. I have met a lot of friends and my high school years will always be my favorite memories.—Anonymous

Yes, being in PHS has changed my by making me a more independent, yet more social person.—Kevin D.

I have changed at PHS by putting more interest and effort into school than friends.—Jacqueline Ramirez

I learned to face my fears and become responsible.—Steven Almonacid

I have become more mature and independent.—Paola Castillo

PHS has taught me how to work hard and count only on myself, because you can't trust others to work for you. —Ambar Mendez

Do things for myself because no one will do it for me.—Mayra Cortes

PHS has showed me that the small things and moments in life are the most valuable.—Deyaniris N.

In high school, I have become more outgoing and talkative. I learned to not allow my fears to control me. —Andrew Perez

I have become more independent and have a real plan for my future. —Selenne Galvez

PHS has taught me how to work hard and spend my nights doing homework.—Dafne Vazquez

I feel like I have become more outgoing and sure of myself. I used to be so insecure and shy. Now I can walk into any room and feel confident. —Tarynn Aldridge

I have become more optimistic and tolerant of other people. I came into this school thinking I would be a loner who hated everyone, yet now I have no problem making friends and my outlook on people has changed for the better. —Danielle Rogers

I can make friends more easily. I used to be the quiet one who really didn't talk to anyone.—Paul Duarte

I started focusing on my schoolwork. —Daisy M.

I became more responsible and mature, I also became more independent and wiser. I now think about my actions before acting.—Jennifer Soriano

I have become more mature and a more independent person. —Kimberly Gonzalez

I've become less she at PHS and learned to express my opinions more clearly.—Ariel Salas

I become more outgoing.—Karen M.

I've become more responsible and less shy.—Jackie Garcia

I've become taller.—Leandro Villar

I have become a much better student. —Andy Ortiz

I've become more serious and learned that I am not a very social person, and that is okay.—Alex Marmoud

I have greatly matured and become a better person.—Gairav Rana

I became more serious and learned that no matter what people say about me, I will always be true to myself. —Sane Leandry

I feel that my stint at PHS has made me want to learn more about everything. —Anonymous

PHS has made me more open-minded.—Marilyn Mitchell

I've become wiser, and learned from my experiences.—Anonymous

I have become more mature and wiser, I learned now to think twice before I speak or act.—Senior

I matured a lot, and I learned how to attain what I want, to get to my goals. —Anonymous

I learned to care about myself and others.—Glend Lopez

I've learned that being childish is not the answer. It gets you nowhere. —Tatiana C.

I have learned to not worry about what other people think and to be my own person.—Alan Barranco

I've become more mature, and a better person.—Maria Martinez

I have become independent and have found myself. I know more about myself now than I ever have before and for that I thank PHS!—Yahaira Santos

I've learned to choose my friends wisely.—Erika Carrion

I am wiser. I know now that I have to do everything on my own. I'm more independent.—Anette C.

I am more mature and wise now. Thanks to some amazing teachers, they have established an insight into what lies ahead for my future. —Bryan Taveras

I am wiser and more independent. I've gotten rid of my fears and built up my courage, it is just one thing PHS has helped me with thanks to the guidance I've received from my teachers. —Linda Marias

I have matured a bit more over the years, thanks to my teachers.—Luis V.

The adversity of my first year at PHS has helped me become more confident and independent as well as more dedicated to my own best interest. —Graduating Senior

I have matured more and have learned more than I ever could have thought possible.—Luis A.

I've learned more about myself and what I want to do in my life. —Juan Pineda

Someone took all of my things from my locker.—Jenny Soriano

"I cut class because I was trapped in my locker.—Tarynn Aldridge

My mom texted me to leave school and run home.—Jose Rivera

I'm texting my mother, not a friend. —Sade Leandre

I couldn't find parking—Shayna Polanco

I told my teacher that I was late to class because I was fighting ninjas. —Jorge S.

I told the v.p. that I couldn't go to his office because I had stomach problems all day.—Carlos Vasquez

I told my teacher I was late because the school lunch gave me a stomach ache. She believed me and even gave me a pass to the nurse. —Maria Martinez

My mom got a flat tire, and she backed up my story. When, in reality, I overslept.—Jenny Sanchez

I can't stay for detention because I have to go cook for my family. The truth is that the food is always cooked by the time I get there.—B. Sanchez

I just wanted to know what would happen if your pulled the lever. —Javier Garcia

I told the teacher my VP said I was allowed to wear a beanie in class after he had told me not to.—Kimberly D.

My dog died yesterday and I had to go to his funeral.—Karen M.

I fell down the stairs and couldn't walk.—Itzel Arenas

I didn't go to class because I was hungry. I left school and while I was outside a tiger attacked me and gave me frosted flakes.—Leandro Villar

If you could put three things in a time capsule, to be opened at your class reunion, what would they be?

I would put three of my drawings in it so that I can see how much I have improved.—Ashley C.

The newest cellphone, a pair of today's cloths, and a letter.—Anonymous

I would put my makeshift glasses, my English notebook, and my Yu-Gi-Oh cards.—Gerardo Torres

Picture of my friends now, a yearbook, and a letter to myself.—Briana Sanabria

I would put my old cellphone, my yearbook, and pictures of my friends and family.—Melissa L.

Pictures of all my memories, my diary, and my class t-shirt.—Ana M.

Pictures, my baby's shoes, and my cellphone.—J.M.

The three things I would put in a time capsule is my id, my class shirt, and an old written paper.—Sejal Gandhi

A notebook, senior year pictures, and high school id.—Sade Leandry

Ring pops, #2 pencils, and something gross.—Anonymous

iPod, school id and senior year schedule.—Tarynn Aldridge

Prom invitation, uniform shirt, and my id.—Jennifer Soriano

My id, my gym cloths, and the school uniform.—Shayna Polanco

Busted shoes, and the rest of the uniform, and a watch.—Javier Garcia

School id, PHS logo, and all my undone homework.—anonymous

School id, doodled on notebooks, and an old sweater.—Ariel Salas

Who will you miss most?

