



THE HILLTOP STAR

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Passaic High School Homecoming: A Night to Remember



PHOTOS BY MS. SCIAMETTA

Left: Homecoming King Paul Morrobel and Queen Genesis De Los Santos celebrate the honor bestowed upon them. Middle: The PHS Marching Band and Colorguard put on a spectacular halftime performance. Right: Cheerleaders pump up the crowd and players.

By Armando Martinez '19
and Aleyshka Barbosa '19

On September 29, a mild Friday night, Passaic High School hosted its annual homecoming at Boverini Stadium. This night was different than the previous years, the energy was somewhat different and stronger coming from both students and faculty who were in attendance, cheering on the Passaic Indians as if they held the fate of the game in their hands.

Even though Passaic didn't win against Paterson's Eastside, it was a close game, 26-21. Passaic did not see this as a loss, but as a learning experience that will make them better in the following season.

The players gave their all and absolute best.

Passaic High School's band and colorguard gave an incredible performance during halftime. The experience of this Homecoming game gave a sense of unity, not only to those coming home from college, etc, but also unity within our own town.

This year's homecoming King and Queen were Paul Morrobel and Genesis De Los Santos. Genesis wore a beautiful red beaded gown, while Paul wore a crisp black suit. The Passaic seniors voted for these two individuals to represent the homecoming court.

Morrobel admitted, "I wasn't expecting to win, a lot of people were supporting me but

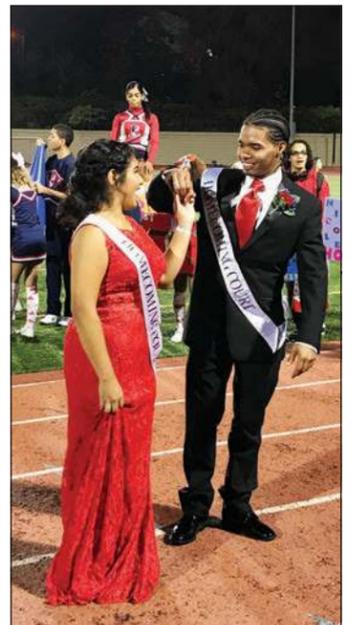
I never saw it. When it happened it was exciting and it all happened so fast. I wish I could go back and relive that moment."

Homecoming this year was not only focused on the homecoming court, cheerleaders and the football game, but was also focused on a ceremony for captains of others sports, to honor their coaches. The captain leadership group is made up of student athletes and band members that have been chosen by coaches, to be leaders on and off the field.

Captains honored staff member from Passaic High School, who have inspired, mentored, guided, and impacted them throughout their years at Passaic High School.

Captains and Honorary Coaches

Student Athlete	Sport	Honorary coach
Carlos Pichardo	Football	Ms. Bolton
Deondre Tosen	Football	Ms. Bulson
Kervin Coleman	Football	Ms. Yildirim
Mariano McGaskey	Football	Ms. Hamade
Joshua Velasquez	Football	Mr. Cohen
Angel Feliz	Cheerleading	Mrs. Cipolla
Nicole Rosario	Cheerleading	Mr. Kleinman
Chelsea Ceron	Cheerleading	Mr. Bonilla
Nathalia Severino	Cheerleading	Ms. Khalaf
Anderson Aguilar	B. Soccer	Trainer Jess/Erin
Angel Hernandez	B. Soccer	Mr. Brubaker
Miguel Secion	B. Soccer	Ms. Bonilla
Edwin Martinez	B. Soccer	Ms. Moens
Natalie Hernandez	G. Soccer	Ms. Bulson
Jenny Bonilla	G. Soccer	Mr. Mitchel
Kimberly Perez	G. Soccer	Mrs. Gonzalo
Jennifer Calixto	G. Soccer	Trainer Jess
Maria Leon	G. Soccer	Ms. Torres
Monica Hernandez	G. Soccer	Mr. Blath
Prachi Rana	Tennis	Ms. Kush
Divya Rana	Tennis	Ms. Gomes
Leonardo Bravo	XC	Mr. Brubaker
Maximo Ramirez	XC	Mr. Galan
Mark Rodriguez	XC	Ms. Bang
Steven Zuniga	XC	Mr. Ruys
Michelle Conterras	XC	Ms. Jose
Angie Gonzalez	XC	Mr. Caufield
Ashley Ramierrez	XC	MS. Carter
Kaori Takase	G. Volleyball	Ms. Bang
Rogerka Clayton	G. Volleyball	Mr. Caufield
Bintou Aleisha Ndoye	G. Volleyball	Mr Grant
Arleth Cespedes	Band	Ms. Benedetti
Saray Ramos	Band	Ms. Cho
Darijah Caesar-Wright	Band	Ms Huze
Irais Vazquez	Band	Mr. De Vries
Erwin Guerrero	Band	Ms. Hild



All About Our PHS Clubs!

By Johana Lastor '18
and Armando Martinez '19

PHS club advisors were invited to share information about their clubs for this year with a goal to help students choose a club that they would like to join and get involved in our school community.

Meditation Club

Advisors: Ms. Bohomolec

What It's About: The Meditation Club helps students cope with stress, anxiety, and anger. It is a way to help students become peaceful citizens of their community.

Events: Meditation, Take a Friend to Meditation Day

Meetings: Thursdays at 2:40 p.m. in room M231

Octagon Club- "Junior Optimists"

Advisors: Mr. Sheridan and Mr. Dudek

What It's About: The Octagon Club spreads optimism and entrench themselves into the Passaic Community by providing community service and donations to those in need.

Events: Passaic HS Fire Relief Fund, Bagging for Bucks @ Shoprite (co sponsored with the PHS cheerleaders), Halloween, Christmas and Easter with the "Aspen Kids", PHS Student/Faculty Basketball Game (co sponsored with the PHS cheerleaders), Serving Thanksgiving Lunch to Passaic's wisest

Accomplishments/Awards: Community Service Award from The Passaic Housing Authority

Meetings: Wednesdays twice every month after school, in Caf E.

Ad Astra!

Advisors: Mr. Chomko

What It's About: Ad Astra! means "to the stars!" That's where students will be, exploring each week as they learn and conduct activities related to astronomy and planetary science. Students and advisors may present mini-lessons and experiments related to how and what they know about different objects and phenomenon in the universe.

Events: Guest speakers from NASA projects, field trips, stargazing nights with telescopes, in-class experiments and activities related to astrophysics *No previous chemistry or physics experience necessary*

Accomplishments/Awards: Skype with a Scientist participant

Meetings: Mondays, at 2:45-4p.m. in room S305

Environmental Science Club

Advisors: Mrs. Castoire and Mrs. Gomes

What It's About: The ESC is a service organization dedicated to the education and involvement of students to encourage and bring about a cleaner more sustainable city of Passaic. Club meetings are utilized for designing activities for the community such as clean ups and teaching our youth to recycle. We also teach the Boys & Girls Club how to make fun crafts for various holidays using materials that have been recycled. They come up with solutions to environmental issues in our community and all of New Jersey, then share our ideas with other schools from and around NJ.

