



HILLTOP STAR FILE PHOTO

Mr. Weissman at the production of his play, "The Leaf," in 2010.

PHS Will Miss Its Principal

By Sharief Masri

Mr. Tobias Weissman came to PHS as our new principal in 2010 after the retirement of Mr. Creech. While here he set many goals for us to achieve as a school, and also standards for each student to aspire to. Well liked by students and teachers alike, he has made his mark on PHS. No one can deny the fact that Mr. Weissman has made an impact on our school.

First, in order to make the students feel as if they were important he wanted to make a physical change to the building. I remember a story he told to a group of students about the first day he arrived at PHS. The "I" was dangling from the "Passaic" sign out front. His first act as principal was to get somebody to fix the sign. Just the simple act of getting things fixed and cleaned made the students feel like they were

part of something important here at school.

Mr. Weissman, not only wanted a physical change to the school, but a mental change in each student. He wanted each student to know that they were important and that what they did here at school was important too.

He authored a play titled, "The Leaf," which was a story about his mother, a Holocaust survivor. The play was performed by the drama club and other volunteers in 2012.

Both students and teachers alike are going to miss the unique mix of passion, humor and drive that was Mr. Weissman and the PHS family had gotten used to. He took the time to smile and talk with students and was a mentor to anyone who needed help. We can all learn something from the example that Mr. Weissman set. Making PHS number one can be his greatest legacy.

Mr. DeNaples Clears ALL Centrals

By Pabel DeJesus

As most juniors already know, the SAT registration deadline is rapidly approaching. Every morning for the past couple weeks Mr. DeNaples has urged all juniors to take the SAT this coming May 3. The deadline for registering is April 4.

However, many students have asked why they should sign up to take a test on a Saturday in May? At the junior class assembly on March 28, Mr. DeNaples tried to answer some of these concerns. First, he said, "you never know where your life will lead you." He explained that even if a student is planning to go straight to work after high school, join the family business, join the military or go to trade school, taking the SAT is still a good idea. "Maybe you'll find that you are college material after taking this test," DeNaples said. He added that when getting out into the world after high school, keeping all your options open like going to college if you want, and not being limited by the choices students make today, is always the best policy.

Taking the SAT is not only a good idea for a student's own educational benefit, but it is a chance to get a free



PHOTO BY JOSE GRUILLON

Mr. DeNaples promises to clear all centrals if enough juniors take the SAT.

lunch on the principal. If 500 juniors register and go to take the test, he will buy everyone who attends a free lunch. As if a free lunch weren't enough, there is the possibility of getting a prize, drawn at random of all juniors taking the test, but you will have to be there to get it.

Seeing that some students still might not have enough incentive to take this test, Mr. DeNaples pulled out all the stops and said that no matter how many centrals you have, they will all be removed if you take the test. He said,

"even if you have 140 or more centrals they will all be gone," to the cheers of the juniors in assembly.

Taking this test will not cost you anything. So, convince your classmates who are not taking the SAT and get them to go to guidance to sign up today. Because, as our principal said, "If 500 sign up, I will make this happen. I promise you." It seems like there is much to gain by taking the SAT. With all the benefits both by taking the test, there is no down side to giving up one Saturday in May.

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Teen Pep Urges Freshmen to 'Talk about it'

By Gabriela Martinez

The Freshman class was treated to a great assembly program, created and presented by Teen Pep, of PHS. Teen Pep stands for Prevention Education Program, and this club aims to create awareness in peers about the teen pregnancy issue. The club consists of 16 juniors who have been voluntarily trained in leadership and sexuality issues.

On February 18, these students presented the teen awareness "talk about it" assembly program, for the Freshman class. Juniors, Ana Rosas and Wilbert Tavaréz, held the lead

roles of this skit, which involved a couple having a discussion about sexual involvement. Their consciences were giving them advice about the pros and cons of becoming sexually active. This led to a discussion about becoming sexually involved between Teen Pep students and freshmen assembly attendees.

Teen Pep presented three different examples of the possible outcomes of teen pregnancy, and also how to avoid becoming pregnant in the first place. This is a problem at PHS and Teen Pep is dedicated to helping our fellow students avoid this serious issue. Mrs. Cilen-tó advises this group.

"It was nerve wracking, but the students and teachers gave us so much positive feedback," said Ana Rosas, about her involvement and presentation of this skit. The response from the audience was positive, and



PHOTO BY GABRIELA HERNANDEZ

Members of Teen Pep meet to plan and organize key events for this school year.

most seemed to enjoy their assembly program, especially the fact that it was created by, presented by and performed for PHS students.

The freshmen seemed to find

this assembly helpful, and they learned a lot about the serious consequences of teenage pregnancy. Seeing how helpful the assembly was, Wilbert Tavaréz, said "I hope we can do it

again."

The other members of Teen Pep hope to get the chance to keep performing in front of PHS students to have a positive impact on our school.



No More Snow for PHS

PHS has endured much more snow this winter than in any recent memory. Snow days, shoveling, trying to park, and more shoveling has grated on everyone's nerves. However, we are tough here, and we can take it. But our school break has been shortened and our school year has been pushed out to the last day of June. Here are some thoughts from students about this winter and its affects.

Winter 2013-2014

By Gabriela Martinez

The winter of 2013-2014 has not been good in New Jersey. We've received way too much snow and we have been barely able to handle it. The snow has stopped this school in its tracks. People have been unable to go to work and school.

There have been six snow days used already and most years we use none. The worst part is that the school board has a problem with all the days we students have been missing, just sitting around at home and watching television or playing video games. In order for us to have a full school year this year the school is going to have to cut our spring break and even though we were home on our winter break, we really weren't on vacation. Some students had to shovel and help their families with snow removal, and I feel bad for them. That is hard work.

As a student I don't think that it is fair that we have to go to school until July and it is not the fault of the students that we got 2 to 6 inches of snow every other day for weeks. As a student we deserve to keep our spring break and I feel like we do spend enough time in school. We need a break.

What is in a couple days?

By Alyssa Valenzuela

I realize that the school really cannot do anything about the weather, but I also know that we have 182 days of school, more than other districts. Perhaps, just this exceptionally snowy year, we could have the state mandated 180? Maybe we could just have a regular spring break and have 180 days of school this year? I hope the powers that make these decisions can consider the students and what a couple days with our families actually mean to us.

A few other thoughts on the weather this winter is that this year's weather was really awful. Having so many snow days is so bad for us. Remember the first snow day and we were all so happy; and we didn't even miss school. Now the snow and the snow days really needs to stop. We need spring.