The thing I will miss most about PHS is the football team.—Marquise Stephens

My best friend David A.—You know who I am

Mrs. Moogan, she was cool.—KJ

I will miss my naval science instructor, Petty Officer Nuyen. He showed dedication and patience to all my classmates. He made us better people by making us more responsible and mature.—Xochitl Miranda

I will miss all my teachers, especially Mr. Galan.—Julia Lora

I will miss a majority of the cool teachers I had.—Omar Perez

The person I will miss the most is Mrs. Hiller because she has helped me reach my goal. Sure she was tough on me but I appreciate everything she has done for me.—Maritza Villa

I will miss Mrs. Cilento the most.—Dayra Cerda

I guess I'll miss the people who have been there for me, especially my parents and my younger brother, Andy, who is a freshman this year.—Ariana Velez

I will miss all the people I had the pleasure of meeting in these four years of high school.... Even those who get on my nerves!—Connie Esturillo

I will miss all the great teachers and friends I've made here in the past four years.—Ashley C.

My work study teacher, Mrs. Fuller, and I will miss my friends.—Kimberly Diaz

I will miss the people who stuck by me throughout the past four years and didn't turn their backs on me through thick and thin.—Briana S.

Classmates—Enrique Z

I'm going to miss my friends and especially Laricsa.—Jacqueline Ramirez

Coach Galan, Mr. Cerdan and Mrs. Torres. They have taught me so much and helped me grow as a person.—Andrea Perez

My track and field team mates, and my coaches who taught me commitment, responsibility and helped me to become a better person.—Selenne Galvez

I am going to miss my friends the most. They helped me a lot every time I needed it.—Dafne Vazques.

I will miss all my teachers, without their teachings I wouldn't have as much knowledge and I thank them for making me a better person.—Paola Castillo

What are your plans for September?

I'll be starting my first year of college in Arizona! —Ashley C.

Work or go to a community college.—Jonathan P.

Leaving to go to the Marines for boot camp.—Christian Arriaga

Attending Passaic County Community College. Starting my college life and doing my best to great for my family and myself.—Anonymous

Being happy.—Timothy Huelgas

Go to college.—Ashley Burgos; Jessica Restrepo; Yojayra Morillo; Alexandra Ramos; Omar Bello; Sandi Aguilar; Kenny Camano; and many other proud PHS students.

Going to New Jersey City University.—Jazmin Garcia

William Paterson College —Renato Barinotto

Enjoying the college life.—Omar Perez

Going to Rutgers University.—Krishna Patel

Going to college in Tijuana, Mexico.—Sebastian

Apprenticeship program in auto tech.—Emmanuel Flores

Attend Montclair State University —Aldercy Batista

Attending the College of New Jersey to begin a new chapter of my life away from home.—Diana R.

Hopefully making new friends and meeting new and interesting people at Rutgers University.—Ariana Velez

To attend the College of Saint Elizabeth, meet new people, see new places, learn new things, and find true love.—Connie Estuillo

To go to the College of New Jersey and adjust to the new college life.—Tatyana McKinney

To go to college and keep working to save up money. Now that my son is starting school in September, I want to start doing something to get an education.—Anonymous

More school — Sue Ellen

I plan to join the many clubs and organizations at NJIT. I can't wait to dorm there. They have unlimited continuous dining at any time! —Gerardo Torres

I plan to continue studying, this time, however, in college.—Andreina Hernandez

Start school over again, as a college student.—Kevin P.

FDU! —Isreal A.

Start off college the right way.—Victor

My plan for September is to leave for U.S. Navy bootcamp!—Feliz M.

In September I plan to begin a new chapter in my life. I plan on beginning school for nursing and taking on responsibilities now as an adult.—Anastasia McBurse

Start my new life in college. Start a new painting on my new white canvas.—M.A.P.

I plan to attend college and work. Also, I will do the color run.—Selenne Galvez

Move to Seattle, Washington.—Dafne Vazquez

Going to PCCC —Crystal Oviedo

Criminal Justice program at PCCC.—Mayra Cortes

Going to PCCC as an English and economics major.—Paola Catillo

I will e attending Rutgers University in New Brunswick and studying hard.—Ambar Mendez

Following my dreams.—Oscar Diaz

Go to college.—Karen M.; Ariel Salas; Itzel Arenas; Jackie Garcia; and Alex

College, work and the rest of my life.—Tarynn Aldridge

Working —Jose Rivera

Getting my own apartment and going to college.—Xavier Martinez

Work and physical training to become a cop.—Crystian Vaquero

Going to work or something, somewhere.—Paul Duarte

Going to college, becoming a YouTube star.—Danielle Rogers

Going to Lincoln Tech.—Andy Ortiz

Going to college as a full time student.—Jennifer Soriano

Going to college, well, continuing college as a full-time student.—Astrid Salas

Start college —Gaurra Rana

Doing boot camp.—Juan Diaz

Take one step closer to becoming a more unforgettable person.—Javier Garcia

Get money and then further my education.—Jancarlos Gomez

Going to college and hopefully doing well.—Shayna Polanco

Attending WPU for the next four years and just killing it.—Carlos V

I am attending the Bergen Community College for two years and then I will transfer to a four year university to continue my education in the medical field.—Jacqueline Duarte

Completing my movie and opening my studio.—James Murray

Going to the Art Institute of Pittsburgh for the next two years.—Alan Basrranco

To go to Nyack College in New York.—Shayla Parks

I am going to Bloomfield college for two years.—Sade Mathis

To go to Hudson Valley for two years for football, oh and education of course.—Jordan Mathis

I joined the Navy already.—Michelle Gutierrez

Rutgers, New Brunswick.—Yahaira Santos

I am going to the Culinary Institute of America.—Ricardo Washington

Getting good grades at PCCC.—PHS Senior

Attending William Paterson University and just having fun and experiencing new things.—Senior

Hopefully by September I will be done with my Air Force basic training.—Noleysky Vasquez

Ace PCCC for two years so I can transfer to Rutgers.—Ximena Zumarian

I am going to having a house party before college.—Juan and Henry

By September, I'll be starting my second semester in college.—Jazmyn Xique

Attending Montclair State, baby! —Johanna Miranda

What are your plans for summer?

