

THE HILLTOP STAR

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PHOTO BY TERESA LUIS

The Beineke family meets the Addams family for the first time in this year's production of "The Addams Family" by the PHS Drama Club.

Drama Club presents 'The Addams Family'

By Amanda and Teresa Luis

The drama club's newest production was the school musical, *The Addams Family*. In this production Wednesday Addams is a young teen, new to the dating scene, when she meets Lucas Beineke, a typical and normal, nice teenage boy. They begin to date, and things get interesting when their very different families meet for dinner.

The Drama Club has been preparing for this production since September, when Mrs. Kostiuk had the idea to recreate this iconic family on the PHS stage. The actual auditions were held in December, and the cast ranges from talented seniors through sophomores playing the lead roles, such as Sophomore Catherine Sposatos' Wednesday Addams. The roles of Morticia, Gomez, Lucas Beineke and Mal Beineke are played by Lesley Gaspar, Joshua Martinez, Levi Abenis, and Michael Fortuna respectively.

The drama club has been practicing diligently and even enduring weather related play practice schedule changes to bring us their latest production. Speaking with some of the leading role actors, to learn how they prepared for their roles, as well as their

favorite aspects of the roles and the play, provided many insights into the mindset of the various characters in this wonderful production.

Senior, Michael Fortuna, who played Mel Beineke, said "We watched various videos to pick up on how the characters are. For example, Mel is picky, if something goes wrong, he freaks out". Many of the cast members were already big fans of the *Addams Family* when Mrs. Kostiuk suggested it as this year's musical, so researching this family by viewing the old show and the movie was no chore.

In an informal meeting, group interview, the cast members shared their joys and concerns about this year's musical.

Hilltop Star: What's been especially tough about preparing for this role?

Joshua Martinez (Gomez)- getting more comfortable with being flamboyant and more out there

Michael Fortuna- Mel Beineke is uptight, so understanding his personality and stance is very important, and I often fall out of this character's stance.

Lesley Gaspar- Morticia is more serious, and because I'm always smiling or laughing I

break character sometimes. Also she knows how to get her way, and I don't, so it's very much just finding her as a character and trying to stay there.

Levi Abenis- Trying to play Lucas as an extension of me, trying to find my inner Lucas is a challenge.

Chelsea Candelaria (Grandma) - the hardest part for me is trying to find this character from who I am and try to be convincing as Grandma.

Ashley Candelaria (Alice Beineke)- in every musical a new character is born.

Hilltop Star: What's the most fun part of preparing to play your role?

Joshua Martinez (Gomez) - Being here and practicing, "I'm a perfectionist" so getting his emotions and tone is really important for me, but it is also the most fun part.

Michael Fortuna (Mal Beineke) - Coming in and acting like someone I'm not is the highlight of my day.

Levi Abenis- I would have to say acting with my fellow cast members and being someone else.

Chelsea Candelaria - being on stage with friends and family.

Ashley Candelaria - It's just being on a stage and having peo-



PHOTO BY TERESA LUIS

Gomez Addams (Joshua Martinez) practices his fencing, while Morticia Addams (Lesley Gaspar) looks at the *Addams Family* photo album.

ple appreciate you and knowing the hard work pays off.

Acting is the front for the production and they do get most of the attention but behind the scenes is the crew, who supports the actors and makes the entire show work. The crew designs set pieces, costuming, and works with the lighting and sound.

"Maybe the best part of being a part of the crew is working behind the scenes, spending time with friends who are like family and giving PHS a good face. There's a lot going on behind the scenes so we hope the audi-

ence really appreciates that hard work," said Guadalupe C.

Hard work is exactly the stage crew has done to make this play extraordinary. They work whenever they have any time, staying after school every day, coming in on Saturdays, and even coming to school over spring break, along with the cast.

This was an incredibly funny production, and the effort from the cast, the crew, and the directors, was evident. Everyone associated with this production should be proud of a job well done.

'It all started in Jamaica'

By Edwyn Calalpa and Stephanie Espinoza

The beginning of the year is not the only time that faces change in school. There is a new face in the halls. Osvaldo Matos is the newest member of the Passaic Indian family, serving as the newest assistant principal for the sophomore class. Having taught and served as a vice principal in many schools across New Jersey, and even in the Caribbean, Mr. Matos has found his way to PHS.

Raised in Camden, Mr. Matos has experienced a lifestyle similar to ours. He attended an urban school district, which in a lot of ways is like ours. He has always loved playing sports, playing baseball, foot-

ball, and basketball, but says he was not good enough for an athletic scholarship. So, he focused on his higher education after high school, leaving home and attending Rider University. He went to school to be a lawyer, and came out aspiring to be a teacher.

While some people spend their lives finding what they want to do for their career, some find their goals before they graduate. Mr. Matos is one of those people. Originally, Mr. Matos was a law major at Rider, until his school sponsored a trip to Jamaica, to do a social project.

While in the Caribbean, Mr. Matos volunteered at a school. He was assigned to assist a Spanish teacher, who asked

See Mr. MATOS on page 2

AND HE'S SAFE!



PHOTO BY MITSU YASUKAWA

Junior Luis Rodriguez, sliding home. Rodriguez participated in the third annual Garden State Underclassman Games, at Diamond Nation in Flemington.



NHS Dinner

The PHS National Honor Society thirty eighth annual induction and senior recognition dinner was held at the Valley Regency on May 26. 2015 inductees are Ariadni Aguilar, Daniela Carmona, Karen Correa, Luis DeJesus, Biehilin De Leon, Adriana Izelo, Enmanuel Linares, Jorge Maravi, Mayrelin Montas, Luis Ortega, Dev Patel, Tej Patel, Foram Rana, Neil Rana, Christopher Restituyo, and Michelle Vazquez. Graduating members are Shaili Barot, Janet Gonzolez, Elsie Heber, Salini Janiwalla, Mona Patel, Katherine Rodriguez, and Mey Young Olivares Tay.

PHOTO BY JENNIFER SLOSARIK

Octagon Club holds winter clothing drive

By Leslie Olvera

The Octagon Club’s main purpose is to give the opportunity to our students to interact with the community around us. This club gives PHS students an impression to what how it feels to give back to the community. With the temperature being brisk right now, the community service minded members of the Octagon Club were able to sponsor a winter clothing drive.

This winter was one of the coldest on record, but was filled with the warmth of affection and encouragement of PHS students donating coats and warm clothing to other members of the community who really needed them. Our giving peers organized the spread of optimism to those in need with food and clothing.

The Octagon Club is advised by Mr. Sheridan and Mrs. Nieves, they both keep the club running smoothly and help guide the young students of PHS to successful life goals. The president of the

club is Jamnesh Rana, Vice President is Mitul Aswala, Arleth Cespedes is the secretary, the treasurer is Arnold Hernandez, and Johana Amigon and Teresa Luis oversee the public relations. The Octagon Club had previously done amazing activities this past year 2014-2015.

As needy members of the community walked in to attend the distribution of the coat drive, a variety of coats and sweaters were handed out with the help of students from PHS. Christian music welcomed our community as they walked in. Winter clothing varied from coats, sweaters, hats, scarves, gloves, and many other items of warm clothing. Additionally, students and staff members handed out hot chocolate accompanied with sandwiches, teddy bear and heart shaped cookies made the community feel warm and welcome.