Events: Annual poinsettia sale, design their own club t-shirts, and



PHOTO BY MS. YILDIRIM

Hiking Club



PHOTO BY DR. GALVEZ

NJHOSA Club

create the recycled Christmas tree and decorations for PHS.

Accomplishments/Awards: Received several rewards for participating in the annual NJ Clean Communities Student Exchange Program.

Meetings: Tuesdays at 2:45 p.m. (some activities occur on Thursdays) in room S207

Japanese Culture Club

Advisors: Mr. Barbara and Mr. Lockwood

What It's About: Students will get to learn about the Asian and Japanese culture. They will learn about the music, drama, manga and anime that the cultures have. Japan has taken many ideas from other countries over time including technology, customs and cultural expressions. Japan has created a unique culture while integrating these imports. Today in our society, Japan's culture has spread and became popular.

Meetings: Tuesdays in room M305, and Fridays in room S307

Hiking Club

Advisors: Mr. Reicher and Ms. Yildirim

What It's About: The goal is to expose students to a world of excitement through the beauty of getting out and hiking. Students are challenged to work together and to learn from mother nature.

Events: Hiking trips

Meetings: Usually one Thursday per month, in room S101 after school

Cyber Patriot

Advisors: Mr. Blath and Petty Officer Nuyen

What It's About: Cyber Patriot is an online, world wide cyber security competition. The club teaches students basic to difficult cybersecurity defenses by solving all risks on an "image". Scholarships and career opportunities may also be available.

Events: Online competitions between September and April/May.

Accomplishments/Awards: First Place in New Jersey for two years in Platinum level. Best Navy JROTC team in Area 4 and Best Navy team east of the Mississippi.

Meetings: Regularly Mondays through Thursday, in rooms G148 and S102

PHS NJROTC Drill Team

Advisors: Petty Officer Nuyen, Senior Chief McMaster, and Chief Stanley Constant

What It's About: Provides armed and unarmed drill competitions. Teamwork and leadership skills are developed.

Events: The Drill Team participates in 4 or 5 drill meets per year culminating with the National High School Drill Team Competition in Daytona Beach Florida.

Accomplishments/Awards: The Drill Team has won several trophies at local meets and 5th place Unarmed Regulation. They have also won 2nd place commander at the nationals.

Meetings: Every morning between 6 am and 7:15 am

Club India

Advisors: Dr. Karacay and Mrs. Yago

What It's About: The goal of our club is to bring Indian culture to the hallways of Passaic High School and to educate students about Indi-

an festivals, lifestyles, and more.

Events: Henna painting monthly events, Diwali celebration, and cultural movies

Meetings: Mondays after school at 2:45 p.m. in room S304 (Thursdays only the first week of each month)

Art Club

Advisor: Mr. Schmitz

What It's About: Make art, beautify the halls a little, learn some art techniques, have some fun, and eat some fruit and cheese.

Events: Art Club assist in some mural painting, and other activities as they come up such as parades, and club fair. They create banners for class days, rallies, and etc.

Meetings: Every other Wednesday after Period 9, in room G132

NJHOSA

Advisors: Dr. Galvez & Mr. Nyabeta

What It's About: NJHOSA is a club for aspiring medical professionals. It promotes career opportunities in the healthcare industry and encourages students to be actively involved in the HSE-HOSA Partnership. Students shall receive specific information about medical careers from invited speakers, and receive training in order to prepare for local, district, state, and national competitions, as well as to gain community service experience.

Events: Blood drives (3 per school year); planning a Health Career Fair for December.

Accomplishments/Awards: First Place in blood donations for NJ schools (2016-2017); and Second Place (2015-2016). NJHOSA has awarded over three thousand dollars in scholarships last year.

Meetings: Thursdays at 2:45 p.m. in room S204

Lead for Diversity (LFD)

Advisors: Mrs. Lindsay and Ms. Pinon

What It's About: LFD's goal is for the club is to be educated and exposed on the diversity that is in the real world. Students will find ways to defeat prejudice in their school, community, etc, and to allow others to be accepted for their true identity.

Events: There is an annual project for the school called, "The Wall of Kindness." LFD this year is planning to create another project called "We are More Than What You See" which will defeat the stereotypes that are placed within the students because of their cultures. Hopefully the students of Passaic High School will learn to embrace who they are!

Meetings: Monday's from 2:40-3:30 p.m. in room M217

Photography Club

Advisor: Mr. Pena

What It's About: Students will learn the various aspects of photography including composition, f-stops, shutter speeds, aperture, printing, matting, and presenting their work.

Meetings: Two Wednesdays per month, from 2:45 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. in room G138

Club Interact

Advisors: Mr. Meltzer and Ms. Ruchalski

What It's About: It is a service to the community and tutoring of elementary students.

Events: Tutoring at Passaic's School #3 after school program

Meetings: Tuesdays and Thursdays at 3:45 p.m. in room M202 and School #3

National Honor Society

Advisors: Ms. Ament and Mr. Graham

What It's About: Once selected, students are expected to uphold the four pillars of the National Honor Society: leadership, scholarship, service, and character. Applications are available starting in January. Students need to apply to the club to be considered for admittance.

Events: Community service and leadership projects

Meetings: Thursdays after school, in room S201

Youth Alive Bible Club

Advisor: Mrs. Soto

What It's About: The PHS Bible Club has been designed to motivate young people to make a difference at their school, home and the community of Passaic. Their greatest passion is to develop leaders that would lead members to have a compassionate desire to serve their community.

Events: Food Pantry outreach, fairs, visitations to elderly homes

Accomplishments/Awards: Community Outreach Recognition for serving Passaic families

Meetings: Wednesdays at 2:45 p.m. in room G205

Ski and Board Club

Advisors: Ms. Lauricella and Mr. Devries

What It's About: The Ski and Board Club takes one to three trips per winter season to a Ski resort. Students have the opportunity to take lessons and spend some time being active on the slopes.

Meetings: Meetings are announced via morning announcements.

STRIVE

Advisors: Ms. Jose and Mr. Iza-guirre

What It's About: "To do one's best and nothing less; what we do in PHS." STRIVE members "strive" for academic success and promote this practice throughout the high school.

Events: STRIVE Awards, STRIVE Zero-Free Challenge, and more.

Meetings: Tuesdays in M325

Literary Magazine

Advisor: Ms. Kiger-Williams

What It's About: Students have the opportunity to work together

to create creative short stories, poems, and art to be compiled in a publication that is distributed to PHS students at the end of the school year.