This summer I plan on getting a job and going to Florida. I hope this summer is a good one, because I start college in the fall.—Senior Grad

My plans for summer are to keep working and having fun before I start college in September.—Alma Hernandez

My plans for this summer are to take college classes at Kean University and to start my athletic training too.—Quasha Womack

My plan is to go to Handuras and be with my family — Jairo Hernandez

My plan is to spend time with my daughter and keep applying for jobs. Anyone know where I can get a good job?—E.F.

My plans for summer are so many, but my first plan is to have a job. Then, I can save up as much money as I can for college and help out my parents pay some bills. My other plan is to save up enough to buy my first car and be able to pay for it on my own.—Anonymous

Start my book. Stay off the computer. Make that mult-billion dollar app. I have been planning. Have fun.—Timothy Huelgas

Go to Virginia Beach.—Ashley Burgos

Make money, go to Miami.—Lucy Diaz

Beach and tanning all day.—Francesca Francheschi

Going to Canada and work.—Jessica Restrepo

Go to L.A., California and work.—Alexadra Ramos

Relax, take a vacation to Florida.—Omar Bello

Florida vacation time.—Sandi

Probably Dorney Park, the beach, and hang out with my friends.—Jessica Bautista

Go to 6 Flags, work, beach, and chilling.—Renato Barinotto

Work, work, work, and then party.—Maria Uriel

Work, get things figured out for college and have fun!—Anonymous Senior

Go to start college in July.—Kenny Conrad

Work! Then chill.—Anthony Guillon

Enjoy the time I have off from school.—Omar Perez

Fight Chuck Norris—Anonymous

Go to the EOF program in Ramapo.—Dayte Cerda

Go to the EOF program for Saint Peter's University.—Maritza Barrales

Enjoy the summer with my family, work hard, read as much as I can and get things ready for college.—Connie Estrillo

EOF Program at Rutgers – New Brunswick, but have some fun first.—Ariana Velez

I'm spending the summer at The College of New Jersey, but I will keep running to keep my mind clear.—Diana R.

Stay in shape, get a lot of studying and reading in, and prepare for TCNJ! Let's be productive.—Tatyana McKinney

Spend half of it at Rutgers University, the other half getting ready for Rutgers University. Oh, and go camping.—Mihir Jariwala

Party!—KJ

My plans are that I'm going on vacation until September, then get serious.—Anonymous

I plan to have some fun with my friends and family before I leave. I will also be working on my art!—Ashley C.

I plan to go to China for the summer, and also get my driver's license.—Sammy Araujo

I plan to start working and also to keep on running to improve my times.—Selenne Galve

Work hard and save some money.—Dafne Vazquez

My plans for this summer are to go out as much as possible when I am off from work. Also save up a lot of money.—Crystal Oviedo

Begin studying at Lincoln Tech, but sleep a lot too.—Enrique Zuniga

Become the best Pokemon trainer in the world.—Steven Almonacid

I plan to spend as much time with my son before I go back to school and start working again so that I can provide him with what he needs to see him achieve his goals in the future.—Paola Catillo

I will be spending the summer in New Brunswick. I am in the EOF program at Rutgers.—Ambar Mendez

Travel to Mexico for vacation and start school in August.—Jacqueline Ramirez

Go out and hang out with my friends.—Sue Ellen

I am going to college and dorm there for free. So therefore I will be able to eat as much as I want.—Gerardo P. Torres

Have Fun!—Most Seniors

Since I am in the EOF program for my university, right after graduation I will be starting school.—Andreina H.

To try and not forget about PHS.—Anonymous

What was your most embarrassing moment?

My most embarrassing moment was during my freshman year. I went inside the wrong classroom and stood there for a few seconds and when I realized that I was in the wrong class, I was so embarrassed. The students thought I was a new student. When I left all I heard was laughing.—Definitely anonymous

My most embarrassing moment was when my health teacher made me read the lesson aloud as punishment for falling asleep in class. I can only hope that my exhaustion is a symptom of a disease that I have. I really don't have a lot of control over that. I am sorry though, and it was embarrassing.—Ashley C.

Getting lost on the way to all my classes during my freshman year.—Embarassed senior

I stood up when the first bell rang at gym my freshman year.—Jonathan P.

Opening my locker and having a lot of embarrassing pictures in it.—Anonymous

When I fell and my knees ate the bleachers, at Karinas Cruz's basketball game, everyone say and said, "Oohhhhhh.—Yaxeni Caraballo

Falling on my face in class.—Dayra Cerda

Entering the wrong classroom, half awake, and looking around confused.—Kenny Camano

Falling while going up the stairs, really?—Ariana Velez

My pants ripped , TWICE, during school.—Anonymous

Not working hard enough during the school year and ended up in summer school.—Anonymous

My most embarrassing moment was when I spilled orange soda all over my uniform shirt.—Briana Sanabria

There were rumors going on that I was being home schooled, although I was in school.—Junior Figueroa

Trying to lift in the weight room and a weight fell on me, freshman year.—Gaurav Rana

My most embarrassing moment was being a freshman and always using the same route to get to my classes. When it rained I always got wet because I didn't know any other way to get to class, other than by going through the courtyard.—Anonymous

My most embarrassing moment was standing up at the first bell in gym.—Jacqueline Ramirez

Running fast enough that I rolled in front of everyone in gym. I tried to play it off but failed.—Steven A.

My most embarrassing moment was on the first day of school, junior year. I thought I had heeles and I fell on my butt going down the little hill by the gym, and Jacob Lugo couldn't stop laughing.—Paola Castillo

I have too many to remember just one.—Jennifer Soriano

Sleeping in class and farted —Xavier Martinez

When I walked into Mr. Estrict's office swearing as he opened the door for me.—Tarynn Aldridge

Falling down the steps, while trying to walk up.—Sade Leandry

Falling asleep in gym! —Sebaztian Vallejo

When I, a little too eagerly, tried to give a girl I liked my phone number.—Ariel Salas

When I fell over three tables, freshman year.—Alex Marmol

My most embarrassing moment was in freshman year when I got lost in the S-wing and was too scared to ask for directions.—Jonathan Oliveros

My embarrassing moment was during my sophomore year my pants ripped, and then during my junior year my shoe broke and I had to walk home barefoot.—Jazmyn Zique

That time I was walking up to the third floor, freshman year, and my shoe fell off and went all the way down the stairs. I turned as red as a tomato.—Johanna Miranda

I too tripped going up the stairs.—Stephanie Perez

What was your funniest moment at PHS?