Now if we have another snow day we are just bored in the house, unable to go out because the weather is so bad. If I spend just one more day just eating and sleeping I think I will just scream. For me, spring can't come quick enough.

A Modest Compromise

By Carlos Corona

I think that the school should deal with the loss of days due to the snow days, by simply making activity days instead of just school days. Students would not complain if there were a field day, or some other educational activity, instead of coming to a regular day of school. If a way could be found to have fun at school, and learn, at the same time. If some interesting things could be planned then students will not complain about coming to school, and won't mind coming to school, and also learn something at the same time. In this way we can make a negative into a positive and everyone would benefit.

Weather Conditions

By Norma Maldonado

As we know, in Passaic, we can experience any type of temperature and weather. It goes from freezing cold to hot summer days. Lately, we have had a lot of snow storms, which not only brought disadvantages to the citizens of Passaic, but also to the students. Unfortunately, we have been facing schools that were closed, due to the weather, and while it was fun on those days not having to go to school, we are facing a shortened spring break and a school year that is ending on the very last day of June! We students are not to blame as the weather cannot be controlled. But it definitely feels like we are being punished with no breaks between now and the end of the year.

Saturday is a day of the week

By Gianfranco Ccencho

How do we as a school deal with all these snow days? As sad as it may seem, Saturday school days are probably the best of all the bad ideas. We would be able to catch up with all the lost days fairly quickly, and we could possibly have some fun activities planned as a school too.

The other thing that can be done to help with Saturday school is to allow students to wear their normal clothes. No uniforms on Saturday would be very popular.



STAFF PHOTO

Furniture out in the streets where cars were recently dug out are a common and frustrating sight during snow days.

For a Snow Shovel

By Jesus Lopez

I see the snow falling and piling up. People are excited at first, but then as the snow builds they get more and more angry. I just wish I had a snow shovel around so that I can make money shoveling people out. I could have made a fortune this year! I don't think that I have ever seen this much snow!

What's more, I have to share my Netflix account with my sisters and they each get one television, so I don't get to log into that account. I was so bored that I actually did my homework.

There are things other than school

By Lorena Pichardo

We have school right through June 30, and we also have a shortened spring break. I know that the weather is out of everyone's control, but having no breaks is also unfair to everyone. It is nobody's fault that there was so much snow this year. School is important but students also need to spend time with their families, especially if they have already made spring break plans. People plan for the scheduled days that we have off and if then we do not have those days off, then we all lose out.



STAFF PHOTO

Ivan Baez digs out on Broadway, by the Dollar King.

What else could we do?

By Edwin Isias

There really is not much that can be done in this situation. There are so many snow days this year. Many students would rather just stay home if it snows at all, and others would like to stay home if it is snowing or not. The Board of Education has a responsibility to make sure that we are given as much time in school as possible. This is for us, the students, to get the best education possible. So here we are, to make up the days that we need.

Personally, I would rather be in school anyway (most of the time).

Snow Matters

By Ana Velasquez

The weather we've been having? It has been crazy on the streets. People have been trapped in their homes with nothing to do. Even though there have been days off from school we all know that we will have to make all these days up, eventually.

These snow days are crazy and the school years going straight to the end with hardly a day off is crazy for the students and teachers alike. I think we need to contribute to global warming so that we can get out of school before the Fourth of July.

I hope that next year we get an easier winter. We never know what the weather will be, but I hope for everyone's sake that next year will be just a little warmer. Let's go spring!

Students are funny

By Jason Hernandez

This year it certainly has snowed a lot. Remember the first storm and everyone was mad and complaining that the school didn't close down because of the snow storm? Now that we have had some major storms and we used all of our snow days and then some, well, the idea of keeping the school open for a couple of more minor storms seems pretty smart.

Yes, the school year is going to be longer this year and we are not going to get our full break. But there is always an upside. I made a ton of money shoveling all that snow. I just wish we still had a spring break for me to spend it.

SNOW

By Isabel Mendez

The snow has affected all of us, but I am furious that our spring break is being shortened and our school year lengthened because of all this snow. I wish there wasn't snow at all. At first I was excited like everyone else about the pretty snow and an extra day off from school, but as the winter days dragged on and it seemed likely that our spring break was gone. I was so mad.

I get bored at home, and even though I am often asked to shovel, I rarely do. I did have the chance to play with my little nephew, and I stayed in bed and watched Netflix all day. I just don't want any more snow.

Dealing with the snow this year

By Luz Piscoya

Obviously, it has snowed a lot this year, and this massive amount of snow has caused some changes to our schedule. The real question is how are people dealing with all this snow? If we just relax and look at the facts, I think that you'll agree that most of us are dealing with these circumstances quite well.

I love snow and I am not ready for spring yet. The only downside to all this snow is that we are going to miss some of our spring break. I would much rather be in school now though, when it is cold, rather than at the end of the year when it is hot.

Unfair snow?

By Parth Patel

Is the school board being unfair to us? The latest news about our vacation time is that they are taking away two days from our spring break. This surprised me because I had no idea that the two extra days that we have at Passaic (182) were that important. I hold that the break that students deserve this year is more important than the two extra days we have at school anyway.

Ridiculous Policy

By Levi Albenis

Recently, our city and school has been enduring severe weather conditions, which has forced this district to extend the school year and remove some days from our spring break, to meet the required district policy of a 182 day school year. Personally, I believe that the students should have the full spring break. The freakish winter weather of the winter of 2013-2014, should not be a factor in whether we get to have a spring break. We should, as a school and a city, make the best of this situation. The whole idea of making up a day of school sounds ridiculous to me.



NJTV SCREEN SHOT
Snow totals like this were a daily occurrence during this long and snowy winter.



African-American Club Supports Unity and Raises Money for Scholarships

By Yvette Rodriguez

What better way is there to pay tribute to the great accomplishments of black historical figures than to prepare a new generation of great pioneers for the future? That was the goal of the faculty unity luncheon hosted and organized by the African-American Club.

The auxiliary gym was decorated by members of the African-American Club in a Mardi Gras theme, complete with theme music. Guests, who paid to make a donation to the scholarship drive, entered into a New Orleans style atmosphere and fun soul food. Catered fried chicken and other delicacies were enjoyed by all guests.

Senior Leonarda Martinez, vice president of the African-American Club, said of the event, "I am so glad we were able to do this." He added, about being a member of the club, "I love the diverse nature of the club. It is so fun because there are so many activities.



Mrs. O'Bryant-Hopkins and Mrs. Bell serve soul food and smiles.

This is a very active club."

Guests of the event commented on how professional the event was run. "Well done OB, (Mrs. O'Bryant-Hopkins, advisor of the African-American Club)," said Mr. Becker of the food and the décor.