Meetings: Thursday's or otherwise announced via morning announcements

DECA (An Association of Marketing Students)

Advisors: Ms. Fuller and Ms. Sadlon

What It's About: DECA is an international association of high school and college students that prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality and management. Students in DECA have the opportunity to become an academically prepared, community oriented, professionally responsible, experienced leader through participation in DECA activities at the local, chartered association and international levels. From community service projects, competitive events, educational conferences, leadership positions, networking and social media, DECA students attain the knowledge and skills needed to be college and career ready. Club meetings will consist of organizing yearly activities, preparing for competitions, and learning about business and marketing concepts needed to be successful in the real world.

Events: DECA attends conferences in and out of state, organizes events that make contributions to local charities, organizes and participates in local PHS events. They also give scholarships to deserving students at graduation.

Accomplishments/Awards: Accomplishments/awards include recognition for winners at regional and state competitive events.

Meetings: 2:45 p.m. on Thursdays in M115

The Hilltop Star Newspaper Club

Advisor: Ms. Sciametta

What It's About: We investigate stories, write articles, and take photos for the school newspaper *The Hilltop Star* (as you can see...).

Meetings: Weekly meetings are at 2:45 p.m. on Tuesday and Wednesday in M317

Human Geography: The New 'It' Class in PHS

By Johana Lastor '18

Mr. Figueroa, a new teacher at Passaic High School, who after teaching AP Human Geography during period 1 and 2, heads to Lincoln Middle School to continue his teaching, started this year teaching a brand new course!

But what exactly is AP Human Geography? Human Geography is the study of how individuals interact with the environment, as well as learning about the culture and how we interact with people that "could be perceived as completely different from us", Mr. Figueroa mentions. Similarly, Mr. Figueroa includes how individuals interact with economies in different countries. As for the course, it is an Advanced Placement course (AP) which will allow PHS students to get a head start on their college credits if passing the exam in May.

According to Mr. Figueroa, this is an enhancement to the social studies department because it will allow for students to prepare "for real-world understandings of where they are and the different perspectives of the world globally". Furthermore, he mentions how "students will have a very strong foundation of how we interact with one another, our environment, culture and economics aspects".

Throughout the coursework, Mr. Figueroa mentions that some

of the topics that are mentioned is understanding population at a local and global scale, why individuals migrate and whether it be positive or negative reason, culture, religion, gender, ethnicity, politics, world development, food and agriculture, industry and services, and urbanization of cities.

When referring to Mr. Figueroa student's and what are some of the general interests of the students who enroll in his class, he mentions that they are attempting to get an "understanding of cultures in the world that they've might not hear about". As well, as for how some students are trying to "differentiate how we live our lives in the United States might be different from someone who lives in a different part of the world, like the Democratic Republic of Congo".

How did his interests initiate though? Mr. Figueroa mentions how "this is my passion... I'm a world traveler, I love experiencing this". In addition, he mentions his intentions for his students with the course, "If I could pass this onto my students and given them a deeper perspective on want to see the world themselves in the end, then they will be well rounded, educated and sensitive human beings playing a role in our society...". In essence, Mr. Figueroa hopes that "they catch the bug to want to travel the world" just as much as he does.

Engineering Pathway

By Darlene Martinez '19

STEM stands for Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics. Passaic High School offers various forms of classes that cover STEM including Principals of Engineering.

This course propels students' learning in the fundamentals of engineering that exposes students to some of the major concepts that they will encounter in a postsecondary engineering course of study.

In this class students are exposed to the engineering design process, applying math, sci-

ence, and engineering standards to hands-on projects. Students are engaged and challenged in multiple topics such as mechanisms, strength of structures and materials.

Students develop skills in problem solving, research, and design while learning strategies for design process documentation, collaboration, and presentation.

It is a great opportunity for those interested in any engineering career and even for those that may still be undecided, it is helpful to explore your options while you are still in high school.

Holocaust and Genocide Studies: New PHS Course

By Samantha Reyes '19

Every new school year brings new opportunities. This year a new course was brought into light: Holocaust and Genocide Studies. The course offers knowledge not only about the Holocaust but about other less known genocides. The class is a dual enrollment class offering up to 3 college credits from Kean University.

A student favorite, Ms. Kirsten Huze, has taken the reigns on the new course. Currently pursuing her master's degree in the exact subject, this is her first year teaching this course at Passaic High School.

"I had written a curriculum for this course back in 2014 or 2015," Ms. Huze said. "I ac-

cepted to teach the class since I'm pursuing my master's degree and it's something interesting. One major lesson I hope to teach my students is that you're one person in the world but with the right information, you can make a difference."

A few lesser known genocides of the 20th century include the Armenian genocide, the Herero and Namaqua genocide and many others. Following the syllabus given to the students, there will be an in depth look on what common patterns each genocide have, with an even further insight of human trafficking.

This class creates opportunities for students to have a closer look and learn more about the tragedy of genocide in our world.

PHS Marching Band: Unstoppable!

By Samantha Reyes '19

Coming back from a successful band season, no one was shocked when the PHS Marching Band started off with a winning streak. Last year the Marching Band had placed first in the State Championships held at Rutgers University and third place at the USBands Nationals held at MetLife stadium. The expectations were set high for this season and with returning band members and a new, large pool of upcoming rookies there was no time to rest.

Recently competing in 2017's Yamaha Cup on October 14, 2017 the PHS marching swept all captions, except "Best Percussion," placing first with an overall score of 90.9375. The next two weeks were set to prepare for state championships held at Rutgers University. They placed third, winning captions for "Best Colorguard" and "Best Percussion."

The band traveled all the way to Connecticut to compete against different bands from different regions. Placing second in the preliminary round and ending sixth in finals against all categories, was a small blow to the band's confidence. There was still one week left to the marching season and everyone was set to go out with a bang.

Emotions were set on a high as the band warmed up in the parking lot of MetLife stadium. Staff members were tying small little bracelets on every band member while making small comments. The bracelet only said one word,

"dream." Every year, a token is given out to commemorate the season and highs and lows that went on.

"I believe you guys can do anything," band director Christopher Rusca spoke, as the team was preparing for the final moment, the only one that mattered.

Right before the band went on, they waited in the back, as a familiar tune began. For most seniors who joined their eighth grade year back in 2013, the first show they performed was titled "Tribal Effect." The sense of nostalgia was overcoming and empowered everyone even more.

Last words spoken were from the visual staff head and an alumnus of PHS, Alejandro Tavarez. He advised, "Don't let your emotions decide what goes down on the field."

The first bands were called between fifth through tenth place and the frigid temperature made the experience more nerve wracking. Finally fourth and third were called and the tension was high. Finally, Passaic High School was called for second place setting our highest score to date at 97.663.

The dedication and hard work put into this program affects everyone involved and even spectators. Being a part of the band helps to teach an individual structure and responsibilities that could be applied in everyday life. The memories and friendships you make in band can last a lifetime. To this day, alumni return to pay tribute to the legacy they've helped to create.