The Octagon Club had raised over 400 coats with the help of students and staff who donated. Mr. Sheridan wishes to thank all those who helped make this event such a success.

Just a Walk in the PARCC

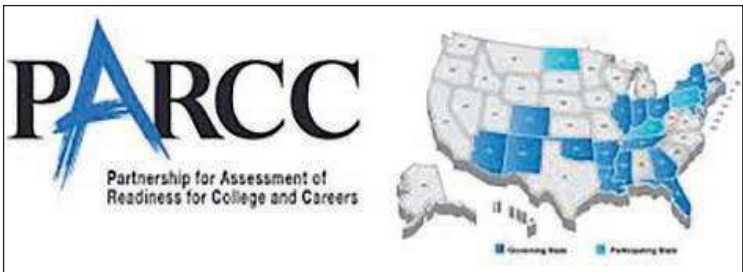
By Yara Rivera

One new addition to this school year was the replacement of the HSPA exam for the PARCC assessment. There has definitely been a great deal of talk and worry about the new test, and how PHS students will perform on it. However, it is just another test and it is testing the same types of things that PHS students have been before.

First the PARCC stands for The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers. According to the official website for PARCC, they describe themselves as, “ a group of states working together to develop a set of assessments that measure whether students are on track to be successful in college and their careers.” So it seems that rather than focusing on whether students know enough to get out of high school, this test is to see if students have the necessary skills to be successful in college, and their future careers.

There are tests for both mathematics and language arts starting from grades 3 and periodically checking progress through grade 11. These tests were created to provide students with an idea of where they are academically and whether or not they require improvement in certain areas.

Since beginning in 2014, forty-six states and the District of



Columbia, voluntarily accepted PARCC testing. These states include ,Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, the District of Columbia, Florida, Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Tennessee. Even the U.S. Virgin Islands is a participating territory.

However, while it seems like a good idea on the official website, many concerned students, parents, and even staff members have mixed feelings of this newly accepted standardized test. This year some states have begun to question their involvement in this new multi-state testing system, and some have even retracted their state involvement, reverting to other tests. Even Governor Christie has recently begun to review whether New Jersey should reconsider this new test.

PHS began PARCC testing on March 16 and ended March 20. Most teachers agreed that while

the potential chaos for this testing was a real possibility, they described their experience as “organized.” However, many complained about having “too many unnecessary steps.”

During the first day of PARCC testing, as might be expected for such a radical change in testing procedures, things were pretty hectic. Some students accidentally completed more of the test than they were supposed to. Some classes were faced with chromebooks that were not working, or not charged for the test. However, as the week progressed all the problems were fixed, the rest of the testing days progressed smoothly.

Luckily for us, the PARCC this year was considered a test run. As a team, the students and faculty of PHS worked together to complete this daunting task, the PARCC. Now that the administration knows what worked well and what needs to be improved, next year will be so much smoother that testing will just be a walk in the PARCC.

What is the NOH8 Club?

By Amanda Oyola

The NoH8 club is a safe anti-bullying and LGBTQ Alliance club that was formed in 2013. It was formed for everyone and exists to promote tolerance and acceptance throughout the school community. They provide confidential, safe, non-judgmental space and support, hearing students’ problems with open ears and hearts. They listen and support no matter who comes to them for help.

The club members strive for inclusion, political awareness, civil rights, and the rights that empower all humans. While the club started slowly in its first year, this year they have created a couple campaigns, like the “love is respect “ campaign that brings awareness to educate young adults to prevent and end abusive relationships. Members of the NOH8 club distributed fliers and informed students about this problem. The campaign culminated in the wearing of orange on orange Friday to bring awareness of this problem to the student body.

The NOH8 club also participated in the “no more” campaign, which brings awareness to help end domestic abuse and sexual



PHOTO BY AMANDA OYOLA

Artwork on display in the main lobby of PHS, created by members of the NOH8 club, urges students respect one another.

assault. PHS students participated by filling out a pledge with an idea of how to end sexual assault and domestic abuse as well as wearing a light blue shirt on Wednesday March 11.

This year has been very successful for this club and there is much more to come. As the NoH8 club builds its membership and becomes more visible in school, more campaigns to help make the environment of PHS better will be undertaken. They meet on Wednesday from 2:45 to 3:30 in G11. Anyone is welcome.

Mr. Matos

Continued from page 1

if he would like to teach the class for a day. He said of his first lesson, “I went home and threw together a lesson plan. I got in front of the classroom and they looked up at me and none of them knew that I was not a teacher. And that’s when it clicked for me.”

When he came back to NJ he started his studies as an education major. Since graduating from Rider University, Mr. Matos has taught various subjects including language arts, criminal justice, and history, in the grade schools of Jersey City and Newark. He has also been the dean and cooperation manager at small private schools in the same area. He has never worked at a facility as large as PHS.

The size of the PHS student body was most certainly one of the first things that caught Mr. Matos’s attention. The 3,000 students of PHS is a sharp contrast to the 850 students of

schools in which he has worked in the past, but Indian hospitality proved us to be no threat.

“The staff was very warm and friendly. The students seem like a good group of kids. I would like to build a relationship with them,” he said.

He is excited to be working with students older than what he is used to; young adults with a dynamic mindset. He wants the staff to know that the teachers here have the potential to create a flourishing of minds in the youth of America. He was also very impressed by the variety of classes that PHS offers its students.

Mr. Matos is now trying to settle in and get familiar with all of the school policies before thinking of any ideas for change. But he is hopeful to see an even greater improvement with the communication between students, administration, and the staff. Matos said, “It should not be three different worlds living under one roof. We all have a connection. We all play off of each other’s successes.”

Mr. Matos thinks that students should be celebrated and

rewarded. He thinks we would react better to incentives and positive reinforcement, rather than constant punishment. Whether we are motivated academically or just be informed what the possible outcome of our actions will be, he sees no harm in some incentive, to keep students on the right track. He wants to be as transparent as possible to both students and staff. Letting everyone know what is expected of them, and what he can do to help.

Mr. Matos is determined to see improvement in this school, and will help to the best of his ability. He sees PHS as home and there is no problem improving “home.” He wants to celebrate the people who spend days here all contributing to one goal which is education, fulfilling our schools mission and vision.

Now a new member of our faculty, also dedicated to teaching us and making PHS a better home for us, Mr. Matos will not only be a great sophomore vice principal but a great asset to the PHS family. He is a leader, he is experienced, he is now part of the family.

Bullying Follow Up: Is it getting better or becoming a disaster?

By Marlene Mendez

Recently many schools throughout our country have been focusing on bullying. Many school districts have been struggling with the problem of how to deal with this serious act, before students get hurt.

At PHS, bullying is also an area of concern for students, teachers and administrators. However, from the students' perspective this really is not a serious issue. The acts of bullying at this school are rare. The movies and other popular media make school seem like a horrible place where students try to hurt each other, teachers do not care about their students, and administrators just do not

care about what is happening in their school. The reality at PHS is actually quite different.