A guest of honor, Mr. Carlist Creech, recently retired principal of PHS, was on hand to reminisce about his days of working with students and staff to make our school successful

and fun. He said, "I am honored to be remembered for my time here at PHS. I know that these scholarships will be put to good use."

The funds raised will help to create scholarships for students of PHS who will represent our school in college and then in the whole world. After college these students will add to the great history of both African – Americans and PHS, making all of us PHS proud!

PHOTOS BY MR. MICHAEL HARMON

Upper left: Former PHS Principal, Carlist Creech and Mrs. Triosi. Upper right: Leon Martinez, V.P. of the African American Club. Left: Mr. Messina, Mr. Wierzbicki and Mr. Becker enjoy the luncheon.

I HAVE A DREAM...

I have a dream today!

I have a dream... That one day our generation will come together and be one. That we will fix all of the messes that we have made and not just ignore the problems that we are creating. It seems to me that everyone has forgotten what our generation can be like later on in our lives if we choose to make good choices now. If we do not make enough changes all the damage we are creating in our world will effect us in the future. We are not going to have anything because we do not have respect for anybody, not even ourselves many times. What we have to do is be done with the injustices that we have created and begin to make good choices.

I have a dream... That one day we can see all people as wonderful. That we will be able to say "This is our world. We have finally found it and we are proud of it." A world where no one is a victim of verbal abuse. Verbal abuse occurs when someone uses language, whether spoken or written, to cause you harm. We need to stop repeating insults or recalling past mistakes. We should STOP calling people by names and stop killing the feelings of people by making them feel like they are nothing in this world. We need to value others so that we do not cause the loss of their lives by our abuse. To stop abuse we should start loving freedom and diversity and believe that we are owners of our lives and of our future. Say together that it is time to stop verbal abuse.

I have a dream... That one day our generation will understand better what it means to be a victim of violence. Why the person who are victims have no reason to be happy and sees life differently. We need to show them that they are not alone or at fault. We can change this if we say "STOP VIOLENCE" and help the victims

believe in themselves! No one should live in fear. To stop with the violence we should have more harmony and compassion. We need to stand up for people who we see being abused. We need to report violence that we see so that we can save the victims and make our world better.

I would like to see a day where nobody is afraid to speak up. Where everybody can express their feelings and also their opinions and those feelings and opinions will count no matter what or who we are. We are all equal because none of us are perfect. Maybe we live differently, or think differently or love differently, but in this world we are equal because in this world everyone has to work hard for a better life. Our generation needs to make changes so there is no inequality, there is no discrimination. We need to stop judging people by who has the best phone and for who dresses better, but by who they are as a person. We are all humans living in this world. Humans who all have feelings, that will always be the same. No matter which category society may place us we are all equal. We must create a society where nobody is less than others.

"Every person in this world is created to be equal"

I have a dream... that our world can be a community. A community where we can help each other. Where we will not be judged by how people look but for the person we are inside. We should have the best community so we can plan or make our future better. If we have time to judge we should have time to see how the futures is going to look in the future. If we don't stop racism and judging people who are different what type of world will we leave behind? If everyday, everyone of us chooses to not judge others we will see a future in which all peo-

ple live together without being judged. I have a dream that one day this nation will love one another and not discriminate against each other.

I have a dream... That one day this country can give the same opportunities to the people who come from different countries. That we will make their dreams their truths. That immigrants will know that if they work hard and make good choices they will be given many opportunities. It is not fair to the people who want to improve in the future but do not have the same opportunities. People think that United States is the country of opportunities but this is not always the truth because of people's prejudices. All people who believe they have no opportunities lose their hopes and people without hope are lost.

I have a dream... That the economy of this country can get better so that students can have a better education. I dream of better opportunities for the people who want to improve in this country and for their futures. A place where there is more work and better pay so all parents can give their children an education that in the past was not available to them because they could not afford it. If all parents can give their children an education without worrying about how they are going to pay for it our economy and our future will be stronger.

Today I want to break the silence and be done with all the problems we are creating and say "It's enough!" It is enough with injustice. It is enough violence. It is enough racism. I have a dream where I can turn on the news and see a world where there is happiness.

I have a dream.

Maria Cardoso

I have a dream... a dream

that poverty will not exist anymore, it will disappear and flow away like the frigid air. Poverty is the main cause of the lack of knowledge and good skills. Laziness takes a big part in moving people towards poverty because it becomes easier for others to do nothing than to do something. Poverty has too many causes in hurting, the community, the world, and the people around us..

I have a dream... a dream that my lips won't bleed anymore because of the violence that occurs everyday and every time. It is harder for everyone to understand that people are all equal and we should not judge anyone by their image. Is it fair to make someone lose their life for such a thing? It hurts to see that humanity becomes worse by days and years, it begins with our minds and ends in our eyes. Everyone dies but not everybody lives.

I have a dream... a dream where the sky will not close on us and it will become a great escape. Humanity will become stronger because of all of our labor. We will carry each other in our hands and diminish the pain creating something good. I believe that if we help each other during any event, especially bad times God will give us double the rewards.

I have a dream... that our world will not suffer with pain. That killing will not exist in our community or any community on the planet earth. To live life, without fear, but with a passion for love and peace. The pain we have carried in the past will not change the future but the choices we make today will, because we are the one's who choose our future, good or bad. Pain is another part of life, it will never leave nor can we escape. Pain makes you stronger. Tears make you braver. Heartbreak makes you wiser. So thank the pain of your past for helping to build you a better future. I admire my father for everything that has happened to him. From his mistakes to his pain, from his happi-

ness to his joys, the truth is he has continued his journey for us because he loves us. He will not leave us behind. One day, I will not look back. I will not look back because every step I take will be moving me forward towards my future.

I have a dream... that one day wars against each other will disappear and all nations will join together in peace. President Lyndon B Johnson said, "Peace is a journey of a thousand miles and it must be taken one step at a time." He said this at a time our country was struggling for equality. At a time when we were feeling the loss of our leaders. My hero, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. fought for civil rights. He taught us that we needed to work together peacefully. He taught us "No one is born hating another person because of his color, or his background, or his religion, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than the opposite." Dr. King had a dream but more importantly he inspired all of us to dream.

I have a dream... that one day everyone who comes from different religions, genders, backgrounds or colors will come together and look upon the horizon as the sun rises and realize that every person is equal because everyone has the right to be equal.

I have a dream... a dream that love and peace will come one day and will not leave ever again.

I have a dream... a dream that a hero doesn't always have a cape or a superpower but the ability to make others believe in respect and equality for others..