Environmental Club

PHOTO BY MS. CASTOIRE

Octagon Club/Junior Optimists Hold Halloween Event for Youth

By Kimberly Martinez '19

On October 27, 2017, the Junior Optimists or otherwise known as the Octagon Club, and advisor Mr. Sheridan, hosted their annual Halloween event.

This is an event in which a number of high school students from Passaic High School go down to Speer Village and volunteer their time to interact with kids. The students sit down with the elementary/middle school kids and get to know them and ask questions about their Halloween traditions. The children then get to pick and paint a pumpkin to their liking.

Afterwards, the Octagon Club members distribute a ball/bucket filled the previous day with different brands of candy. This year, the kids had a chance to create and personalize their own mask.

Many students stated that the best part of the event is the unforgettable feeling they get in their heart when the kids smile at them and thank them for making them happy and celebrating Halloween with them.

The Octagon Club also hosts "Luncheon with Passaic's Wisest,"

"Gift of Giving" and so much more.

The purpose of the Octagon Club is to help others and give back to the community in any way they can; whether it is giving scholarships to Passaic High seniors or by assisting families that were affected by fires.

Earlier this year, there were multiple fires that left people homeless and in a chaotic mess. Passaic High organized a way to help these people out and record any information needed for Red Cross to help them. The Octagon Club reached out to them, giving each family a \$50.00 gift card. The money is obtained from the Octagon Club's Emergency Relief Fund, which is used when tragedy strikes in the community. The money is either raised in events such as "Bagging for Bucks" and "Student vs Faculty Basketball Game" or via the generous staff donations.

All in all, this is a club filled with generosity, hard work and bright minds. If you haven't joined yet, I encourage you to come to a meeting! Even if you don't join, you should help your community and others any chance you get.

New Uniforms at PHS

By Aleyshka Barbosa '19 and Yakelin Victoriano Hernandez '19

During the final months of the 2016-2017 school year, PHS Student Council members proposed to the Board of Education a radical plan for uniform changes in the school.

The Board of Education truly admired the hard work and dedication of the student's governing body. The presentation did not initiate the conversation for a change in uniforms, but gave them a meeting with the Board of Education's policy board that deals with uniform dress code in all the schools of Passaic.

The summer of 2017 brought a great deal of change to the PHS uniform. The Student Council's executive board members met with the policy board which was made up of the superintendent of schools, the president of the Board of Education along with other important and dedicated members.

They went over the draft for the change in uniforms. The discussions were not only focused on why it should be approved, but all the small aspects that would be affected. The Board and the Student Council members came to a unbelievable consensus for the new school uniforms that was

read to the public in two board meetings following that meeting.

On the first few days of the 2017-2018 school year the word had spread on the uniform change and a majority of the student body had started to buy the new school apparel. The official approval for the change in the uniform was actually made about a week after the first day of school.

The new uniform for the PHS student body now includes the option of wearing a gray, white, red, or navy blue polo shirt with the new PHS logo. This dictum also authorized shorts following the appropriate regulations that were given, and hoodies that are promoting PHS insignia; sports/clubs, military branches and colleges/universities.

The change in the school's uniform has created a less stressful environment at PHS, the hassle of being told to take off your hoodie or only having one choice in polo shirts is in the past for PHS. The frustration from students was heard, options were created and now doing the right thing is much more undemanding. This was all as a result of the hard work of PHS Student Council members, Student Council advisors, PHS administration and the Board of Education members.

NJROTC Update

By Aleyshka Barbosa '19

NJROTC cadets never stop prevailing no matter what obstacles the school faces or changes that come their way. Naval Science cadets are the anchor that keeps our school purposeful. The cadets at our school make up a group of students who pay attention to detail, and always help our school when they are needed.

Even when they are not being thanked on the school announcements, they are always doing something to make PHS better, not only in the eye of the students but as well in the eyes of the other towns and schools. When the NJROTC cadets are called for help they always give 110% effort and always embrace the Navy's core values of honor, courage, and commitment.

During the summer of 2017, the NJROTC program from our school sent three hardworking cadets to Leadership Academy in Rhode Island with cadets from the all over the area four region. Cadet Ensign Jessie Pimentel, Cadet Ensign Christopher Garcia, and Cadet 1st Class Petty Officer Aguilar were selected to attend leadership, where they not only learned more about what it means to be apart of the Naval Science program, but also learned the hardships that come with trying to become a better leader.

"My experience was difficult, but even so for those two weeks I was devoted and striving to become a better leader took nothing less than a 110% of dedication," admitted cadet Ensign Garcia, when asked about his overall experience at Leadership Academy.

Cadet Petty Officer Aguilar had a different perspective on how he kept going and striving at leadership academy. He said "I had a motto that I told myself everyday that I spent there: 'determination is key, never look back and always push forward.' Perseverance was one of the most important things."

These three cadets are a perfect example of what naval science cadets exemplify. The Naval Science cadets in our school are some of the most dedicated and optimistic group of kids, not only in our school but also in Passaic. Some of the cadets even come to school at 6 a.m. for drill practice, stay after school to help others and rank up.

Cadet Ensign Petty Officer Jessie Pimentel gave a perfect description of the high level of dedication Naval Science cadets exhibit, "Success is always under construction, which means you should never stop working on it."

Naval Science has already hosted their very own ROTC Freshman Orientation, helped out in the AVID pep rally, our first Back To School Night as well as taking part in the 9/11 Observance Ceremony, and marched proudly during the Veteran's Day Parade.



Girls Soccer Team Makes Advancements

By Newspaper Staff

This year's PHS Girls Soccer teams, coached by Varsity Head Coach Sara Lauricella, Varsity Assistant Coach Erica Leili, JV Coach Allison Ariemma, and Freshman Coach Alyssa Ariemma, showed our city the love they have for their school as well as their teams.

Varsity team Captains this year are seniors Jennifer Calixto, Karen Calixto, Monica Hernandez, Natalie Hernandez, and Maria Leon, as well as

juniors Jenny Bonilla and Kimberly Perez. These leadership figures helped to lead the team to a 7-13 record, which is the best in the program's history. This type of advancement made shows promise for our Girls Soccer program.

There are even more advancements this year for the Girls team. This year is the first time the team advanced in the county tournament and made a state tournament appearance.

"This was the best season the Girls Soccer team has had in the program's history. Most of the seniors have been playing with each other since their freshmen year. The knowledge of the sport combined with their experience playing with each other was one of the strongest factors that contributed to the team's success" said Lauricella.

A special shoutout to seniors Stephanie Bello, Jennifer Calixto, Karen Calixto, Melanie Corono, Daisy Cruz, Yamilet Duran, Monica Hernandez, Natalie Hernandez, Lizette Huitzil, Tiffany Lecca, Maria Leon, Ashley Martinez, Juana Parraguirre, and Cynthia Rosas for all of the time you have put in over the years to this program; it shows through the progress that has been made this year.



PHOTOS BY MARIA SALAS

The soccer girls have made huge strides for their program this year.