When asked, students do not give bullying much thought. The typical expectations of PHS students are just like those of any typical high school. They want to get good grades, graduate, and make something of themselves. However, they do not worry about getting bullied. Certainly, there are incidents in school that lead to students getting in trouble, and maybe even suspended.

However, the general feeling from the student body is that they are working together and not against each other. Everyone wants to succeed, and success comes from personal student effort.

Senior, Jonathan Toxtli commented, "From personal experience, in the years that I've attended this school, I haven't seen any actions of bullying."

He added, "There have been arguments or as I call them 'attention seekers,' but nothing serious."

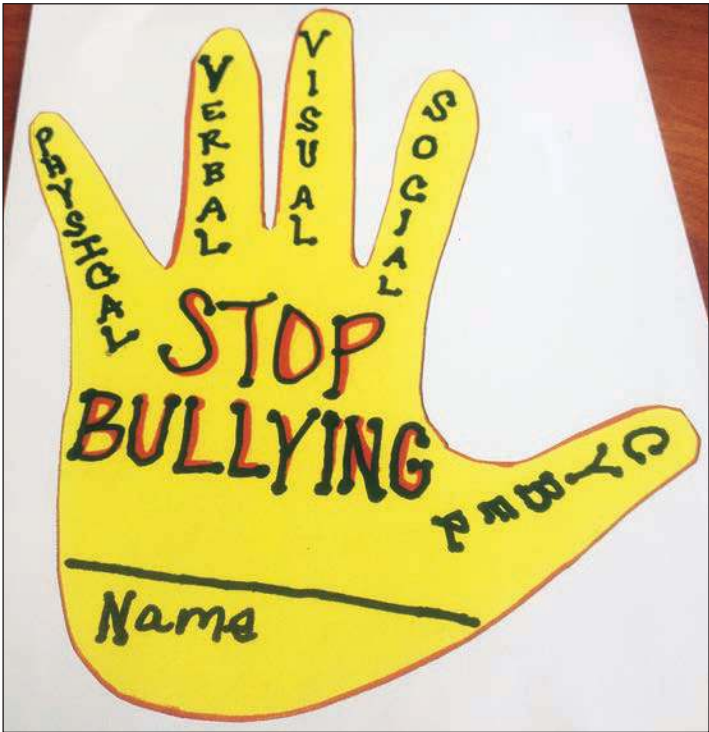
One of the reasons why there is not much bullying is because there are strict rules and they are enforced. The students know that acts of violence lead to major consequences and would rather avoid it. Who would risk getting in serious trouble with the school and even the law, just to make someone else feel bad. The students know in advance that bullying will not be tolerated and so they do not bully.

Just because there are rules, there is no guarantee that students will follow them. However in this school we have security guards at all times and also SRO's (School Resource Officers) who are actually city police officers, here to help ensure the safety of all students.

While many students might not to hear guards and officers telling them to get to class and to have the proper uniform on, no headphones, no hoodies, and

no cell phones, they are here to ensure safety as well as enforce the basic rules. They certainly have had a positive effect on the students, knowing that they are free from bullying.

Although there is always going to be some mishaps here and there, the situation at PHS is good, and hopefully it will stay that way. A better social environment will definitely help the success of our school's mission and vision.



Anti-bullying campaign, shown throughout the school, reminds students to lend a hand to stamp out bullying in PHS.

PHOTOS BY OSCAR GUTIEREZ

Trivia Crack is the Latest Electronic Drug

By Edwyn Calalpa

Students all over the school are attached to their phones. This is not really news, but the fact that all these students are answering questions is. The latest craze in phone apps is the game Trivia Crack.

Crack is probably the best name for this game. It seems simple enough. The game asks questions of players and the one who gets the most right wins. However there is something about this game that keeps students' eyes glued to their little screens just watching the little spinner giving you a crack at the next question.

Every time a user wins a question round over the "smartest" person they know, there is some endorphin that stimulates a feeling of supreme pleasure. Even just hearing the ringtone that signals that the question was answered correctly, signals a pleasurable response that furthers ever students' addiction.

Created by Etermax, Trivia Crack has reached the top of the charts in the free and paid app categories on iTunes. The app is also the the top free game in the Google Play Store. The group develops in Latin America, the CEO and the founder of Etermax, Maximo Cavazzani has lead Etermax to 12 million user in

less than two years.

Trivia Crack was released on October 26, 2013, two years ago, and has recently seen its popularity explode in the last months. PHS students are not immune to the charms of this simple and addicting game.

While the popularity of this game seems to be falling quickly, it is still worth downloading and playing. Perhaps students can even convince teachers that this is an educational app. Maybe the school can even trigger its own pleasurable response with sound effects and ringtones when students get right answers in class.



Trivia Crack characters represent six quiz categories: Geography, Science, Art, Entertainment, History and Sports.

GOOGLE IMAGES

State of Honors Classes at PHS

By Edwyn Calalpa

As some people may have noticed there is no longer an "A" in front of class name in their schedule. The previous levels of classes have been scrapped in favor of a new system that will give every student the incentive to do his or her best.

This past year PHS has been a rollercoaster ride of changes, with new a new administration of staff including our

new principal, Mr. Velez. With this new administration came changes in the level of classes. Honor's classes have become open to nearly anyone who is willing to participate and challenge themselves, but they are not as exclusive as before.

The most significant change of this system shows that the school system administration wants more students to strive to push themselves. It is now up to the student to "step up

to the plate" and become honor students. The curriculum is more "challenging and the atmosphere brings more pressure, but the past 3 months definitely top last year's" commented a Senior student who did not wish to be named.

Various students and teachers have commented that the new style classes have become more challenging which is evident just by the title, yet many people are oblivious when it comes to how

demanding these classes are. Many students have been in these classes all year, but are not aware that there was any difference from last year.

Although many people see faults in the new class system, the new layout correlates to the school's mission and vision. These classes show diversity in the classroom and a clear path to success in PHS. Let's hope that they help us to become the number one urban school district in New Jersey.

THE HILLTOP STAR

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A Brief History of Cuba

By Aleli Bravo and Alma Florez

Cuba has a long and interesting history, changing leadership many times and playing a key role in many international conflicts.

First, the island of Cuba was inhabited by numerous Meso-american tribes prior to its discovery by Christopher Columbus in 1492. After Columbus, Cuba became part of the massive Spanish colonies in the new world.

Cuba remained under Spanish control, with many wars for independence in the first half of the 1800's, until 1898. The explosion of the U.S.S. Maine, in Havana harbor, began the Spanish-American War. In December, 1898, Spain ceded control of the Philippines, Puerto Rico, and Cuba to the U.S. For sixty years Cuba had a strong U.S. presence. The base at Guantanamo Bay was established for the navy. American tourists went to many casinos and hotels in Havana, many U.S. companies invested and built in Cuba.

The Constitution of 1940 is established by a national assembly that included Blas Roca, a young shoemaker who helped organize

the Revolution of 1933. The document strikes a balance between the rich and the working class, it protects individual and social rights, supports full employment and a minimum wage, extends social security, calls for equal pay for equal work and outlaws the huge plantations known as latifundias.