I have a dream... that one day, all of our sufferings and pain will pay off in the future when our generation changes our world into a better place that we can all feel proud to live in the way that we choose.

I have a dream.

Jesus Garcia

I have a dream to see a world with love and smiles on the faces of every person who lives in it. A dream where people can feel happy, loved, and secure when they walk out of their houses day or night in the streets. Where people can actually forget about the dangerous situations that can happen to them while being outdoors or even indoors.

I have a dream where people can enjoy life without putting their lives and the lives of their family at risk of danger. Where people can listen to the freedom of children laughing, birds chirping, as well as feeling inside their hearts people in love, people who care for each other, people who can work together in order to make a better and safer place so that with time and effort they will lose thoughts of a dangerous world.

I have a dream that someday in this world people can actually hold hands together no matter who they love and work together like a giant family who care for each other. A country that can notice every-

thing that they have done wrong and instead of being negative be positive and correct mistakes so that they can be erased by people working together. Like in the movie Turbo it says, "No dream is too small and no dream too BIG." If we believe this together as nation we can fix our mistakes.

I have a dream that one day our world can see our biggest errors and work together to stop war. A dream that wars will end justly and we will start getting along with each other. We act like if people are another race we need to treat them differently. We need to see that we are all the same. We might have different eye, skin or hair color but that does not mean we have to hate them. My dream is to be able to stop violence because violence does not solve anything.

I had a dream yesterday... A dream where a nation would hold hands and together instead of destroying creating. Create a new world, a new type of evolution, a whole new change of every person's way of thinking, where we can all be successful together with-

out anybody getting left behind or judged.

I have a dream today... I have a dream that we can all learn from our mistakes and learn how to solve them a different way instead of using violence or discrimination. I have a dream that people will not judge other people based on their skin color and race or their religion or sexuality. Where anybody can walk around their neighborhood and the park calmly without being looked at differently.

I have a dream for tomorrow... I have a dream that tomorrow will be better than yesterday a whole new change in ourselves, so that we can see a whole new change in our society and in our world. A dream where we can have a stronger economy. Where we can all see that we can do better. I have a dream where everyone can be proud of themselves and where no one needs to be ashamed just because they are different.

I have a dream!
Alexis Flores



I have a dream that one day sexuality will not matter. Where people who do not think they are normal are very normal. I have a dream that those people will not have to cry and hear the sound of whimpering anymore. The sound of screaming will stop and the sound of hatred will change. Those people who feel that they do not belong wants to feel like they do belong. Just because you are in love with the same sex should not matter. You think that it is funny to make fun of others, but it really is not. I do not think people should judge others for who they became, and especially who they are and who they want to love.

I can feel the warmth of others' hearts. When people are being judged for who they love, it is like a pointy knife going through their heart. They should be able to walk around with their lover without having an accusing finger pointing at them. I can feel those people's pain. You know why? Because once I felt the way you people feel. But never give up and do not let anyone tell you otherwise.

For many years now, homosexuals have not gotten treated equally. And for more and more years, people will not get rid of stupid. By that I mean, there will always be people who will always judge you for your looks, personality, and for your rights. People will call you gay or a dike but you should not listen to them because that is who you are.

I have a dream that people will all come across as equal. When you are opened up, you look the same. Does it matter if you are black, white, blue, green and red? No because we are the same. Such is the same for sexuality. You can be a woman and love the same sex and you can be a man and love the same sex. We are all human.

Homosexuals are afraid to show their feelings. They are afraid because some people do not want to be judged. They get emotional and they feel so alone. This world should not go through that. This world should not have to feel pressured. Those people who do not want to be here are innocent. They get so depressed and the killing and the suicide starts. Families should not have to go through that. These homosexuals are afraid. But no one is doing anything about it! You can walk down the street and see a homosexual. Then the next day you could see that same person dead over a dumb remark. That remark that you thought wasn't so bad and that remark that you thought was funny? It wasn't really funny. That remark caused a death and I see that you are now not laughing. This is why we need to do something about it. There is too much suicide in this world.

I can feel the tension between these people. The straight ones and the gay ones. The straight people think that it is normal for them to love the opposite sex. You are right, it is normal. But did you know it is also normal for people to love the same sex? People are against gay marriage, but I personally think that it is fine. Jimmy Carter once said, "Jesus never said a word about homosexuality. In all of his teachings about multiple things - he never said that gay peo-

ple should be condemned. I personally think it is very fine for gay people to be married in civil ceremonies."

Jimmy Carter is trying to say that gay marriage is okay that it should not matter who you love or who you choose to marry. That is also what I'm trying to say- that gay marriage or people who have been through a lot because of the people they choose to love. In a sense, we have come together to make this nation better than ever. However, this nation has given a lot of people a bad reputation. I can taste the sourness of a green apple and this taste does not taste so swell. It tastes so terrible because the people of this country, the people of this nation, have not changed at all. And when they do change, I will taste the sweetness of chocolate and the sun will shine every morning and the moon will light the darkness.

I have a dream that my dream will come true, that everybody's dream will come true and that my dream will be their dream to have a perfect world. Not that this world is so bad, but this world can be better. I have a dream that gays will be able to smell the spring rain without being afraid of coming out their houses. Love is love and when you love someone you don't care how they look and you don't care if you love the same sex, you just love them because you love them.

Even though we face these horrible and difficult times, we can still, no matter what happens if we die or get hurt, we can still get the rights we want and need in this community. When will this society be satisfied? When will this world be happy? When will the United States be perfect? When will these people get the rights that they want? Nobody knows. NOT ME! NOT YOU! Not even God.

We the people should not look back at stupidity, not at the world, but at yourselves. No judgement should be made by anyone. Gays should have the right to do whatever a straight person could do. People will look at you up and down for a certain reason, but they will never want to really see the real you. They know your name but not your story. They know how you look but they don't know your weakness.

If you see a gay person somewhere and they are smiling, think about it. Do you think they are happy? Do you think they know they are normal? In reality they do not want to smile because they do not think they have a reason to. In their heads they don't want to be here. Not in this world, not anywhere.

I have a dream that everyone can come outside of their house without feeling offended. Everyone was built to be equal to be who they want to be. We should respect one another's opinions and thoughts. I have a dream that everyone could marry who they want and who they love. For gay marriage to be legal in every country, every state, and every island. Therefore, I have a dream that this world will be a better place for you and for me.