Passaic High School Cross Country Wins League Title

By Adrian Serrano '19

The Passaic Cross Country team had a successful season this year, with the help of all team members and Coach Hector Falcon. Every team member contributes something special to the group and work together to make this a team worth admiring.

At the league championships, the tension was high with title at stake. The five teams (PHS, CHS, PCTI, Bergen Tech, and JF Kennedy HS) were on the line ready to leave it all in the course. Each team had seven kids on the line.

The race took place at Darlington Park in Mahwah. The course is 3.04 miles with a little

bit of sand right after starting the race, and a loop around the park for the second and final loop.

Soon enough after the race started runners Luis Peralta and Kevin Heredia came into sight. Clifton and Passaic supporters started going crazy, cheering on their teammates to finish strong. The race was a very close one but Luis Peralta from Passaic finished first with a time of 15:58 and Kevin finished second, right behind Luis finishing with the same time.

The rest of Passaic finished in the following spots, Nicholas Ortiz 17:06, Jerry Olvera 17:07, Leonardo Bravo 17:27, Jeffrey Bravo 17:27, Mark Rodriguez 17:38, Angel De Los Santos

17:41. Passaic High School ended up in first place as a team winning the League Title.

Peralta also lead Passaic to a victory at the Passaic County Championships held at Garret Mountain Reservation on October 20, winning the 800 title. He had a tightly-contested run at the top with Clifton's Heredia with Peralta getting the better of his competitor with a time of 16:38, beating Heredia by two seconds. The team had a 1-5-7-11-16 finish with 40 points with Ortiz (fifth, 17:32) and Olvera (seventh, 17:37) finished in the top 10 and contributed to the win.

Peralta was also honored as The Record's Athlete of the Week this season, which Passaic

into the North Jersey spotlight and recognizes the dedication of him, the team, and our school. Coach Falcon was named

County Coach of the Year for his continuous hard work and support of the PHS Cross Country Team.

Cross Country Records - 2017

Boys JV

- League Champions
- County Champions

Girls Varsity

First Team All County:

- Manuela Caraballo

Second Team All League:

- Manuela Caraballo
- Ashley Ramirez

Freshmen County Champion:

- Marilyn Gonzalez

Boys Varsity

- League Champions
- County Champions
- 5th in State Sectionals

First Team All League:

- Luis Peralta
- Nicholas Ortiz

Second Team All League:

- Leonardo Bravo
- Jeffrey Bravo
- Jerry Olvera

First Team All County:

- Luis Peralta
- Jerry Olvera
- Nicholas Ortiz

Second Team All County:

- Mark Rodriguez
- Leonardo Bravo
- Angel De Los Santos

Girls Volleyball: PHS's Best In Over a Decade!

By Leslie Taveras '19

The one and only Passaic High School's girls varsity volleyball team had a phenomenal 2017 season Varsity Head Coach Omar Munoz and Varsity Assistant Coaches Dana Khalaf and Pablo Delcarmen have strengthened the program this year and lead the team to their best overall record in over a decade, 11-11. The team ranked number three in their conference league this year, with a conference record of 6-4.

Captains Rogreka Clayton and Bintou Ndoye stated "As our whole team walks up to the net, we feel great, hungry, and just ready to play to the best of our abilities."

Seniors this year, Captain Kaori Takase, Yetty Marte, Jocelyn Flores, and Ndoye have lead the team and proved that with teamwork and support, they are unstoppable. The team was honored with the league sportsmanship award this year over Clifton, Kennedy, Eastside, PCTI and Bergen Tech.

Clayton earned a First Team All County Award this year. PHS has not received this award for Girls Volleyball since 2013, which is an amazing distinction and shows how much the team has progressed. She also received the Player of the Year award through MaxPreps.

Captain Kaori Takase, also stated how she feels about her incredible team, she says that "Knowing that my teammates will try their best, is all that matters. I will stop competing with these girls when my heart stops beating."

Passaic All-County Awards:

- Rogreka Clayton: First Team
- Yetty Marte: Second team
- Kimberly Quinones: Honorable Mention
- Leonela Martinez: Honorable Mention

Liberty League Awards:

- Rogreka Clayton: First Team
- Yetty Marte: First Team
- Bintou A Ndoye: Second Team
- Neidalys Polanco: Second Team
- Kimberly Quinones: Honorable Mention



PHOTO BY MR. MUNOZ

Girls volleyball celebrates a big win.

Girls Tennis Grows at PHS

Coach Patel leads the team

By Samantha Reyes '19

Some may believe that tennis is just a simple and easy sport that would look good on a college transcript. Think again! Tennis is an intense and mind challenging sport.

Tennis involves extreme focus and as much strength you're willing to give. Having quick reflexes and fast reaction time, go hand in hand when playing and attempting to score points.

Girls Tennis is a growing sport at Passaic High School, lead by Head Coach Roohi Patel.

When conversing with Captain Prachi Rana, a junior who has been playing for three years competitively and is playing singles for the first time this year, I learned that she enjoys tennis due to the intensity of the sport.

"Entering this season we had wanted to have a strong winning streak but in reality we just wanted to enjoy the sport we all love. This sport is such an empowering activity due to professional players like Serena Williams and Maria Sharapova. Next season we hope to have more success on the tennis courts and have more members in not only JV but as well as Varsity" said Rana.

PHOTOS BY MR. POLLARO AND MR. INIGO

The PHS Soccer boys gave their all on the field this year



Boys Soccer Has a Successful Season

By Brandon Garcia '19

Boys Varsity Passaic Soccer rose through the ranks after having a successful 2017 season, with the help of captains Angel Hernandez, Miguel Sencion, Edwin Martinez, and Anderson Aguilar. Head Coach Marc Pollaro and Assistant Head Coach David Inigo gave the team support and guidance throughout the season.

The team accomplished one of their best records this decade (11-8-2). Miguel Sencion stood out as one of their most important key players scoring an astonishing 14 goals and being rewarded

the Big North Conference Player of the week.

Passaic High School came in second place over Tech and Clifton in their conference. The city's athletic teams have shown their unwavering strength against some of the best teams in the conference, defeating Bergen Tech, Clifton, and PCTI.

The Indians are moving on after a shocking win in the Passaic County quarterfinal on Saturday, October 14, against Passaic Valley. After Ulysses Miranda scored the winning goal beating Valley (2-3) in penalties, they moved into the semifinals against Pompton Lakes. This is

the farthest the team has gone this decade in the county tournament.

There have been several promising game highlights this season, one of them being that this is the first Passaic County Championship appearance in almost 37 years. Passaic qualified as the eighth seed in the Passaic County Tournament, beating West Milford who came in ninth seed, Passaic Valley in first, and Pompton Lakes as fourth seed.

Athletes Miguel Sencion and Angel Hernandez placed First Team All County, and Edwin Martinez, Brandon Garcia, Malic Moncrieffe placed Second Team

All County. Ulysses Miranda got Honorable Mention.