When I joined LMTI and did cheers.—Ashley C.
 All the animal noises in Ms. Cawthern's class.—Anonymous
 When they annoyed my French teacher and hid her shoe in the library.—Anonymous
 When a substitute said that he didn't want to lose his job, for writing a lav. Pass.—Lisaura
 Gym class with Steven.—Enrique Z.
 Mrs. Pritchett's class with Arely.—Jocqueline Ramirez
 My funniest moment was always in Mr. Maria's class. There wasn't a day I didn't laugh with Angel and the rest.—Paola Castillo
 My funniest moment in high school was when my class played a trick on our Spanish teacher. You know what I am talking about.—Ana M.
 Watching a girl rip her pants during the pep rally.—Anonymous
 My funniest moment was when I uh um... dang, I keep forgetting. Oh, wait. I was holding food in one hand and in the other I was trying to balance a cup of iced tea and some cookies. When I tried to sit down, my iced tea toppled over and spilled on the table and my pants. I was in a room full of strangers, but my clumsiness made me a new friend. (You know who you are).—You know who I am.
 In our freshman year when my friend Lancarius and I put gum on our English teacher's seat.—Ana M.
 When everyone in my family knew about a bomb scare in the school, everyone knew except me.—Karen M.
 When my friend walked around school for an entire period with his bookbag open.—Alex Mouerd

Thirsty Thursday in the caf! —Xavier Martinez
 Falling while marching at a band competition my junior year.—Tarynn Aldridge
 Slipping on the stairs.—Gauvar Rana
 When I saw Mrs. Hiller fall down on the first day of school.—Sebastian Girardo
 Tripping while going up the stairs.—Jennifer Soriano
 My discovery of the meaning of everything.—Javier Garcia
 When my friend turned the doorknob so hard that he ripped it off the door and almost prevented an entire classroom from being able to leave their class.—Bryan Taveras
 Countless funny moments in the weightroom. I pick things up and I put them down.—Mr. Gallan
 Busting my *** in the courtyard during freshman year, when it was raining. Horrible! And then there was the time I started a baby fire in the cooking room while making eggs.—Erika Carrion
 Mr. Mitchell and I scoring on each other. I told him that back in the day I remember him having Nick Carrol braids.—Adonis Sanchez
 When I almost fell out of the chair in homeroom.—Sade Mathis
 My funniest moment was when Maria and I cut in the girls bathroom and were terrified. I got on top of the toilet and whispered, "class would have been easier.—Yahaira Santos
 Showing my English class the video we made for Mrs. Cooper, we rapped the Prince of Bel Air theme song with Beowulf lyrics we made up. It was epic.—Maria Martinez
 I passed gas in class.—I'll never tell.

What is your biggest regret of the last four years?

Not getting better grades earlier, and not joining the amazing track team.—C.A.
 Not enjoying all of my time here or joining clubs.—Anonymous
 Not cutting enough, just kidding. Not putting enough effort into school.—Anonymous
 Slacking off my junior year.—Anonymous slacker
 Not doing well my freshman and junior year.—Another slacker
 Messing up my freshman year.—Yet another slacker
 I don't have any regrets. My four years at PHS were popping.—Anonymous
 Having to go to summer school, twice.—B. Sanchez
 Messing up in my junior year.—G. R.
 Thinking a relationship is better than a friendship.—M.A.P.
 My biggest regret was thinking that being cool is better than trying new and exciting things.—Gerardo Torres
 Not doing all my homework on time.—Jhoel
 Not joining any sports.—Yissel Duran
 Not joining more clubs.—Berenise Siri
 Not joining sports in my freshman year.—Isreal Tlatelpa
 Not following my mind.—Steven A.
 Slacking off junior year and trusting the wrong person.—Ambar Mendez
 Not participating in extra-curricular activities.—Mayra Cortes
 Not taking advantage of all the things that were given to me.—Deyaneri N.
 My biggest regret was taking AP biology.—Sammy Arayo
 Not joining enough clubs and sports.—Paola Castillo
 Not joining clubs.—Jacqueline Ramirez
 I wish that I could have made my Japanese culture club (Darsuki Nikon!) earlier.—Ashley C.
 Not joining clubs for most of the years here. I wasted so much time.—Danielle Rogers
 Not getting involved in enough clubs.—Jennifer Soriano
 Trusting the wrong people. Choose your friends carefully.—Tarynn Aldridge
 Not doing the best I could in school.—Kimberly G.
 Not getting a job earlier or putting my all into school.—Cristian
 Not getting involved in more school activities.—Xavier Martinez

Not doing well my freshman year, okay, sophomore year too, or junior year either.—Giraldo
 Not doing more with my class.—Sade Leandry
 I should have been a more active student with clubs, school, etc.—Paola Lopez
 Not going to school dances. I have moves.—Javier Garcia
 Joining naval science; I hate pushups.—Andy Ortiz
 Not taking academics more seriously.—Jan Carlos Gomez
 Getting a job and quitting the sports that I love.—Shayna Polanco
 Not taking Physics AP, but taking Statistics AP.—Karen M.
 I should have taken more AP classes.—Itzel Arenas
 Not joining the school marching band.—Jackie Garcia
 Didn't grow more.—Leandro Villar
 My biggest regret was not getting good grades since my freshman year.—Noleysky Vasquez
 My biggest regret is not learning that much math since I have trouble in that subject.—Counting on my fingers senior
 Not taking school serious enough through my first two years.—Carlos V.
 Not doing as well as a should have.—Carlos S.
 My biggest regret is not joining more after school activities.—Yahaira
 Being the funny guy.—Ricardo Washington
 Not playing volleyball my senior year.—Maria Martinez
 My biggest regret was getting summer school my freshman year, and sophomore year. It is way too hot in those classrooms.—Jonathan Oliveras
 My biggest regret of the last four years is getting suspended my sophomore year.—Adriana Romero
 Not playing softball my senior year.—Yarely Aguilar
 Not doing as good as I could have my freshman year.—Anonymous
 Not serving my centrals and going to summer school for English II.—Luis A.
 My biggest regret is not making this year as fun as it could be.—Juan Pineda
 Not talking to others more.—Luis Ventura

What is your goodbye wish?