I have a dream that when my children are born, they will be able to love and be with whoever they
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**IF YOU CAN'T FLY, THEN RUN
IF YOU CAN'T RUN, THEN WALK
IF YOU CAN'T WALK, THEN CRAWL
BUT WHATEVER YOU DO,
KEEP MOVING.
-DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.**

As I walk on Earth's ground, an image of all our great leaders appear in my mind. I think of how they had dreams for the nation's future. I think of those who accomplished their goals and those who have failed. I also think of society itself. It reminds me of a mirror with cracks. I am tired of looking into those cracks every time I look into my reflection. I just wonder when is it going to get to the point where it breaks entirely and we no longer have a mirror. I will do my best to change it. I will make it unbreakable.

Mother Teresa once said, "If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other."

I have a dream, that this world will have absolutely no evil or do any evil to itself. I would love to see all kinds of people sharing planet earth without having any negative impact. I do not want to see discrimination towards each other or any hate. It is important that we think of our future generations now. The bullies needs to stop so that we can move forward. I want bullying to be something that we look back on and say, it is over with, we treat each other with respect. Our society is something we should embrace, not something to hate, or worse fear. I see a lot of homeless people outside and sometimes their mistakes are the reason why they have no where to sleep but the ground.

I have a dream, that when you come out of your home, not only do you smell a fresh breeze, but also a positive day ahead. Society is not only about humanity but it is also about the way we maintain it. It is erroneous to think it is ok to see garbage in our streets and pollution in the water. I have a dream that the world will be filled with the smell of joy in the air sweet like candy so that negativity has no choice but to fade away.

I have a dream, that one day we can hear the sound of peace and harmony. I will be able to hear the sound of children playing and laughing. I do not like to hear sirens because violence is being committed in our schools and in our streets. Today's society is filled with violence and it is spreading like a sickness. It has come to the point where we are afraid of people in this world. If we do not standing up for what is right and making better choices, the harm that is being done to our society may
Continued on page 8

I have a dream... That one day the world will be able to open their eyes and see all the misfortune in the world. As I stare at the television screen and see the helpless boys and girls my mind blanks out. My mind goes to a place where the little boys and girls don't suffer anymore. I listen to the man's voice telling us to give, even if it is a penny. Don't they deserve more? We sit and watch but when it is over we go back to laughing instead of thinking about those little kids who never had a chance. If you could, would you trade everything you had for a child who has nothing?

I have a dream... That one day people of all races will be able to walk the streets without someone judging them by the color of their skin. Years and years ago there were people who were beaten and bought and were forced to do things that they did not want to do. People were treated as if they were animals and not human beings because they had darker skin. They were looked at as if there was something physically wrong with their face or they were less than human. People were cruel and wicked to people who were not the same color as you. Slavery has ended but racism has not so therefore we need to continue improve seeing passed the color of a person's skin. We need to treat all human beings equally.

I have a dream... that one day there will be a cure for all the sickness in the world. I hope that one day some genius will finally find the perfect medication to cure the diseases that are killing so many people around the world. My family was very unfortunate to have a 14 year old cousin of mine suffer from cancer, thankfully she fought and survived. She fought her battle and won her own fight. That is what we all have to do. We have to stand up and fight the war that God has left us here to fight. We are here to help

one another. We are here to save each other from death, sickness, and loss. We are here to support each other.

I have a dream... That one day all countries will come together and realize that we need to change the world not just for our future but to honor those who were not treated fairly in the past. If we do not do this, I fear that we are all headed to a place where no love, or honesty will exist. There is only one way to stop ourselves from going to that place.

One man had a dream that all people in the world could come together with equality and love. He was taken from this world violently by those who did not see the value of equality. They choose not to live in this world to make better but instead to use violence to create inequality. We have an obligation to all the historic figures who fought and sacrificed for our generation. Our job is to make sure that all the good people who have lost their lives did not die in vain.

We need to teach our children to help the world to be a better place. We have something to leave behind, something that we can be remembered by, and that something is tolerance. We all have a purpose. Our purpose in life is to make a change, and make this a place where everyone smiles and laughs and can look back and see that what we have now is nothing compared to the possibilities of the future.

This is not a perfect world. We will make mistakes and hopefully we will learn from them. What we need to remember is to continue to not just want a better world but to try and create a better world. I know what my legacy will be. When I leave this world people will remember me for what I did, and for what I never stopped wanting to do. What will be your legacy???

Destiny Velazquez

Do yourself a favor, recover your credits

By Mitzi Montilla

Attention all upper classmen. You know who you are. It was freshman year and you just thought that there would always be time to do things like, homework, study for tests, class work and all the other things you needed to do to pass your class. Adjusting to high school life was difficult for many of us. However, just because you messed up doesn't mean that you are not going to graduate.

One of the items that will help PHS become the number one school in New Jersey is getting our graduation rate numbers up. PHS is therefore offering various ways to make up your credits.

Some of these ways you probably know about and others are new, so you might not have heard about them yet. Summer school has been around for a long time, but sitting in a hot overcrowded class is not conducive to learning. In an effort to help students regain their lost credits during the regular school year there are other opportunities.

The newest addition to PHS's credit recovery game plan is Saturday morning classes. They start at 8:00 and end at noon. The good news is that you do not have to wear your uniform, but you do need to wear your id. What better way is there to make up a class, that you should have passed already, than to get

up and do it on a Saturday morning when you would just be sleeping in anyway.

The first step is to go to your guidance counselor and sign up. Then, you will need to get a permission slip signed by your parent in order to take this class. I am sure your parents will be happy that you are making good use of your Saturday mornings and not just watching tv or sleeping in.

Some other opportunities for credit recovery are the period 9 classes. These were offered last year too, and every year the number of students in this program and also the percentage of students who are passing these classes continues to rise.

PHS is well on its way to becoming number one through these programs that will allow students to achieve as much as possible. Period 9 is a relatively painless way for us to get credit for a class without coming to school an extra day. Go to guidance and get signed up for any of the period 9 classes being offered.

One of the key goals of this school is to get the graduation rate for this year above 75 percent. However, the school can't just do this on its own. It will take all of us working together to achieve this objective. If you need a class, go get it done. No one will do it for you. PHS is giving us all the opportunities we need to succeed, so let's take advantage.

Superbowl Tailgate Party PHS Style

By Jennifer Alvarez

As excitement built around this year's super bowl, some around the PHS community thought that it would be great to get in on the fun. Mr. Dukes and his Sports Management Class hosted the first PHS tailgate party, which was held on February 1, at Boverini Stadium. This event was free, and was open to the public. Focused on helping the climate and culture of Passaic, this was a celebration to bring the PHS community closer together.

In order to make this a free event the Passaic Department of Recreation and the Board of Education worked together to make the party happen. There were contests and games geared for everyone. Football games as

well as other games of chance and skill were organized for everyone's entertainment. No party would be complete without music, so music was blaring from area d.j.'s.