By the 1950's Cuba was ruled by a military dictatorship led by Fulgencio Batista. Fidel Castro led the resistance to this unpopular government, gaining power and support across the island. Once Castro gained control he reordered Cuban society, and he moved Cuba into a close relationship with the Soviet Union. This increased tensions with the United States.

A failed invasion by nearly 1,200 CIA-trained Cuban exiles in April 1961, ordered by President Kennedy, is known as the Bay of Pigs invasion. It is called the Bay of Pigs because the southern coast where the invasion was to begin is called Bahia de Cochinos. This has remained an embarrassing U.S. failure.

In 1962, the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. came to the brink of nuclear war, during a fourteen day period known as the Cu-



Newspaper map from the height of the Cuban Missile Crisis shows the distances from Cuba to various cities on the North American continent. In 1962 Americans feared that missiles launched from Cuba could reach critical U.S. cities.



Cartoon published in a British newspaper, October 1962, shows Khrushchev and President Kennedy arm wrestling and ready to push the buttons on their missiles.

ban Missile Crisis. Cuba was central to worldwide attention as the two world super powers faced each other in a stand-off in Cuba. Russia agreed not to place nuclear missile bases in Cuba, and the United States agreed not to invade Cuba or depose Castro.

Cuba's close ties to the Soviet Union propped up the economy for the next thirty years, until the Soviet Union's own economy collapsed in 1989. Cuba became increasingly self sufficient, but the people suffered. In the early nineties Cuba opened up to international travelers, but the United States still prevented citizens from going there.

Cuba has a long and interesting history, but it has been violent and difficult for the people of that island nation. Hopefully, they can find their way to a truly free society.



Women demonstrating for peace during the Cuban Missile Crisis.

Opening Cuba

By Alma Flores

After the United States helped win Cuba's independence from Spain in the Spanish-American War of 1898, U.S. companies began investing in Cuba. Ever since 1898 Cuba and the United States has had a tight economic relationship, revolving around trade and tourism.

It was 1959 when the Castro administration seized control over Cuba that the relationship ended. Immediately after he took over, Castro restructured Cuba's government to a one-party communist system, and then expropriated American properties in Cuba. This is when Cuba became a Communist country.

Cuba became aligned with the Soviet Union, the sworn enemy of the United States. Cuba nationalized U.S. oil refineries and all other properties. President Eisenhower, who was president then, had implemented restrictions on trade with Cuba. The U.S. retaliated by unilaterally embargoing all exports to Cuba. Trade restrictions were implemented to contain Cuba's leadership, and hurt the Castro communist regime.

President Kennedy contin-

ued and even strengthened the embargo of Cuba, eventually leading up to the Cuban missile crisis. The Soviet Union attempted to place nuclear weapons in Cuba, aimed at the United States. Kennedy placed the U.S. Navy between Soviet ships and Cuba and prevented the Kremlin from getting a strategic advantage in the western hemisphere. This was the closest the world has ever come to a nuclear war.

Now President Obama has opened up relations with Cuba, but there are many who are concerned about this, because the relationship between Catro and the U.S. has not changed. Cuba is still a communist country.

"The recently announced changes in U.S.-Cuba policy, specifically the lifting of travel restrictions and the promotion of business and commerce between the two countries, will require a significant change in the U.S. border security and border control missions between the two countries," according to Defense One, a national security news website.

The concerns are that this plan has not been well thought out. There are many serious changes that need to happen to pre-



Havana, Cuba street scene.

pare for this and the communist dictatorship in Cuba has not changed at all.

There are others who see this policy as an opportunity. Big business and many politicians

are pushing to end the U.S. embargo on Cuba. A new lobbying group called Engage Cuba launched a campaign, with the support of many Fortune 500 companies, to re-establish rela-

tions with Cuba. However, the opportunity to make money in Cuba may not be the best way to support the people of that nation, as long as they have a harsh dictator as leader.

Cuba, the Life Changing Experience

By Marlene Mendez and Jonathan Toxtli

The history of people escaping the horrible tyranny of Cuba, for a better life in freedom in America, is just pages from the history book, to many students. However, there are people who have lived this horror, and they have a story to tell. The history of this turbulent time can come alive if the teller has lived it. Students have some great resources from the diverse population of PHS.

Mrs. Morero-Marchine teaches Spanish, but has had a long journey to where she is today. Born in Havana, she left her native Cuba when she was a little girl. At the age of nine she emigrated with her parents, who were not from the upper class, to Spain.

Her family had to leave everything behind. Government officials took inventory of everything in her house, because everything in Cuba belongs to Fidel Castro, the communist dictator. If there was a discrepancy on the manifest list, then her family might have gone to



GOOGLE IMAGES

Despite his retirement in 2008, Fidel Castro still makes occasional public appearances in Cuba and has behind-the-scenes influence.

jail, have not been allowed to leave Cuba, and they would not be able to escape. Having to leave everything behind, she could see the pain in her parents' eyes.

At 13, Morero and her parents moved to the United States. Her family was dirt poor, but they wanted freedom and the opportunity to live free. Once in America life became better and Mrs. Romero even went to

college and became a teacher. She is very thankful for the sacrifices and hardships her parents made to give her the opportunity to live in the United States.

Now that it seems that there will be normalized relations between the United States and Cuba, it is normal to wonder if things will go back to the way they were before the revolution.



GOOGLE IMAGES

Classic cars are still on the road in Cuba, due to the trade embargo and lack of contact with other countries since the 1960s.

Mrs. Romero said, "I believe it will take Cuba a long time to go back to the way it was, due to the simple reason of having to reteach a whole society."

Since the control of Castro in 1959, life in Cuba hasn't been the same. People are restricted in many ways. Religion is no longer practiced in Cuba. There is no freedom of speech. The press is controlled by the government. People live

in constant fear of government interference in their lives.

Perhaps the good that will come from the more regular relationship between the United States and Cuba, will give the people there the hope to carry on and one day win their freedom from the Castro communist dictatorship. The old Cuba, the free and beautiful country that once was before Castro, might return someday.



GOOGLE IMAGES

Satellite photo released by the U.S. during the Cuban Missile Crisis in October 1962, shows the presence of a missile base in Cuba. (MRBM stands for Medium Range Ballistic Missile.)



GOOGLE IMAGES

U.S. Navy Neptune over Soviet cargo ship carrying supplies to Cuba.

Wrestling

Continued from page 8

easily. If a wrestler decides to stick with the sport both on and off season, results will show. Wrestling involves a 110 percent commitment at practice and at home. There are simply no secrets to these athletes' success. Ask any one of the players and they will tell you the secret is just hard work and dedication.

The work has paid great dividends. The wrestling team had great success this season. Early on the team took third in the Mustang Invitational. Going into counties the team had focused more toward individual success. Wanger Figuereo and Devon Morrissey earned Honorable Mention. The team had almost every weight class in the NJISAA Districts and placed sixth overall as a team.

This is only the beginning of PHS wrestling success, Coach Smith believes that there is a great group of juniors on the

rise for next year. These juniors include Wagner Figuereo, Devon Morrissey, Pascual Rosario and Dominik Velez.