I wish that this school gets it all together.—Quasha Womack
 I wish the school can get rid of all the mice and other pests.—Anonymous
 I can only hope that PHS continues to strive for greatness.—Ashley C.
 My goodbye wish is to tell all my classmates to have a great life.—Anonymous
 My goodbye wish is for all my teachers to remember me.—Melissa L.
 My goodbye wish is for everyone to know my name for I shall become famous for my good deeds and discoveries.—Gerardo P. Torres
 My goodbye wish is for everyone who is graduating, who will graduate, and who has already graduated including the teachers and staff, to have a happily ever after.—Anonymous
 My goodbye wish is to become successful and I hope to keep in touch with some of my classmates.—Jenny S.
 My goodbye wish is to be recognized for what I have done in this school and in my sports.—Briana Sanabria
 My goodbye wish is for anyone who I have told my stories to, and learn from my mistakes.—Anonymous
 To see more students graduating next year.—Dafne Vazquez
 My goodbye wish is that every senior have happy lives in college.—Alexander Beltran
 I wish we had another high school so this wouldn't be so crowded.—Karen M.
 Wish everyone the best, to be successful, no matter what.—Itzel Arenas
 I wish everyone the best of luck, because after high school life's only going to get harder.—Alex Marmol
 I wish everybody good luck in their careers.—Jackie Garcia
 I hope, for my fellow classmates, that you never give up and can always find something to fight and live for.—Ariel Salas
 My goodbye wish is for everyone to go on the right path after graduation.—Daisy M.
 For everyone to remain safe and keep in touch.—Crystian V.
 I hope everyone does what they want for their future.—Kimberly G.
 For everyone to continue their education and achieve every goal they put for themselves.—Jennifer Soriano
 For everyone to be successful in everything they want to do and find their place in this world.—Tarynn Aldridge
 Everyone to follow their dreams and not to regret what they do in the future.—Astrid Salas
 For everyone to further their education and go on the right path and don't forget where you came from. Be proud to be a Passaic Indian.—Gaurav Rana
 For everyone to enjoy the time they have now, so that they won't regret it later.—Paola Lopez
 For everyone to leave a positive mark on history.—Javier Garcia
 I wish I could have done better in my freshman year.—Regretful anonymous senior
 That PHS will keep getting better and stronger and maybe even cleaner.—Michelle Gutierrez
 My wish is for the JROTC program to keep improving and to stay on top.—Genesis Medina
 I wish the upcoming freshmen the best of luck.—Erika Carrion
 I wish and hope the freshmen can realize how important education is and to strive for success.—Bryan Taveras
 I wish the school to grow in education and for the incoming freshmen to take advantage of all that PHS has to offer.—Linda Macias
 I wish the school would get repairs on everything.—Luis Angeles
 I wish the school would stop caring so much about how we look (proper uniform) and pay a little more attention to what we learn.—Juan Pineda
 I wish the school has a good class of hard working freshmen and I hope they do not procrastinate.—Luis Ventura
 I want to say that I love you all, and it was a nice journey with all of you.—Shayla Parks

Who was your favorite teacher?

I could never pick a favorite.—Ashley C.
 My favorite teachers were Mr. Cantaldi and Ms. Wajda, because they are both funny and they are understanding towards us. Their classes were always a good time for me. I will miss PHS.—Melissa Vazquez
 My favorite teachers at PHS were Mrs. Barbosa and Mrs. McNish. They were both great teachers who had only one goal, to help students progress and put them on the right path. I learned to learn from them. I am very thankful for all my teachers. They not only taught me school stuff, but also how to be a responsible person. Thanks for being nice to me. I will miss you.—Alma Hernandez
 Mrs. Keller, because she cares and if something needs to be handled she will stick her neck out for us.—Anonymous
 Mr. Messina was a really funny person and he cares a lot about his students, and making the learning fun.—Anonymous
 Mrs. Gordon, because she gets down to the point. She follows her rules and respects all of us.—Anonymous
 Mrs. San Jose, she is the best because she would explain to us if we didn't understand something. She is caring too.—Her AP student
 Mrs. Bohomolec, because she has always motivated me to do better in school and in life. She is always pushing me to do better and truly cares for her students.—Marimar Calixto
 Mr. Zeiler, because of how sarcastic he is.—Christopher Arriaga
 Mr. Mitchell. He isn't only a teacher but a role model and a great person.—Anthony Grullon
 Mrs. K, because she makes me laugh and is just as crazy as the students.—Krishna Patel
 My favorite teacher is actually Mr. Martinez, even though we have a love/hate relationship.—Briana Sanabria

Mr. Tyler isn't only a teacher, but a role model. Because of him I passed my HSPA math. I will remember those great times in class when we would get side tracked and he would teach us valuable lessons about life.—Maritza Barrales
 Mrs. K is the best teacher because she challenged me intellectually while making the class fun. I love that she is eccentric and always brings a smile to my face.—Vidhi Gandhi
 PO Nuyen was more like a family member to me. Even though he would get mad at us most of the time. You really taught me to be independent because nothing in life is free and working hard will pay off in the end.—Maritza Barrales
 Mrs. Worsa is my favorite teacher. She is patient, understanding and really sweet. She helped me a lot with algebra.—Alexandra R.
 My favorite teachers were Mrs. Slosarik and Mrs. Kowaleski. What I liked about Mrs. Slosarik is that she doesn't sugarcoat anything. She is not afraid to tell you how it is. What I liked about Mrs. Kowaleski is that she is fair and nice to talk to.—Connie Estuillo
 My favorite teacher is Mrs. Savinskaya. Not only has she been an amazing pre-calculus and AP calculus teacher, but she also has been a great mentor and role model.—Diana R.
 My favorite teacher is Mr. Cantaldi. I think he is great. He really is funny and he is a UFC fighter too. LOL.—Melissa Lopez
 My favorite teachers are my physics teacher and my English IV teacher. They made me work hard and made me realize that I can do anything as long as I put hard work into it and do my best.—Gerardo Torres
 My favorite teacher was Mr. Galon. I wasn't always there for weight room but when I was there he pushed me to my limit. He also taught me important life lessons that I won't forget. He was a big help as I was growing up.—M.A.P.