One of the most popular events was the empanada eating contest. Contestants needed to be over 18, but everyone enjoyed watching this event. Winners of this event ate five empanadas in under a minute. Mr. Mario Perez, a volunteer coach at Passaic, won the contest.

There were other events as well. Students and residents ate hotdogs, and drank sodas, danced to music from two different d.j.'s. and played their own sports and games. They played football kickoff games, soccer skill games and other tests of sports skill.



STAFF PHOTO

Cheerleaders get the crowd into the tailgating spirit.

Raffles were drawn and the winners took home sports bags, sports jerseys, cash prizes, and other sports related prizes. Children under 5, also got into the ac-

tion, and won trophies from various games.

The overall feeling was that this was a great event and that PHS should host more of these

celebrations to add to the climate and culture of Passaic. This was the first event of its kind and hopefully it can be made into an annual event.

It is Not All in the Data: An Opinion

By Lizett Garcia

We've all heard that the goal for our school is to get to number one. We all know that we are better than just some arbitrary school ranking on some paper. However, we will all need to pull together, students, teachers and administrators, to get PHS to the top. We know that as individuals we have weaknesses, but together we are strong. It is the responsibility of each of us to do what we can for our school community.

Teachers get most of the focus, and from this student's perspective there are some things they can do to make our learning easier and more rewarding. First, please stop giving packets all the time. They are usually exhausting and just not what students need to learn. Sometimes we just want to be instructed by a teacher and not just fill in a packet. Second, not all teachers complain, but those that do make learning so cumbersome. Stop complaining while giving notes. It is all just part of the job. Most teachers are great, but those that grumble all the time make the school environment just that much less inviting and difficult.

Support for students comes



from guidance counselors. They are supposed to help us with our schedules and plan for our futures, and most do a great job. I wish some were a little more patient with students who want to do well, but just do not know how to go about it. When a student comes to a counselor with questions and needs to talk about our schedules please just listen to him or her. The few minutes that we as students get means so much. Don't just say come back later (even if it is during class time). Make an appointment so that we know we have a time to have our concerns listened to. Some students need more guidance than others, please reach for us. We will eventually respond.

As for us students, we need to do the most. It sounds unfair, but this is all here for us. Who else was the school built for? Students need to stick up for themselves, and also do their part, to succeed. There are rules in place

for a reason, even if we don't like them, even if we disagree with them, we need to follow them. The school uniforms were put in place by our school board. They are here to stay. Fighting them now is only going to get us into trouble and make the day so stressful. So, just wear it properly. What are you trying to prove by putting your sweatshirt on after a teacher just told you to take it off anyway?

If you need help, ask for it! Teachers genuinely want to help and so asking for help you'll get it. But you should be patient with teachers they have a lot of students and while you see ten teachers a day, they see hundreds of students. There is help here for all of those students who need it. As students we need to take advantage of everything that is here for us.

We also need to take care of our own business. This is the preparation for our lives. So don't wait for someone to tell you what you need to do. Don't wait for a teacher to remind you to complete a homework assignment, again and again, before you turn it in. Just do what you need to do. Remember, we are not in elementary school anymore, so teachers are not going to lead you by the hand

through every single assignment. We are all old enough to know what we need to do and just do it. We are the ones who benefit from doing a good job anyway.

We should also take responsibility for our own education. There is a lot out there and teachers can't teach us everything that we need to learn. We need to yearn for our own wisdom. Go to the library, surf the web for information.

No one makes the future but you. We are responsible for our own destiny. Now let's make PHS number one and at the same time make ourselves great too!

THE HILLTOP STAR

Student Newspaper of
Passaic High School

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I have a dream...

Continued from page 5

want they want to be with. I hope that my children will never be treated differently and that my children will defend themselves. I hope that my children will not have to be afraid of anything. I have a dream that these people's lives will change within time. What would happen if gay was straight and straight was gay?

I have a dream that everyone will be who they are. I have a dream that all the gay men and

women will be able to live and laugh and be free from drama and be free from those people who hate gay men and women. I have a dream that those people will not be afraid to be who they are, to show their true colors, and for them to not be afraid to go to school and get an education and not have to worry about others' opinions. I have a dream today, forever, and always.

Xiomara Colon

Top 12 most anticipated summer of 2014 movie picks

By Henry Hernandez

With snow still piled up outside and cold days that just won't let go, one thing we can all agree on is that even though the weather is cold now, this upcoming movie season will be really hot. I personally cannot wait to get in line for many of these movies. While most years barely have ten movies worth watching I had to add two more spots to make the twelve most anticipated movies of this upcoming 2014 movie season.

These movies are in order of release, because I don't know which one I want to see the most. This movie season seems to be front loaded, meaning that movie companies are trying to release their creations earlier in the season. Last summer the best grossing movies like *The Great Gatsby*, *Ironman 3*, and *Fast and Furious 6*, all were released before the typical Memorial Day summer movie season kick off. This year the movies are coming out even earlier. The way this season is going, there will still be snow on the ground when the summer movies are being released.

On April 4, *Captain America: The Winter Soldier*, will kick off the season (at least for me). This is the sequel to *Captain America: The First Avenger*, which came out in July, 2011. Steve Rogers, Captain America's secret identity will continue to struggle to fit into the modern world. (He fought in World War II and was frozen, only to be awakened in modern times.) In this film he will battle a new threat also from history, a Soviet super soldier and agent known only as the Winter Soldier.

Also, Robert Redford, is playing Alexander Pierce, an arms manufacturer, who is rumored to be Cap's arch nemesis, The Red Skull, incognito. (I hope I didn't spoil it for you.) This should prove to be a great summer blockbuster in the great tradition of the other Marvel films, and should

also bring us one step closer to the next Avengers movie, *The Age of Ultron*. Be sure to stay in your seats to see the extra scene at the end of the credits, and it is also fun to see where Stan Lee will show up in a cameo appearance.

Two weeks after the dust settles from the *Captain America* release, Johnny Depp stars in *Transcendence*. In this science fiction thriller, directed by Wally Pfister, Depp plays a terminally ill genius scientist, who figures out how to transfer his mind into a computer. Leaving his physical body behind gives him power beyond his wildest dreams, and becomes unstoppable (until he uses all the data on his plan). This film also stars Rebecca Hall, who was in *The Town*, and most recently as the biologist Maya Hanson in *Ironman 3*, and Morgan Freeman, who was last seen (or rather heard) as the voice of Vitruvius in *The Lego Movie*. Since Johnny Depp has stated that he is retiring this might be the last time we get to see Depp in a strange film costume. This movie might be worth seeing just for that reason alone.