Jacqueline Hernandez is also a junior and she is the first female wrestler to have competitively wrestled at PHS. Hernandez shows other female students, not to be afraid to try a sport that is male dominant. Hernandez is humble, continuously mentioning how her teammates, "treated me no different than any other student". She added that joining the team has made her "become confident, strong, and more positive."

Hernandez's most memorable moment was her first match. She said, "I was like, what did I get myself into?" She was scared but did not let nerves get the best of her and then she was just excited. She said, of her first match, "The guys on my team cheered me on and even though I lost my first match, I took something with me. I took pride to go out there and wrestle and every time I went to practice I learned

and looked forward practicing harder". In addition to her teammates cheering her on, her coaches were just as important in her first year of wrestling. "When the season first started, I was this weak girl. I lacked the strength and techniques, but I didn't quit. My coaches were tough but very inspirational. They trained with us every day and helped us out. They would get down right to business and they were straight forward. It wasn't easy but it was worth it; Coach Smith, Coach Contaldi, and Coach Gouse made us stronger". Hernandez is a prime example of what hard work and dedication no matter what gender you are.

Many question of whether to continue to wrestle next year and Hernandez always says, "I'm thankful for the season but my journey with this sport has just started". With the seniors and a strong group of underclassmen, Coach Smith is sure to help put Passaic on the map again and represent Passaic in the best light possible.

Video Games

Continued from page 7

It is a system that everyone can enjoy at any age. Playing an Xbox One makes the gamers feel like they are in the game, not just playing one. The visuals and sound quality, perform so well together, which is the mark of a truly great system.

Reasons to buy a Wii U

By Oscar Perez

Running on a IBM-Power®-based multi-core processor, Nintendo has created a console that is family-friendly. Everybody and even their moms can use it. Graphics can go up 1080p, yet it still works well, even on an older, non-high definition television. Coming with 16GB internally, but with external USB hard drive for extra storage available, the Wii U gives the opportunity to get more storage if needed. What sets the Wii U apart

though is the Nintendo games. Exclusively for the Wii U, games like Super Smash Bros and Mario Kart, have been getting a lot of attention due to their fun and comical nature. The Wii U is becoming the system that everybody wants in their household.

Even though it may not be able to compete with Ps4 or Xbox One, on the sophistication of its hardware, it is a cheaper system that the whole family will enjoy. And honestly, do people want better games or better graphics? Mario, Zelda, and a host of other legendary game franchises are only available on this system.

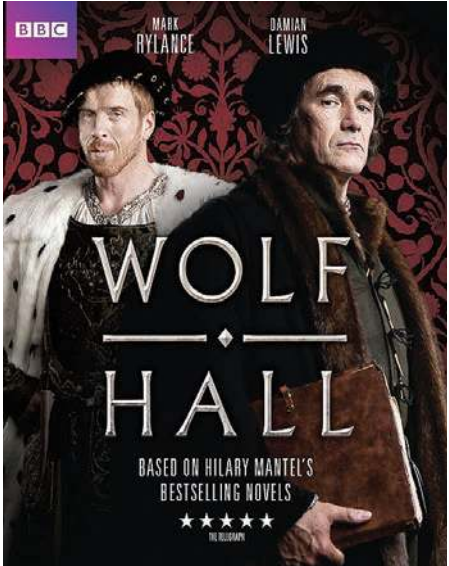


Some Great TV Happening this Spring

By Melissa Perez

While the fall has traditionally been the best time for watching new television shows, spring has been steadily growing in popularity. Every year the TV spring-time landscape gets more crowded. There has never been a better time to watch new shows, and there are just so many options. There are so many shows on at the same time and there is only so much time students have between school, work and a social life, so here is a guide to the top shows, which are definitely worth the time investment.

Wolf Hall (PBS), yes, it is on PBS, the same channel that airs Sesame Street, is based on Hilary Mantel's brilliant nov-



els, **Wolf Hall** and its sequel **Bring Up the Bodies**, about the court of King Henry VIII. It is set in England in the 1520's and if the king dies without a male heir, the country could be destroyed by civil war. Henry VIII wants to annul his marriage of twenty years and marry Anne Boleyn. The Pope and most of Europe oppose him.

The story is old from Thomas Cromwell's perspective. Played by Mark Rylance he is a truly original man, a charmer, and a bully. Both an idealist and an ambitious opportunist, he is perfect for capitalizing on the frantic Tudor dynasty. But Henry is volatile: one day tender, one day murderous.

The many court intrigues and subplots keep the story moving along. The witty writing and good acting keeps the audience involved in the story. While PBS might not be on the top of a student's list for watching a great show, it should be.

Game of Thrones (HBO) is a medieval fantasy series on HBO. It's set in

the fictional seven kingdoms of the Westeros. The series has violent struggles among the noble families who want to take control of the Iron Throne and create a dynasty. The show's charm is in the competition of these very powerful families filled with kings and queens, knights and renegades, and liars and honest men. Once hooked on the series the subtlety of the plot becomes more apparent. The threats that emerge in the icy north and in the eastern continent of Essos make more sense and are truly compelling. **Game of Thrones** is now on its 5th season and gets more and more entertaining with every season and with every episode. There is a lot of plot twists that keeps the audience watching the show and never want to stop. If possible start from the beginning and then continue to watch throughout the seasons.

Many people are familiar with classic characters like Dr. Frankenstein and Dorian Grey. The show **Penny Dreadful** (Showtime) brings those characters and many more classic characters into this series, by exploring their origin stories. In this thriller that takes place in Victorian London, a character names Sir Malcolm is an explorer who has lost his

daughter to the creatures of the city. He will do whatever is possible to bring her back, no matter what. He has an accomplice helping him, a clairvoyant named Vanessa Ives, and she recruits a charming American, Ethan Chandler, to help locate Sir Malcolm's daughter and help slay the monsters.

Penny Dreadful is well directed and a very entertaining show. There is so much chemistry between the characters that it makes the show really clicks. **Penny Dreadful** is now going onto its second season.

These three series are definitely worth the time to watch this spring. **Wolf Hall**, **Game of Thrones**, **Penny Dreadful** are excellent shows. Just remember that studies are important and finals are coming.



Spring into a New Book this Summer

By Odalys Leal

1. Paper Towns

by John Green

Best known for his book and hit movie *The Fault In Our Stars*, John Green has managed to get yet another one of his books in the bestsellers list. *Paper Towns* is the story where Quentin Jacobsen, an average teenage boy, falls in love with Margo Roth Spiegelman, his stunning and mischievous next door neighbor.

After years of admiring her from afar, Quentin is surprised when Margo suddenly enlists his help one night, in one of her famous revengeful pranks. The next day, however, Margo Roth Spiegelman goes missing, the reason for her disappearance becoming a mystery. When Quentin discovers clues that may lead to Margo's whereabouts, he and his friends decide go on an adventure to save the girl of his dreams. Along the way however, Quentin begins to discover that maybe Margo Roth Spiegelman is not the perfect girl he made her out to be.