Goodbye Class of 2013

Remembering '73

It was 1973, the year I graduated from college. Bill Gates graduated from high school and enrolled in Harvard, Star Trek: The Animated Series hit the TV screen, The Supreme Court issued its decision on Roe V Wade, The Eagles released Desperado, James Bond's Live and Let Die film was released, US troops withdrew from Vietnam, Watergate hearings began, and so did my career as a teacher.

I've had the wonderful opportunity to teach in the City of Passaic for 37 years. The first school that I taught in was School 11. The seventh and eighth graders were there, Jean Burwell was my Principal, and Carl Creech was my

Vice Principal. From there I taught in Passaic's Alternate high school under the leadership of Dr. Milton Wallace and Greg Komeshok and then finally PHS.

The superintendent at that time was Seymour Puckowitz, then Mr. McCoy, Beryl Zankel and Dr. Holster. I remember going for my first interview at the old Board of Education Office downtown. The stores on Main Avenue were beautiful and the Capitol Theater hosted many upcoming music groups.

For me, teaching has always been a partnership built on respect, compassion and the desire to help my students reach their full potential. I leave behind my colleagues with whom I have developed wonderful friendships especially the English department who has become and always will be my second family.

To each of my students: Always believe in who you are. You each possess a special gift, and the path that you choose in your life is unique unto you. You have made me smile, laugh and enjoy coming to work everyday.

As I approach my last day at PHS, I will take with me many wonderful memories. Thank you for sharing your lives with me and giving me the opportunity to teach you.

As always,
Mrs. Terry Budds

Fondest Farewell From Principal Weissman

I am privileged and honored to serve as your principal and I am your strongest supporter of your future endeavors. I am so glad to be able to see all of you cross that finish line of graduation. I must tell you that all visitors, faculty and staff compliment your maturity, character and your willingness to share your ideas and thoughts.

I know in my heart that there is something very special about our student body. Students at Passaic High School are compassionate, sensitive to the needs of other, more than willing to learn from the wonderfully qualified staff.

You graduate to the next phase of your life. Success does not come easy and failure is a 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 PHS spirit!

All the best!
Mr. Weissman, Principal

Senior Class Farewell from the School Counseling Department

Seniors, you have no more worries about whether you have enough credits to graduate. All of the trials of your years at PHS will be a distant memory as you ascend the platform to receive your diploma. Congratulations to the graduating class of 2013.

We in the School Counseling Department want to congratulate each and every one of you on your success at PHS. In the classroom, on the fields, in the arts, or in the service of others, each of you have grown and given of yourselves, 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 remain with you for a lifetime.

Keep challenging yourselves and the world around you will realize your greatness. Continue to dream big and don't let anyone or anything stop you from reaching your goals. We wish you all the best as you head off for the next exciting stage in your life. Come back and visit PHS often; you will always be welcome.

PHS School Counseling Department

Dear Seniors,

Congratulations on having achieved one of the major goals of your life: graduating.

The truly exciting part of your life is about to begin, and, as life takes you to varied places and through many experiences, understand that each moment is a lesson in becoming better. Share your knowledge with others and always lend a helping hand where you can. I wish you all the best of everything and hope you will attain the dreams you have chosen.

Mr. DeNaples
Vice-Principal

Farewell to the Students and Staff of PHS,

This is the end of my journey at Passaic High School. I will be retiring at the end of this school year, and I will be beginning a new journey. During my stay at PHS I met some wonderful students and staff who taught me patience and perseverance and gave me many moments of joy. There were also some difficult times, but on the whole I can say that it was all worthwhile. I look forward to having time to read and do the volunteer work that I love. I will also be traveling as much as I can.

I'd like to wish everyone all the best on your future journeys.

Annette Berger-Machac
ESL Teacher

Goodbye & Good Luck

Congratulations to the 2013 Graduating Senior Class of Passaic High School. Your accomplishments as seniors are a source of pride and happiness. As descendants from various ethnic backgrounds, you are extraordinarily dissimilar in needs and interests but share the same quality of achievement.

Go out into the world and make the world a better place, than when you first found it, but always remember your roots that bind you together, which is PHS. Always remember your fond memories here at PHS, and also remember that the staff, faculty, administrators, and the community are proud of you, and will always assist you with your future endeavors.

Mr. Estrict,
VP Class of 2013

Who was your favorite teacher?

My favorite teacher is Mr. Maria. He is almost a family member to me because he understands me so well and makes me laugh a lot.—Ambar Mendez
Mrs. Gilligan, because she is the first teacher to make me talk in class.—Steven A.
Mrs. Sodlan, because she helped me win a scholarship.—Jacqueline Ramirez
Mr. Walker, because he made class interesting and fun. He was the best.—Isreal Tlatelpa
Mr. Graham because he had a great sense of humor and was good at teaching.—Diana
The school itself was my favorite teacher.—Javier Garcia
Ms. Pyron, Ms. San Jose, Mr. Stowe, and Mr. Messina. These teachers were always helpful, and cheerful.—Ariel Salas
Mr. Messina, Mr. Smith, and Mrs. Fuller all helped me to move on and think about my future.—Oscar D.
Mrs. Butterfield and Mrs. Edwards always had faith in me even when I did not have it in myself.—Anonymous
Mr. Moulton for the sense of humor.—D.P.
My favorite teacher has got to be Mr. Schmitts.—Juan Pineda

Mr. Barbara because of his sarcasm and hilarity. He kept you entertained.—Anonymous
Mr. Terranova, because it was hilarious watching him everyday complaining about the squirrel that he could not get rid of.—Anonymous
Mrs. Ditta. She knew how to have a good time in class, and also she made learning fun. We had the best parties too!—Tarynn Aldridge
Mrs. San Jose because not only did she teach me but she was funny.—Leandro Miller
I have too many great teachers to decide. Thank you so much for all the education you've given me and the effort you've put in. All of you have made a beautiful impact on me. I hope one day you can all realize that, if you haven't already.—Bryan Taveras
My favorite teacher is P.O. Nuyen. He is a great teacher, very funny and respectful.—Edgar D.
My favorite teacher is P.O. Nuyen! He has kept it real with me since the first day I have met him, and still does today. He is respectful and gives me the courage to speak up. I will truly miss him. Thanks P.O.! —Anonymous ROTC student

What is your goodbye wish?