The summer movie season continues on May 2, with another Marvel super hero sequel, *The Amazing Spiderman 2*. Andrew Garfield revives his role as Spiderman, and takes on a variety of super-villains created by Oscorp. Marc Webb will direct this sequel, since he did such a good job on the first movie. Emma Stone will return as Gwen Stacy, and Sallie Fields will return as Spiderman's mom. The new bad guys are played by Jamie Foxx as Max Dillon (Electro) and Paul Giamatti



Dawn of the Planet of the Apes

as Aleksei Sytsevich (The Rhino). They are led by Harry Osborn, who is also Spiderman's nemesis, The Green Goblin, being played by Dane DeHaan. The ridiculous action and special effects will truly get the blockbuster season off to a great start.

The pace of the summer movie rollout increases with three movies being released once per week. The first promises to be one of the great action films of the year. *Godzilla* will eat, smash and destroy New York on May 16. The world's favorite giant radioactive monster is the first blockbuster style movie for director Gareth Edwards. But the trailer looks incredible and the film has a much more serious feel about it than all previous attempts at having a giant lizard wreak destruction on the city. The most noteworthy actor is Bryan Cranston, fresh off of the small screen as the star of *Breaking Bad*. This certainly looks like the most ambitious *Godzilla* film yet.

Following just one week after is *X-Men: Days of Future Past*. Based off of a lesser known comic this film adaptation will link the old and new casts in a time twisting plot. Doctor Xavier (Patrick Stewart) sends Wolverine (Hugh Jackman) to the past in a desperate effort to change history and prevent an event that will result in catastrophic demise for both humans and mutants. The greatest challenge for this film is that there are just so many characters. A shortcoming of past *X-Men* films has been that many characters are left undeveloped. However, director Bryan Singer should be up to the task of keeping everyone interesting.

The month of May is closed with a Disney film, *Maleficent*, being released on the 30th. This Disney live action film is starring Angelina Jolie who plays the villainous Maleficent, hardened by

events that drive her to curse the beautiful Princess Aurora (Elle Fanning). Directed by Robert Stromberg, who is no stranger to the fantasy world of Disney, having directed *Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End*, the non-Disney fantasy *The Golden Compass*, and most recently *The Hunger Games*.

If fantasy is not your thing, you only have to wait another week for a science fiction film. On June 6, *Edge of Tomorrow*, starring Tom Cruise and Emily Blunt, tells a story of a troubled soldier who fights a war with aliens. He gets caught in a time loop of his last day in battle, but every time he goes through the loop he becomes more skilled at killing aliens. I guess this is like *Independence Day* meets *Groundhog Day*. However, if you look at the trailer this looks really compelling.

June gives us a chance to catch our breath (and save up for the next ticket), because there are a few weeks off before *Transformers 4: Age of Extinction* is released on the 27th. Shia LeBeouf is not in this one, but Mark Wahlberg is, playing an auto mechanic who makes a discovery with his daughter (Nicola Peltz) that brings the attention of the Autobots, the Decepticons, and the U.S. Government. There most certainly will be a crazy amount of action, as Michael Bay has returned to the helm of his *Transformer's* franchise.

The summer will be well under way as *Dawn of the Planet of the Apes* comes out on July 11. This

is a sequel to *Rise of the Planet of the Apes*, from 2011. As hinted in the first movie a cure for brain diseases triggers a plague that affects humans and not apes. Survivors of the simian plague create an all-out war between humanity, led by



Guardians of the Galaxy

Dreyfus (Gary Oldman) and the apes, led by the genetically altered Caesar (Andy Serkis).

A week later, on July 18, the future is not ruled by Apes but by the Queen of the Universe, in *Jupiter Ascending*. In this future science fiction epic, Jupiter Jones (Mila Kunis) a young destitute woman from Earth, gets targeted for assassination by the Queen of the Universe (Tuppence Middleton), and this begins here destiny to finish the Queen's reign, with the help of a super soldier, Caine (Channing Tatum). The future of this flick may be that, like *Pacific Rim* last year, the film is great but there are just so many great films that this gets squeezed out.

This might be especially true because this summer will have another Marvel epic, *Guardians of the Galaxy*. In the far reaches of space and American pilot named Peter Quill (Chris Pratt) is bound to the other Guardians of the Galaxy after he becomes the object of a manhunt, after stealing and orb coveted by the villainous Ronan (Lee Pace).

Another film that might be pushed off of the end of the summer movie list, by no fault of its own is the reboot of the *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*. Set in New York, this new version of the old classic will make full use of the latest digital imaging and computer generated images.

If you were counting, these are all twelve. These are my twelve most anticipated movies. While it is still winter and it is still cold, know that we can all be anticipating (and saving) for this upcoming, hot movie season. See you at the movies.



Captain America: The Winter Soldier



Godzilla

PHS Addiction Problem – Flappy Birds!

By Sharief Masri

You've seen them in the halls, during a little down time, and even snuck under their desks. Students tapping the screens of their phones, getting their little birds to flap through the obstacle course. Who would have thought that such a silly little game would be so popular?

The game was created by Vietnamese app designer, Dong Nguyen. Supposedly he pulled the game when he saw how addictive it was. He pulled it from app stores on February 9. Actually, the original name of the game was supposed to be "Flap Flap," but there was already a game with that name in the app store, so the game we are all addicted to was called "Flappy Bird."

App history was made when this game – only available for ten months, beginning in April, 2013 – flapped its way up the download charts from 1398th when it first appeared, to eighth most downloaded free app in the U.S. on January 22.

This free app earned \$50,000 in ad rev-



enue a day, when it became the number 1 free app in 53 countries. That is a lot of people tapping their screens. So what made this game so popular?

"The reason Flappy Bird is so popular is that it happens to be something different from mobile games today and is a really good game to compete against each other," said Nguyen in an interview with The

Verge on February 5.

"Most people played single player," said Junior Luis Estrada. He added, "I think the multiplayer version cost more."

If you were thinking of trying this game, don't bother. The game has been removed by its creator and there is some mystery surrounding the reason it has been removed. Some people accused Nintendo of requesting that the game be removed, because it seriously looks like an old Mario game. Just like plagiarism

in school, "ripped art" from a game is stealing. This seems unlikely because even Nintendo denied this claim, but it is a striking resemblance.

As most students understand, the more likely reason this game was removed is because of its addictive nature. Even the creator of this game was shocked at its addictiveness.

"Flappy Bird was designed to play in a few minutes when you are relaxed," said Nguyen, in a Forbes interview. He added, "It's gone forever."