Although the story may seem cliché, it has both witty humor and seriousness that makes a

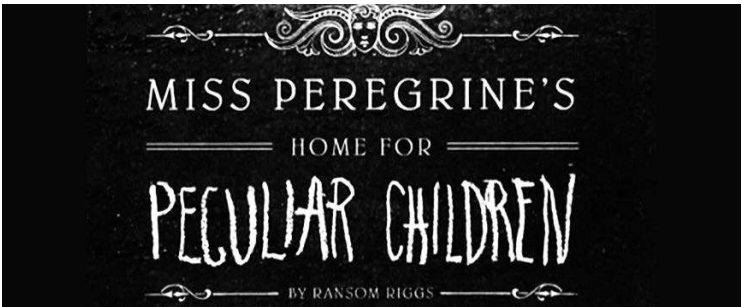
book compelling. John Green captured certain facts about us as people that we never like to admit. This book forces the reader to realize that sometimes people present different versions of themselves to fit the different people they associate with. It makes the reader realize that the world is a big place and that people who are so self-absorbed are simply a small part of the whole. The book leaves the reader with an immense feeling of awe and contentment. Read the book and then go see the movie when it comes out this summer!

2. Doctor Sleep

by Stephen King

Summer is a great time to enjoy a fun bit of horror and chills. *Doctor Sleep* is definitely fits the bill of enjoyable horror. The sequel to *The Shining* comes with everything that any reader would expected from Stephen King.

Protagonist Danny Torrance is now a man and has left the Overlook Hotel and its terrors behind, or so he thinks. A group of supernatural beings called the True Knot begin feeding on children who have the shining. By slowly killing the child, they collect something called steam, which keeps them young and alive. When Dan meets twelve year old Abra Stone, it becomes his job to protect her from the True Knot and stop them from murdering others.



Although the story does contain horror material, there are also meaningful parts including the importance of dealing with alcoholism, managing healthy relationships and how there is darkness even in the best person and a little light in the worst.

3. The Night Circus

by Erin Morgenstern

Welcome to Le Cirque des Rêves where two young magicians, Celia and Marco, play a game in which only one can be left standing, the circus just a stage for a remarkable battle of imagination and will. Both have been trained since childhood for this game, making things complicated when the pair slowly falls deeply in love.

What makes this book so good is how the story comes alive from the pages, due simply to the creative descriptions that work the reader's imagination. This book is simply good old fashioned great storytelling.

The Night Circus

gives readers the feeling of realism. It draws the reader into the story, and also into getting to know all the nuances of the characters as well. This is the kind of story that weaves its way into the heart and leaves the reader craving for a sequel.

4. Perks of Being a Wallflower

by Stephen Chbosky

The Perks of Being a Wallflower is a classic story that everyone must read at least once. It tells the story in letter form; the main character, Charlie, writing to a friend. It follows him throughout his freshman year in high school, from covering the troubles of fitting in, to fighting the demons that life threw at him. This novel is one of the most touching books on this list. It makes the reader feel attached to the characters in a good way. There are even many eye opening topics that Charlie talks about in his letters. These

letters will cause tears to be shed and also chuckles of laughter as Charlie takes the reader with him through his school year. Although bittersweet, the ending leaves the reader with a satisfied feeling.

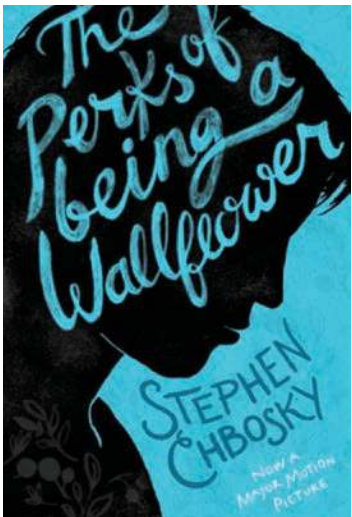
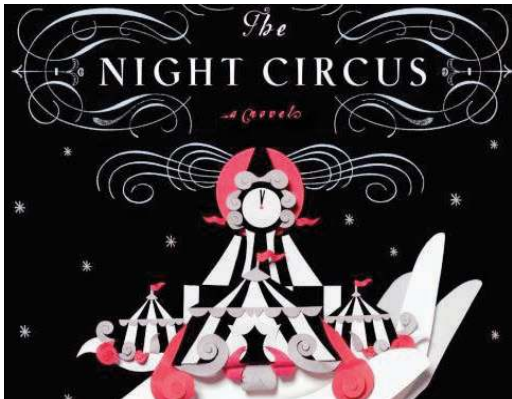
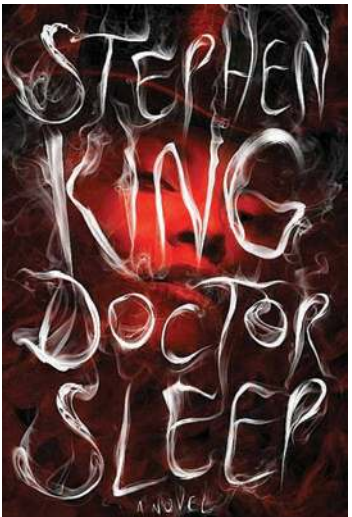
5. Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children

by Ransom Riggs

This book is unlike any other. It is a twisted dark fantasy of sorts that is also very interesting to read. The story begins with sixteen year old Jacob traveling to a distant island where he discovers Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children in ruins.

Deciding to explore the abandoned building, Jacob discovers that the children that once lived there may have been sent to a remote island for a good reason. With the knowledge that these children may have been dangerous, Jacob is troubled to find out that maybe, these children are still alive after many years in exile.

The book contains a collection of creepy vintage photographs scattered into the story that makes it even more interesting to the reader.



Reasons to Buy a ...PS4, XBox One or Wii U

Three video game systems compared

Reasons for buying a PS4

By Ritesh Rana

The PS4 is an amazing system for those whose love for gaming and other gaming and entertainment purposes is deep. The PS4 is a very promising game console because it offers the individual many possibilities for gaming. The PS4 has a excellent processor, which is a great improvement over the PS3. The PS4 has a 1.6GHz and a custom AMD 8-core CPU. This is 10% better processing then the other competing Consoles. The PS4 also has a sleek design and faster memory with its 1.84 teraflop GPU. This is truly next generation of gaming with speed and other aspects of the PS4 that blows away the competition. The PS4 also makes it very easy for people to stream gaming via twitch, hit-box, youtube, and other networks. It is compatible with many different graphics cards, which helps the gamers that play on the PS4, by giving easy access to playing games and shows and other forms of entertainment. The Sony development of the PS4 was performed in conjunction with gamers



and in return for their input, gamers get the opportunity to play nice quality games. This cooperation exemplifies how well the PS4 runs and how well Sony’s customer satisfaction is with this system. Graphics on the PS4 are worth taking a closer look at, even if you do not usually care how game graphics look. The PS4 runs on 1080p and it also has 30-60 fps. There is a real difference between this system and others on the market. It runs very smoothly and makes efficient use of processor and memory. The graphics render quickly and the memory loads and saves fast enough to continue the gamer’s enjoyment without interruption. The PS4 is also cheaper than other systems. Learning a valuable lesson from the PS3 and the xbox 360 comparison before, where the playstation was significantly more money than the Microsoft product, the price for the PS4 is only \$399. For all that this system has to offer, that is a bargain deal for a great system. The PS4 also has a nice controller design that is larger and more comforting than last Gen’s Dualshock 3 controller. The handles are larger and are more comfortable while

playing during long session games. It also brings interaction of a game to a whole new level because it carries a speaker in it which makes you more immersed into the game. The PS4 is truly a next Gen system and it is recommended to get this system if you are interested in buying a next Gen console to game on. The one noticeable concern on this system is the controller battery life. Battery life seems to last only a few hours. However, this is an easy issue to work around or fix, and it does not change the value of this great system.