I don't want to say goodbye. I just want to say see you soon. I am pretty sure we are going to see each other later in the future. Best wishes.—Jacqueline Duarte
Live your lives to the fullest.—Jorge
I want all my classmates to make it in life.—Cassidy
I would like to wish everyone an amazing summer, thank all my teachers for changing my life. And I would like to thank my family for being an amazing support system.—Yohaira
I want to wish everybody the best. Remember that the class of 2013 was the best!—Tatiana

What are your plans for summer?

Work, have fun, and get a car.—Kimberly Diaz
Prepare myself for bootcamp, for the U.S. Navy.—Naval enlistee
Turn it up! —Xavier Martinez
Meet new people and new friends.—Anonymous
Work, get a driver's license, and to have fun with the love of my life — my son.—J.M.
Live life to the fullest and live with no regrets.—Briana Sanabria
College EOF program.—Gaurav Rana
Work, practice my guitar, and much, much, more, like sleep.—Karen M.
Work, work, study for culinary school.—Oscar D.
To start work and go to the beach and lake.—Jackie Garcia
Go to NJIT EOF summer program.—Leandro Villar
Work, relax, and anything can happen, maybe I will even study.—Ariel Salas

VALEDICTORIANS:

Diana Rodriguez & Ariana Velez

By Elizabeth Tlatelpa

In some cultures the number 13 is projected as having some kind of superstitious power. In our society the number 13 has become a symbol of bad fortune. Thus, it has become clear that something very strange revolves around the number 13, and it sure does in the case of the Class of 2013.

This year's graduating class will be represented by not one, but two valedictorians; Diana Rodriguez and Ariana Velez. Talk about strange happenings, for the lucky class of number 13. Other strange coincidences about the Valedictorians are that these two young women, come from the same ethnic background, they are from the same gender and are pursuing a career in the same field!

Rodriguez and Velez are pleased to share such an honorary position, because it makes them both proud to represent not only their class and PHS, but their Mexican culture as well. Diana stated: "I am glad that I can say that there are two of us that were able to make our culture, our parents and ourselves proud, two of us that were able to elate those around us" While Ariana said: "It is an honor having her beside me". Thus, this comes to show that there is no rivalry whatsoever among these two young scholars with bright futures ahead of them.

Education was always stressed to Diana; therefore she valued it and knew that it would get her places. What motivated her to strive for success was her family. Rodriguez told me the struggle her parents went through by immigrating to the United States, the only reason encouraging them to come to the states was to ensure that their children would have better opportunities than they did. Consequently Diana replies "I work hard in order to show them that their efforts were worth it. Because I am the oldest of three children, I strive to be the best role model I can be for my younger siblings, which is another reason why I work so hard."

On the other hand our other valedictorian, Ariana states otherwise. Her motivation comes from within. For years Velez attempted to gather the attention of her parents, but she realized that she should not do well in school for them; rather she should do well in school for herself. "I realized that I had to accomplish things solely because I desired it and not because I had to show it, I had to do it for one person only, that person was ME". Eventually, Velez grew a deep strong interest in her studies, worked hard and as a result she proudly stands next to Rodriguez.

What do these two young girls share in common, besides the title of Valedictorian? Well, when Rodriguez and Velez say "work hard" they mean what many of her classmates fail to do. "Working hard means giving up weekends, parties, hanging out with friends and sometimes even sleep, precious sleep!" both Ariana and Diana stated. This is the formula both of these scholars share.

Nonetheless, in the fall of 2013 each will be off to their respective universities. Rodriguez will be attending The College of New Jersey, majoring in biomedical engineering, hoping to follow a pre-med track, ultimately pursuing a career as an anesthesiologist. Velez on the other hand will be majoring in physical therapy and will be attending Rutgers University in New Brunswick this upcoming fall.

Rodriguez and Velez are very happy with their position as Valedictorians of the class of 2013 and had the pleasure to give a word or two to our lowerclassmen. "For any student that wishes to be at the top, or that wants to be successful in general, it is important to prioritize what is taken care of every day. If one is ready to be successful, one must be ready to sacrifice as well. Sometimes, one must be willing to sacrifice hours of sleep or a day out with friends in order to complete homework or perhaps volunteer somewhere to aid others" said Diana. Ariana's adds "Say no, to distractions, especially social use and remember the most important drive to continue your education is yourself, also have a life because high school is about having fun but learn to balance your academics with your leisure time".

They leave Passaic High School with these wise words that hopefully will lead the upcoming students that will walk through the hallways of PHS. Whatever these girls set their minds to accomplish, I am one hundred percent sure they will achieve it. They will shine their light, making their class, their school, their families and their friends proud. It is an honor to be friends with such academically successful young ladies.

Diana Rodriguez and Ariana Velez have surely made history here in Passaic high school; for making the class of 2013 the only class to have not one, but two valedictorians. Best wishes and good luck ladies!

DECA on the Move!

By Lisaura Garcia

DECA (An Association of Marketing Students) has been extremely busy! DECA is comprised of many motivated students who have an interest in business and marketing, and have fun doing it. Following is a few of the most recent activities that DECA students have participated in.