Having a successful team did not come easy, after their displeasing record last year the Passaic Soccer Team was said to be destined for failure but this wasn't the case. Pollaro, the new head coach, had other ideas for the team. He believed it was all in the attitude of the players, if the team worked hard enough and gave it their all on the field, then Passaic would be one of the best teams in the county. "A strong team can take any crazy vision and turn it into reality," says Pollaro. Working hard and persisting is what led the team

to victory.

JV Coach Michael Rakowski and Freshman Coach Michael Turdo worked hard this year to gear up their players for their season, as well as prepare them for the ultimate goal of playing Varsity.

It will definitely be sad to see the senior players go that have put in an immense amount of time and dedication to the PHS soccer family: Anderson Aguilar, Angel Hernandez, Edwin Martinez, Miguel Sencion, Ivan Salas, Ivan Perez, Jason Tlatelpa, Eduardo Xicontencatl, Christian Calixto, Wilbert Lagunas, and Ulysses Miranda.

Passaic Football's Comeback

By Rosa Valentin '19 and Armando Martinez '19

The Passaic Indians are not playing around at all this season! After several difficult seasons, the football team is headed in a good direction. This season the Indians have been victorious in half of their games played, winning five, and losing five, which is an improvement from last year's season that ended in two wins and eight losses. A highlight of the season is a victory over Clifton High School during this year's rivalry Thanksgiving game, with a score of 42-35. Additionally, Justin Mangual was chosen by the *Record* as North Jersey's "Athlete of the Week."

In their first game of the season, the boys earned their first win against Bergen Tech, 58-8. They had such a big lead due to their hard work, determination and mindset that

stems from their coach's philosophy of discipline and composure.

According to Kervin Coleman and Mariano McGaskey, captains of the football team, their coach William Widner has told them to "never get too high, never get too low, but to remain mellow" and do their job. The only thing coach Widner expects from his players is to try their hardest, to do their absolute best, and to commit to the team. His players expect to receive the same effort they put in, they expect the coach to call a good game, put them in the correct spot in position, and to know that it is more than football – to be their coach on and off the field.

At this point in the season, the team believes that this season has been better than last season. This season is more competitive, and they were even in the playoff hunt. To prepare for games, they go over their assignments, stretch and get mentally



PHOTO BY MS. SCIAMETTA

The team prepares for their Homecoming game.

prepared. Before every game they come together and recite their team chant. The team feels they are going in a good path and only bigger things are to come.

Football is more than just a sport to the players on the team. Even injuries won't stop them from wanting to get back on the field,

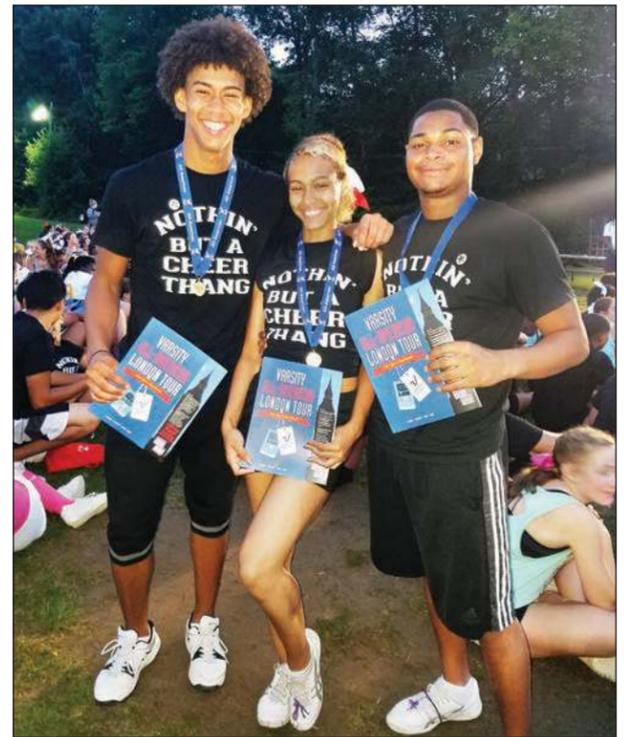
they lose no motivation and are committed to coming back better than ever. Captain Kervin Coleman said about playing in the homecoming game, "It was a surreal moment, being back from an injury, it made me feel that I was back full time." Overall, our Passaic Indians will continue to strive.



Cheerleaders

PHOTOS BY MS. MERCED

The Passaic High School Cheerleading squad won the Leadership Award this summer at Cheerleading camp. Three cheerleaders won the "All American Cheerleader" award, which qualifies them to cheer in London at an event sponsored by the camp. "As their coach for four years, this will be the hardest group to say goodbye to," said Coach Angelina Merced.



Latest Changes to PHS Staff: New Roles and Additions

By Bri'el Quinones '18

During the transition to the 2017-2018 school year, Passaic High School unfortunately lost a few staff members who've left an influential impact on the school such as the wonderful Mrs. O'Bryant and the marvelous Ms. Dukes-Brown. However, the school gained many new staff members this year who have high hopes and great plans for the school and their students this upcoming school year.

I got the chance to speak with Ms. Vinciguerra and Ms. Neurouter who both work in the athletic department. This is their first year coaching at PHS. Ms. Neurouter and Ms. Vinciguerra are both softball coaches.

Ms. Vinciguerra of Clifton, NJ went to Manhattan College and graduated from William Paterson for Physical Education/Health and Exercise and Movement Science. She is the first child out of her three siblings to move out on her own. She taught at Hope Academy for two years and Lincoln Middle School for an additional six years.

Ms. Neurouter, From Wayne,

NJ graduated from Montclair State University for Physical Education and received her Master's degree in Sports Administration and Coaching. Mrs. Cardillo, Ms. Leonard and herself, all went to college together. She taught at the Gifted & Talented School for two years and coached the girls basketball team before coming to PHS.

When asked about what she liked about teaching at Passaic High School Ms. Vinciguerra joked, "Personally, I really like the times. I like coming in early [laughs] and getting out earlier." But on a more serious note she stated that, "The times are very convenient for me considering that I'm a coach." Ms. Neurouter talked about how she likes that she is able to see her athletes during the day and have interactions so that they can "come to me when they have problems."

When I asked both coaches if they had a message that they'd like to share with the students, Ms. Vinciguerra said, "Life's too short, be the best person you can be. Keep educating yourself because looks fade but the mind always stays."

Ms. Neurouter said, "Make good choices and be good people, I say that after every period."

Ms. Cornwell of Westwood, NJ majored in English and earned her certification to teach English and ESL for grades six to 12 at Bucknell University. She played rugby in college and previously taught at Leonia and Cresskill High Schools, both in Bergen County. I asked Ms. Cornwell how she was adjusting so far working here at PHS and she said, "It's been a good transition... the teachers have been very helpful."