Why to buy an Xbox One

By Pedro Jiminian-Cid

Xbox One runs on a AMD 8-core jaguar CPU Processor for fast streaming and its bulky design makes it durable. This design lets air circulate throughout the system for faster and more efficient cooling. With the Xbox One gamers get a whole entertainment experience, rather than just a newer game console. Television and videos can instantly stream and music can easily be streamed as well through the very nice Microsoft Network. Plus, there are all the games anyone would ever want to play, so this system is like getting three in one. This system also gives users the convenience of an HDMI input so other pieces of hardware can easily be used and switching between hardware is easy too.

There are also exclusive games titles that are unavailable on any other gaming device such as Sunset Overdrive, Gears of War, and of course, Halo: The Master Chief Collection and many others. The Xbox one runs on 720p it also comes with 30 to 60 frames per second. Xbox lets you store a lot of data in it it comes 500GB but it only lets you use 362GB because it uses the rest for its OS and other entertaining functions that comes along with it. These factors make the Xbox One the best next Gen gaming system that we have been waiting for. The Xbox one was well worth the wait. It delivers the best next generation gaming experience and it surpasses its predecessors in all aspects. Xbox’s many functions takes gaming to the next level, with stunning graphics and smooth game play and easy to handle controls.

See VIDEO GAMES on page 5



Spring Movies Begin the Summer Season

By Leslie Olvera

The summer blockbuster movie season has just begun, but springtime has had some good choices for movie buffs. Some of these recent releases will initiate laughter, some tears, and even a few goosebumps!

TAKEN 3

This is the long anticipated third installment of the famous *Taken* action thriller series. As in the original two movies, actor Liam Neeson plays the lead role of retired CIA agent Bryan Mills. *Taken 3* premiered on January 9, 2015 with the most unexpected twist when Bryan Mills’ ex-wife, Lenore (Famke Janssen), is brutally murdered after enjoying a period of reconciliation. After Mills had been framed for the murder of his ex-wife, he fled. With the most powerful FBI, CIA, and police departments in pursuit to bring Mills to justice,



High Jackman in Chappie.



he goes on the hunt to find Lenore’s real killers. This task is hard enough, but at the same time Mills must also secure his daughter Kim (Maggie Grace) from finding the same fate as his wife. This ex-CIA agent brings a specific skill set and ferocity which makes the audience cheer with him.

THE BOY NEXT DOOR

Intrigued by a handsome and charming young neighbor, Noah (Ryan Guzman), who also befriended her introverted son, Claire Peterson (Jennifer Lopez) finds that her innocent fling is not so safe. Director Rob Cohen uses this somewhat trite storyline to create goosebumps as this romantic thriller shifts from fun to suspense, over the course of the film. As Claire Peterson befriended Noah and making her so called “harmless move,” she initiated the short romance. But it bloomed out of control, and it changed when Claire realized it was all a huge mistake. In the process of Claire putting an end to the relationship, Noah becomes utterly violent leaving not only her life in great danger but as well as her beloved son.

THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY PART 2

The much anticipated release of Part 2 premiered a little while ago, but those who had seen the first few *Hunger Games* movies,



or even just *Mockingjay Part 1*, are destined to become fans of this incredible phenomenon. Coming from District 13, protagonist Katniss Everdeen (Jennifer Lawrence), returns to fight for the freedom of her people. As in the previous *Mockingjay* film, Katniss has been symbolized as “The Mockingjay” and she will return to a furious revolution against the autocratic Capital with the help of her district (District 13) that will change the lives of everyone in their world.

CHAPPIE

Chappie has become a big hit that has touched the heart of every audience member. In the near future, robots became extremely useful to the citizens as well as the military. While fighting crime, one of the robots was destroyed leading to being deemed, just another “old machine.” The creator of the robots, Deon Wilson (Dev Patel), tried to produce a robot to have feelings. While trying to sneak out the old robot, he was hijacked by a

group of criminals. Doing anything to save his own life, Wilson was forced to experiment on Chappie the robot, leading to an emotionally active robot. This robot changes the lives of the criminals as well as his creator, Deon Wilson. Throughout the rest of this film, the Chappie’s simple truths about life force all those around him to question their own humanity.

INSURGENT

Next in the *Divergent* series, *Insurgent* continues to develop the life of Tris (Shailene Woodley) and Four (Theo James) as they continue to explore the ruins of Chicago. In this world divided into factions based on their perceived virtues, Tris must try to survive a plot to destroy divergents. A divergent is someone who does not fit into any of the factions. Tris and her friend Four must discover what makes the divergents so dangerous before it is too late. The characters of Tris and Four are developed more fully

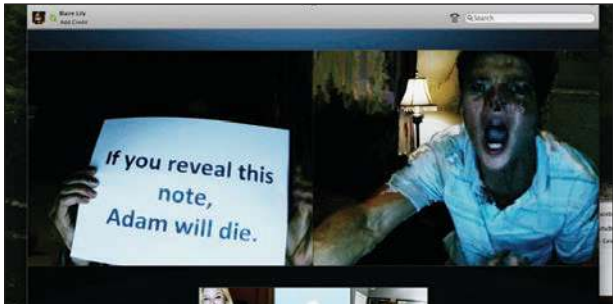
and the family history of Tris is also explored. Many of the questions raised in the first film are answered in this one. This action-packed science fiction film is the perfect movie to sit and enjoy with friends and or family!

UNFRIENDED

Unfriended leaves its audiences scared to death! The high school years are usually an unforgettable time, but in this film it is especially so for a group of teenagers who witnessed the death of a prior classmate. After Laura Barns (Heather Sossaman) committed suicide at the school playground, strange events started to occur. During a group chat, the group of teens mysteriously received a new member, whom was unfriended. Who’s unfriended? Nobody knows but what is known is that he or she wants revenge. The teenagers soon start to disappear and some even kill themselves! Who would hack into a dead girl’s account? Who knows, you’ll have to watch and find out yourself. The person behind the screen may be someone that was never expected, nobody is safe. This movie will actually make you put down your cell phone for a little while.

FURIOUS 7

The *Fast and Furious* franchise is expanded again with the movie that everyone has been waiting for finally coming out! The *Fast and Furious* crew is back with another sequel to the suspenseful action! Deckard Shaw seeks revenge for the death of his brother. To think it’s just another “car chasing” movie, think again because in this one, there will be flying cars! This action thriller will touch the hearts of many, especially those fans of Paul Walker. It is well worth the wait to see this movie.



Unfriended

Volleyball Sees Success

By Oscar Perez

One sports team that does not usually get the recognition it deserves is the volleyball team. The team did well this season, winning more games than they have in the past.

Senior Jeanice Rivera said of this year's team, "We worked hard and tried very hard to get every win this season."