DECA students learn marketing at Six Flags

On Thursday, May 2, 2013, DECA attended the Marketing Education Day Conference at Six Flags Great Adventure. DECA members gained valuable insight into modern business technologies and practices through informative and graphically stimulating presentations. The presentations

were given by top professionals in the radio and advertising industries from New Jersey. They also had a lot of fun too!



DECA students visiting Lincoln Tech

On Friday, May 17, 2013, 29 DECA members participated in a field trip to Lincoln Technical College in Paramus. Although Lincoln Tech provides guest speakers each year to speak to the marketing classes, the

purpose of the trip was to give students an opportunity to visit the campus and get a more in-depth perspective on the programs that they offer.



Passaic Memorial Day Parade

On Monday, May 27, 2013, several DECA members participated in the Passaic Memorial Day Parade held downtown. Many veterans and politicians were recognized for their contributions and service to the people of Passaic. DECA was among the

many clubs and organizations to help make this parade a success! They proudly represented PHS.



Brunch at the Venetian

On Wednesday, May 29, 2013, DECA students hosted their annual Employer Appreciation Brunch at the Venetian in Garfield. Employers who offer work experience to our co-op students play a vital role in the success of the Marketing

Education Program. The brunch gave the students the opportunity to say "thank you" to those supervisors and managers who have worked with them throughout the entire school year.



Class Day

On Tuesday, June 25, 2013, selected students will be receiving scholarships on Class Day. Funds for the end-of-year scholarships were generated from various fundraisers throughout the year including a Dress Down Day on May 24th and bake sales in the month of May. Congratulations to all of the scholarship recipients and

to all of the DECA members who worked so hard to make this year a success!
Photos by DECA



Photos by staff

PHS Drill Team is standing proud.

Drill Team Conquers National Championship



By Christian Sepulveda and Adonis Jimenez

The Ocean Center in Daytona, Florida, hosted the annual National JROTC Drill Team Championships. A national competition, twenty-eight teams from all around the United States competed. PHS has a very active NJROTC program, and the team represented our school with honor and distinction.

The Armed Regulation team under the command of senior Christian Sepulveda finished fourth in the entire nation. This team uses basic arm movements to demonstrate their ability with rifles.

The Armed Color Guard also under the command of Sepulveda finished third in the nation. Using our nation's flag this team performs in unison with precision. The other Color Guard members included senior Adonis Jimenez and juniors Edwin Leon and Kimberly Sabando.

The best showing was from the Armed Exhibition Team, under the command Adonis Jimenez. This team finished second in the nation! This is the first time that the Armed Drill Team finished second in the entire nation. Imagine that teams from all across this nation competed and

This year every entry from PHS finished higher than ever before. They are truly representative of the PHS spirit.

PHS came out on top.

Another first for the PHS NJROTC team is that they entered a first year cadet color guard team in the Open Division. Sophomore Ashley Toribio, commanded this team of first year cadets, including Linette Ramon, Karen Ferruffino and

Destini Molenaar, to place 17th out of 32 teams. While 17th place may not seem like much of an accomplishment, taking into consideration that this was a first year team, it is quite a feat. "I am very proud of these cadets," said Petty Officer Nuyen. He added,

"For a first year team placing in the top half of the pack is an incredible accomplishment." We have a lot to look forward to from these cadets as they continue within the ROTC program.

Other noted accomplishments from this competition are Seniors Jorge Soto and Yarely Aguilar who finished fifth place, out of fifty-four entries in the Duel Unarmed Exhibition teams. In the Armed Knockout, from a field of over 500 cadets, Junior Anthony Melecia finished seventh. First year cadet Karen Ferruffino finished third. In the unarmed knockout, Senior Kissairy Evans finished forth from over 700 other cadets. Freshman cadet Amy Silva finished first in the nation.

Sports

Boys Track: A Sport Without a Ball

By Anthony Navarro

Track and Field is different from any other sport because it doesn't require a ball. All you need is a pair of legs and a lot of heart. To me it is the ultimate sport because it truly shows who the better man is. Track is direct competition; the team is you. When the signal gun fires, there is no team, there is you and the competition of all the other runners, racing toward the finish line. All the runners are after the same thing, they all want it, badly. There are no timeouts, water breaks, or fouls. A great runner needs to bring his "A" game to every race and come prepared with a winning mindset. At the end of a race there are no excuses by the losers because the better

man won the race.

If you lose the race you must ask yourself a simple question, "How bad do I really want to win?" If your answer to that question is "yes", then you go and train twice as hard so that next time you go out there and win. "Fast is fast, slow is slow, and in between doesn't count," is my favorite quote by Coach Blues.

Track and Field has been a very important part of my life, for the three years that I have participated in the sport, throughout all my years in PHS. This sport has shown me that with hard work, dedication and heart, nothing is impossible. It has given me another family and a great set of friends that I know I can count on no matter what. These past years have been an



awesome experience and none of it would have been possible without sports in my life. I want to thank Coach Blues, Coach Matos, Coach Rivera, and Coach Falcon for always pushing me to work hard.

I strongly recommend that people join the Track and Field team. I can most certainly guarantee that you

won't regret it and that it will have nothing but positive effects in your life. I want to wish the best of luck to the runners that will be participating in the sport next year. Finally, I would like to give a shout out to Abel Maretell, Muarasio Nazario, and Javan Acevado on leading the team next year

Joining Cross Country

By Yessenia Lopez

Joining the PHS Cross Country Team and the Track Team was one of the best decisions that I made during my high school years. If I could change anything from my high school years, it would be to have started running freshman year. Sports has helped me become a better person. I'm glad that I was able to participate and be a part of this great team. If it weren't for sports I would not have the great supportive friends that I have. Both the coaches and team mates have pushed me to become better both at running and as a person. From track I have learned responsibility, commitment hard work, team work and respect which I think will help me get far in life, I am glad that I stuck with track and didn't quit. By sticking with track, learning and working hard to better my times, I was able to translate this work ethic to my studies. So, being a good athlete has made me a better student. It was a good experience. I encourage underclassmen to join track. You won't regret it. Not only will you have fun and make great friends, but you will learn how to better yourself, and it will also help you in your studies.