The biggest difference from teaching at her previous schools is that PHS is about five times their size. There's no doubt that the student body count here at PHS is probably the biggest high school campus that incoming teachers have taught on. There were about "100 kids in a grade," Ms. Cornwell said, "I always wanted to teach at a bigger school because there's more people to meet and work with."

The best part about working here for her, is her students. When working in a large and diverse environment such as Passaic

High, there's so many personalities to meet. "I really like my students. They're a combination of smart, hardworking and funny." To end things off, I asked her what message she would like to leave her students and her message was that, "It's important to have an open mind and keep learning because if you do those things you're capable of anything."

Another staff member new to PHS is Mr. Aprill of New Providence, NJ who teaches Geometry. He went to Lehigh University and received a Bachelor's degree in business then went to Kean University for another Bachelor's degree in Mathematics. He coached football in New Providence and is now full-time teacher.

"The biggest difference would be that Passaic is really a lot bigger. The student body is about eight hundred kids in my old school versus three thousand", he chuckled. For him it is very different from he was used to at his previous school. When asked about what he likes so far about Passaic High, he raved about the ROTC program.

"I'll tell you what I do like, I like the ROTC. I think that plays an important role in the high school you know? I just think that it develops young kids into mature students." On a final note I asked Mr. Aprill if he could share a message with the students what would it be and he replied, "Never give up and keep persevering."

Just as you felt nervous on the first day of school, so did the dozens of new teachers here at PHS. Many of them come from schools where the entire student body is just the size of our freshman class. Trust me, although that's what it may seem like from time to time, teachers goals are not to fail you or to ruin your day. They have families and lives of their own so they understand when a problem or situation may come up.

After speaking with these teachers, they made me realize that teachers are people just like us who went through some of the same problems that we may have gone through in high school. So I advise that the next time you see your teacher to spark up a conversation, you may never know what you have in common!



PHOTO BY NJ.COM
Governor-elect Phil Murphy and his opponent Kim Guadagno.

New Jersey Politics: The 2017 Governor's Race

By Melissa Reyes

On Nov. 7, 2017, New Jersey citizens voted for their next governor, succeeding Chris Christie, leaving office in January 2018 after serving an eight-year term. The New Jersey Constitution prohibits governors from running two consecutive terms. The major-party candidates were Phil Murphy from the Democratic Party and Kim Guadagno from the Republican Party.

The Democratic Party's nominee, Phil Murphy is a multimillionaire and former ambassador to Germany. He has never held office. However, Republican nominee Kim Guadagno is Chris Christie's lieutenant governor, and former sheriff of Monmouth County. Both candidates debated on the October 10th and 18th debates, having raised at least 430,000 dollars in order to qualify.

Phil Murphy was leading Guadagno by 14% in the polls conducted by Monmouth University. According to the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission 4, Murphy raised \$5.54 million in public funding compared to Guadagno's \$1.51 million.

Each candidate had their own views and proposals, reflecting their parties. It is important to mention that Phil Murphy's lieutenant governor nominee is Shelia Oliver while Kim Guadagno's lieutenant governor nominee is Carlos Rendo.

Phil Murphy promised to le-

galize marijuana while taxing it. Not only does he support taxing marijuana but he plans to raise taxes for wealthy and to end all tax loops for corporations, proposing establishing a bank for New Jersey. Addressing the concerns of education, he promises to end PARCC testing and desires to fully fund public schools.

However, Guadagno promised to lower property taxes while increasing the funding for the military. The former lieutenant governor also proposed to treat addictions as a health concern rather than putting them in jail by giving them mandatory rehab.

From Phil Murphy's own words, his campaign quote is "It's time for a stronger, fairer economy that works for every family- with good jobs, equal pay, fully funded public schools and a growing middle class. It's time for a new governor who'll have your back. I will."

Like Phil Murphy, Kim Guadagno also has a campaign quote. Her slogan is "Auditing Trenton. Lowering property taxes. Creating opportunity. Our campaign for a better New Jersey starts with you."

Both candidates were not the only ones running for governor, there were five third-party candidates also running. The nominees were Peter Rohrman from the Libertarian Party, Green Party nominee Seth Kaper-Dale, Matthew Riccardi from the Constitution Party and two independents Vincent Ross and Gina Genovese. None of the nominees

reached the \$430,000 to qualify for the debates and failed to receive major support from the public.

Who Won the Election?

The nominee securing his position as a New Jersey governor was Phil Murphy. Murphy, the Democratic candidate, receiving more votes than the Republican candidate Kim Guadagno. Murphy received 56% of all votes while Guadagno managed to gather 42%.

"Tonight, we declare the days of division over. We will move forward together... We will rebuild our state from the bottom up, and the middle out." declared future governor Murphy in his election night victory speech. Reaffirming his campaign promises; he states how he will raise the minimum wage, supporting equal pay and fair taxes on everyone.

On Nov. 16, Murphy gave a speech reaffirming what he plans to accomplish in his term. He promises to:

- Fully fund public schools
- Reduce property taxes
- Legalize marijuana
- Pass "common sense" gun control

"You helped send a message that we are united," Murphy told supporters in an email, "and that together we'll end the failed status quo in Trenton by creating a stronger, fairer economy that works for every New Jersey family."

Phil Murphy will be sworn in as governor on Jan. 16, 2018.

New Administrators, New Schools

By Divya Rana '21

New Administrators

This school year at Passaic High School, some new administrators, previously from other Passaic Schools, joined the PHS family. New changes have proved to contribute to a school year that is running smoothly and some previous issues that we have dealt with in the past are now resolved, for both students and teachers.

We have two returning administrators, Ms. Torres-Gomez, our Interim Principal, and Ms. Romero, our Grade 12 Assistant Principal (AP). Ms. Ross, coming from LMS, is our Grade 11 AP. Mr. Acevedo comes from School #1, and is our Grade 10 AP. Mr. Lungren is our Grade 9 AP and comes from School #10.

Bringing administrators in from other schools in Passaic ensures that these new leaders know about our city and their experience will help them to develop plans and procedures to make Passaic an even better school district.

New Passaic Schools

The plan to continue the growth of the Passaic Public Schools was approved during the Board of Education meeting on November 20, 2017. This plan was built around the belief that students will be more successful if they are provided an environment that supports their learning.

The district wants to create school zones for Kindergarten-8th grade. They plan to close Lincoln

Middle School in July 2018 in order to create two new grade schools for grade 6-12 that will reduce overcrowding at Passaic High School.

The Passaic Preparatory Academy and the Passaic Academy for Science and Engineering will provide academically challenging experiences for students. The schools, including Passaic High School, will offer Advanced Placement and Dual Enrollment courses that allows them to be structured around college and career pathways, provide career certification and opportunities to earn college credits.

Passaic Preparatory Academy will offer some of the following pathways: Humanities/Liberal Arts, Dramatic Arts, Visual Arts, and Music Arts.

Passaic Academy for Science and Engineering will be based on a STEM focused curriculum with pathways in Engineering, Biomedical Science, Biotechnological, Data Analytics, Computer Science, and Mathematics Studies.