The secret of this team's success is that they work together as a team, which is so important to the sport of volleyball. Rivera said, "The team this year motivated each other more on and off the court, and they had the courage to work extra hard, and finally, we just had fun."

The volleyball team has been known for having great players and some good seasons over the years. Now they are a force to be reckoned with. The reason for this is that they practice every day. They give their all, and practice intensely.

The members of the volleyball team motivate each other to give 110 percent. The key to this new motivation stems from the captain of the team,

Senior Roxana. She pushed the team to never give up, and also lifted the morale of the team during rough spots during this season. Motivation is a very key thing for the team as it leads to big victories against big rivals in big games.

Schools like PCTI and Clifton presented a challenge because they are rivals to PHS, so the team really strove for big wins against those schools.

"We try our best to play against schools like that and we play as a team so we could come out on top," said Rivera.

The PHS volleyball team has made the whole school proud. They always put their best foot forward. Volleyball isn't an easy sport, you always have to be on your toes and alert for anything, a lot happens on the court that nobody sees but they understand what they have to do and what needs to be done for a win.

The hope of the entire team this season is, "to play as a team and never give up no matter what and keep striving for excellence as well as staying motivated as it is a big part of playing this sport."



PHOTO BY ALEX ARCE

Track team shows off their medals from a successful season.

Senior Track Athletes Comment on Their Experience

By Alex Arce

The 2014-2015 Spring Track season will be the last for many of our student athletes. For some, their experience with sports at PHS has changed the way they look at themselves, the school and even their outlook on their future. For others being in sports is a chance at a second home. The following is a summation of the experience that PHS track members have had and also some advice for underclassmen.

It [Being on the track team] gave me something to do after school. It motivated me to get better grades and keep my body in shape for the upcoming seasons. I can honestly say that track changed my life because I stopped acting up in school and started attending classes more often. I don't know if I would have even graduated if I wasn't in track. Thanks.

Ariel P.

Track has given me a place to relieve daily stress. I look forward to practices, leaving all of my worries on the track and feeling refreshed when practice is over. Track has also taught me to be consistent. As coach Matos always says, "Consistency is key." I recommend to any other student who wants to explore what they can do on the field and in the classroom to join track.

Katherine R.

During my first few years in track, I didn't realize the commitment that was needed to support the team. Over time I became more determined during practices and then in everything I do. Being on the track team has showed me that if you are early to a meeting, you're good. If you're on time, you are late. My

best advice is that no matter what you do always try your best, and help as many other people on the way.

Maurisio N.

Track has changed my mindset. I am more determined motivated on the field, but also in the classroom. The lessons I learned, competing in track, will carry with me for the rest of my life.

Neel P.

The most important thing I will take away from my experience in track is the great friends I made. Throughout my track experience I have made close friends. These friends have been there for me in any situation in school and in track, but even if it is personal. We support each other on and off the field.

Mitchell B.

Being on the track team has forced me to become more focused and determined. To succeed in track I needed to give 110 percent effort. I know that I need to give that kind of effort in everything else I do to succeed.

Leslie C.

I used to be thin-skinned, and I took every criticism personally, and it held me back. Track has made me a very tough girl with thicker skin. I've never endured so much in my whole life than I have in one season. Now I have learned to always keep trying and keep pushing through until I have reached my goal. I have learned to always stick it through, dig deep, and keep up. I'll carry this lesson throughout my life.

Stephanie E.

When I feel like giving up, I push forward even harder, like that last push at the end of the race. Track has taught me to push forward even when it gets tough.

You have to dig deep and move forward. You should join track, or even another sport to learn about yourself.

Nastasha V.

Track has inspired me in many ways but the most important thing I learned is that there are people here to support me. I know what it feels like to be part of a team and how to work hard to find success for myself, and the team.

George F.

Track is not an easy sport! I have learned to look deep within myself to be the best I can be for the team, and the team has given me a second family, support and I adore it.

Giselle M.

As a person who has moved and lived all around the world, it is always fascinating to meet new people from many places. I am proud to say that I found so many new and interesting people, who work together for the common goal of success in competition. We supporting each other as a team, and encourage others to be the best that they can be. I'm proud to say that the team is a part of my family. Track is where I found my sanctuary and it will always be close to my heart.

Akshay N.

Track has had the biggest impact on me of any activity at school. It has given me a reason to look forward to coming to school every day. I made new friends, with other students who I never would have ever thought I would. This team is my family and I appreciate every single one of them. My coaches have pushed and motivated me more than anyone else in my life. I am thankful for them. Track is life. TRACKNATION!

Alex A.



PHOTO BY OSCAR GUTIERREZ

Support for spring teams means helping them get the practice they require.

Spring Sports Compete for Space

By Alex Arce

Spring is finally here and PHS's athletes are ready for their competitions. The practices are over and the chance to show their talent has arrived. These Indians are ready.

There is a lot of pressure for PHS athletes to make our school proud, and every student athlete is doing their very best to succeed. They are even working around some conditions that are difficult to remedy. Sadly, there has been clashing of schedules because the track team and baseball teams share the same stadium.

Practice scheduling and game scheduling has been a little bit harder. Practices have to be cut short and some were even cancelled, because of miscommunication. It is unfortunate that eager students go to the stadium ready to work and were unable to practice. It is disappointing to athletes, when they show up to practice ready to go and they are told they cannot train today.

Both teams cannot practice as hard as they might otherwise, if they need to cut some practices short and cancel others. While space at PHS is a premium, each team needs to have its own space so they can be at their best. The

athletic directors in our school have tried to fix this situation by analyzing what other school districts, with similar space constraints do to fix this problem.

What the directors have found is that other schools have staggered practice schedules. For example, one week the track team will practice from 3-5, and the baseball team will practice from 5-7. The next week it would switch and track is 5-7, while baseball is 3-5.

This may seem like a simple and easy fix. Even though this is a good idea, there is still a great deal of room for miscommunication. For example, even though the stadium is supposed to belong to the track team from 3-5, practices cannot be held because of a baseball game scheduled at the same time. This causes tensions between the teams and it is really frustrating.

Both teams want to ensure that they are capable of performing on the field, but that means that they need the proper training. There are solutions to this problem. One might be another space for one of these teams to practice or to make sure the schedule is organized accurately. Both teams and the athletic directors must come up with a plan to ensure that things run smoothly.

PHS to Dominate in Wrestling

By Katherine Rodriguez

This previous summer, to kick off the 2014-2015 school year, the Passaic School District held numerous sports programs during the summer. One of the most successful summer sports was wrestling. There were a great number of participants as well as coaches. Coach Smith has seen the results of having a summer wrestling program as he said those who worked hard

are improving at a much faster rate than before.

Another beneficial result of the summer program was the addition of a middle school wrestling team. This is a great way to recruit athletes early, get them interested, and get them a head start developing their talent, before they reach PHS.

This season, a number of veteran students have returned and have been helping the coaches

develop the team. Senior captains Ever Perez and Miguel Ramirez have been on the wrestling team since they were freshmen and know the true meaning of dedication. They have stuck it out for four years and have improved tremendously since their first match.

It is easy to say that success does not happen overnight. Coach Smith's advice to any wrestlers is to not get frustrated
See WRESTLING on page 5