The good news is that if you have already downloaded this game, you own it. So don't delete it off of your phone.

"I heard that an iPhone 5 is going for \$1000 on eBay if it has Flappy Birds on it," said junior Jorge Morodel.

Rather than spend all that money for a game that is gone, you may just want to try one of the many "Flappy Bird" clones that are being added to the Apple's app store at a rate of 60 a day. That is nearly an app being added every 24 minutes!

Perhaps the safest and least frustrating route however is to just let this bird just flap away. With all the other frus-

trations of modern life, getting a little bird to flap through a frustrating obstacle course can be passed by.

Tweet posted by Dong Nguyen on Feb. 8. Courtesy/Twitter/dongatory



PHS Develops Artistic Talent

By Pabel DeJesus

In an attempt to enliven the institutional colors of PHS hallways, art classes are endeavoring to showcase student talent. Art is not just for class papers and projects but brought to the very school building itself. Mr. Fumero, art teacher, is passionate about

art and bringing art to the masses. The school should be a work of art, dreamed up in the minds of our fellow students. Therefore, the school beautification project is continuing this year, under the guidance of Mr. Fumero.

Art can and should be all around us, and to that end, the murals that have been started will continue this year. Students have been painting murals around the school and you should look at them on your way around and between classes. (Just don't look at them so long that you are late for class.)

There is the march of science on the way to the science wing, the military crests by the ROTC rooms, great African-Americans from history in Mr. Walker's classroom, a visual interpretation of music by the

music rooms, and famous artists' works recreated by the art rooms. There is so much done, and yet so much yet to do.

"This is not only for an art class, it is an outlet where students can show their expressions and emotions," said Mr. Fumero, of this ongoing project.

He added that the reason he is doing this project and that he is so passionate about it is because, "art is a way to improve your motor skills and it helps by giving you a different perception of life."

So, if you are looking for a different perception, another way of looking at things, or just want to appreciate the brighter, livelier halls of our school, just look around, there is art all around us.



PHOTO BY JOSE GRULLON

Octagon Club Spreads Cheer and Good Will

By Jennifer Alvarez

The Octagon club, the selfless and optimistic group that they are, has spread cheer and good tidings around Passaic. But where do they get this drive? The young optimists promise to "... honor my parents and those to whom wisdom has come through years of experience, respect the beliefs

of others, prize friendship and keep its sacred truth." To uphold this motto the members of the Octagon Club do community service and help whenever they can.

During the recent fire that displaced families on Broadway, the Octagon Club put together a collection for those who were affected. Clothing, donated school uniforms, cash

and other items were quickly collected by Mr. Sheridan and the other members of this energetic club to ease the suffering of those who lost everything in that terrible fire.

One junior who benefitted from the generosity of the PHS community, who wished to remain anonymous, said of the Octagon Club, "I am so thankful for the generosity of friends

and strangers, donating to the club (Octagon)." He jokingly added, "I could have done without the extra uniforms though."

This Christmas, members of the Octagon Club, volunteered to help spread Christmas cheer at the local Passaic Senior Center. They sang, brought gifts, and shared in fellowship, which is at the core of the mission of these volunteer club members. Activities, fundraisers, and collection drives help to make Passaic and the world

a better place.

This club shows PHS at its best, and club advisor Mr. Sheridan would like to thank all those who donate and volunteer. He said, "It is amazing how many teacher and students have helped me to raise funds and organize activities." 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 in the fun, and make the world a better place.



MR. DAN SHERIDAN

Above: Young optimists set up at the Passaic Senior Center to spread holiday cheer. Right: The Octagon Club builds friendships that will last forever.



I have a dream...

Continued from page 5

be difficult to fix.

Dr. Martin Luther King believed in our quality and civilization. I have a dream, that the texture of the world will change when good people stand up and make good choices. The grass will always be green and the floors will have no cracks. I think society has had enough ignorance ruin our Earth. They have ruined our forests as well as our cities. They have made earth black and white, as if every bit of color is dangerous and can kill you or hurt you. I know that the textures of a perfect world would allow people individuality without judgement because we all have our perspective of perfection and that should be respected.

I have a dream, that the world will allow you to feel how you desire. You can feel good or you can feel confident no matter what it is you believe in. The most important thing is that society should not allow your feelings to

be taken away from you. I want everyone to feel safe in our society so that everywhere you walk you will have no fear and more importantly fear will not have you. I hope people will feel passionate about life, thankful that they have made it through another day and to be blessed with good health. We should work to see the good in life because many others have life threatening diseases and chances are they will not get another day. If people with these problems can still smile and be genuine despite their struggles isn't it time that we all look for the positive things in our world?

I have a dream that other generations will help my dream come true and continue to make our world a better place. Many great leaders made decisions and changed the world itself. Just like Abraham Lincoln who fought to end slavery and sacrificed everything to face the many people

who disagreed with him. He was the sunlight to many people leaving behind a legacy of hope. As I said before society is like a cracked mirror. Every time you look into it you see a distorted reflection of your outside appearance. It is up to our generation to change it by looking past the cracks on the surface to the beauty and the goodness inside ourselves. It will not be easy, but little by little we will have our victory. The world is not something that can be fixed in one day. It can take months, years or even decades.

I have a dream that by looking deeper than the cracks in the mirror we will realize that the perfect world is inside all of our hearts and all of our choices. The perfect world is in accepting the cracks in the mirror and fixing the surface of our world. With hard work and love we will all be together in a beautiful and safe world and everyone's dream will be complete.

Ivan Hernandez

Annual Military Ball a Success

By Assata Alston

The annual ROTC military ball was postponed once, due to snow, but held on January 25. All the cadets and guests had a blast. While some students might think that the military ball is just some kind of ROTC prom, actually, there is a long history of balls in naval tradition.

Every year cadets and instructors look forward to celebrating at the military ball. There is always a beautiful ceremony honoring various cadets for excellence, and a ceremony that honors the outgoing seniors and welcomes the new freshmen. Of course there is also food and dancing as well.

All the cadets who attend-

ed had a great time. What is even more important than a chance to have fun with the other cadets, is the friendships that are built.

"I really feel like I am part of something special, when I go to the military ball," said junior Lizett Garcia. She added, "Being part of the NJROTC makes me feel like I am part of something more than myself. The people are great."

So why does there need to be a ball? Petty Officer Jim Nuyen said, "The navy expects us to carry on this naval tradition, as well as others. This is really an award banquet." The student cadets agree with this naval tradition. It was a great opportunity to show how great the PHS students really are.



PHOTO BY IVAN TEPALE

Cadets enjoy one of the many naval traditions, the military ball.