The athletic teams and the famed marching band will still compete under the banner of Passaic High but will include all three schools. The process of hiring new principals and upcoming renovations will begin soon. The schools will begin to open in the September 2018 school year. It is said that the first graduating class from these new high schools will be the class of 2020.



Hiking Club

PHOTO BY MS. YILDIRIM



Left, a Supreme retail store. Right, Supreme t-shirts.

What Comes to Mind When You Hear ‘Streetwear’?

By Bryan Castro '19

The name “Supreme” is widely recognizable by a vast majority of people. But something that not everyone acknowledges is that Supreme is the main foundation of streetwear, it’s where it all began.

With stores in popular major cities, Supreme is set to open their new store in Brooklyn, New York. This store will have a skate bowl similar to the one in LA but it will be exclusive to “friends and family.”

The new store opening tee shirt is a camo box logo tee with a phone number printed on the back which appears to be the one of the Brooklyn store. The release date of this was October 5, 2017 but prices on the Box Logo tee were already upwards of \$900 before it’s release!

Would you pay \$900 for a t-shirt which was originally priced at \$44?

Alongside this release is a collaboration featuring Stone Island. This is not the first time we see Supreme collaborate with them, but they always surprise us with new pieces that are a must have.

POP CULTURE NEWS

Gomez’ Kidney Transplant; Lovato’s New Album

By Bielka Nunez '19

Our favorite wizard, Selena Gomez, received a kidney transplant this summer and is currently recovering from the operation. She revealed in 2015 that she’s battling a disease called Lupus, which can cause kidney failure. She confirmed that she received the kidney from her friend Francia Raisa. Raisa is known for her role on “The Secret Life of the American Teenager.” Gomez posted a picture on her Instagram of her and Francia laying in hospital beds next to each other. #FriendGoals.

Singer Demi Lovato is promoting her newest album “Tell Me You Love Me.” She discussed how her childhood influenced this album (we are not sure if her years on Barney had anything to do with it). This album was released on iTunes and other platforms on September 29, 2017.

Many fans think that “Ruin your Friendship” is about the singer Nick Jonas. Lovato stated that that her favorite song in the album is “Lonely.” This is her first album with a black and white cover. Perhaps this change shows that she is reinventing herself.

Poetry

Break Into Pieces

By Zest

i’m just my world in the end
i need to let everything out
no one can never be mad
i always need to stay away
as everyone sees me.
i will crack
i don’t understand why it’s so
hard to be perfect
and everything else
someone let me have the
guidance to lead
the world into my arms.
i love everyone
And I need a break
if I don’t get it
i might just break into pieces...
might as well leave forever.

WHY?

By Samira Pozo-Robinson '20

We want to learn and never try.
We want to see but never believe.
We need to be heard but there are no words.
They yell help but no one helps.
They yell save us but we ignore.
We want change but there’s no plan.
We say hope with lies and greed.
There is no surprise why the world, country, nation are in a failing system.
WHY? They say.
We yell give, but keep in greed.
We say better but get worse.
We ask ourselves, can I change?
But you always stay the same.
We want people to live but you kill so they die and we cry.
We yell better world but we don’t give in.
Then they say WHY? WHY?
WHY?
But ask yourself...
WHY?

Movie Reviews: ‘It’ and ‘Wonder Woman’ Get High Marks

“It”

The highly anticipated movie, *It*, based on the 1986 Stephen King novel, has hit theaters once again as a remake and the box office sales are bigger than anyone ever would have predicted. According to Forbes, in only 17 days after the release of the movie, *It* had accumulated over \$226.1 million in box office revenues, passing *The Exorcist*, with box office sales of \$232 million and it is said to be bigger than *The Sixth Sense*, which accumulated an average of \$292 million. Ultimately, *It* had made over \$688 million at press time.

The movie is based on the killer clown, Pennywise, who feeds off

kids’ fears. A group of adolescents, who are tormented by the clown, seek him out in the sewers after the brother of one of the main characters goes missing and one of their friends is taken. The teens have to work together to get their friend back and face the eerie hallucinations Pennywise has inflicted upon them.

I would give this movie an 8 out of 10 based on the amazing acting displayed in the film and considering the fact that most of the cast ranged from ages 14-17. If you are not so into scary movies, this movie might be right up your alley because of the comedic relief in it. However, if you are into

movies that keep you up at night over thinking the plot, this may not be too thrilling for you.

“Wonder Woman”

The movie *Wonder Woman* has not only dominated the DC world, but also dominated the box office with over \$821 million, leaving it at number two in the DC’s most top grossing superhero origin movies, behind 2002 *Spider Man*’s \$821.7 million revenues.

Not only is it a great film but it inspires so many young girls letting them know that they can achieve anything they want no matter what anyone says.

The movie is based on an Ama-

zon princess named Diana (Gal Gadot) who rescues a pilot and brings him back to her island occupied by female warriors, only to find out that the enemies were tracing him. After the rescue, the pilot tells Diana about the war being fought in the outside world (World War I). Diana promises to use her powers to stop the war and help those who need her.

The movie not only showcases amazing fight scenes, but also portrays the power of a woman and her duty to the world. This movie would definitely land an 8 out of 10 on my scale based off the amazing fighting skills Gal Gadot had to learn for the movie and how flawlessly she displayed them throughout the film.

– Brandon Cisneros '19

69th Primetime Emmy Awards Highlights

By Armando Martinez '19

The 69th Primetime Emmy Awards was filled with stellar and unforgettable moments. This year the ceremony was held on Sunday, Sept. 17 at the Microsoft Theater in Downtown Los Angeles, California. It was broadcast by CBS. The host for TV’s special night was American comedian Stephen Colbert. Colbert brought his comedic A-game, and a lot of Trump jokes. There were many historic firsts, and a little Halloween tease. Here are some of the night’s highlights!

Colbert’s Patriotic Monologue

What better way to start the show than by talking about the nation’s beloved president, Donald Trump. Colbert brought the Trump jokes in full force. After the open song and dance number, he mocked the president less for his

leadership than for being a former reality star who still resented the fact he was never awarded TV’s top prize. Burn!

A Night of Historic Firsts

Donald Glover and Lena Waithe both made history with their Emmy wins! Glover is the first African-American to win in the best comedy series director category, for Atlanta and Ms. Waithe is the first African-American woman to win in the best comedy series writer category. She shared the award with *Master of None* series star and co-creator Aziz Ansari. Riz Ahmed won an Emmy for lead actor in a limited series or movie for *The Night Of*, which made him the first male actor of Asian descent to win an acting Emmy.

Spicer’s Spicy Cameo

The former White House press secretary specifically entered

scene when Colbert called this the most-watched Emmys of all time. “This will be the largest audience to witness an Emmys, period, both in person and around the world,” Spicer said, making a reference to his own remarks about Trump’s controversial inauguration attendance earlier in the year. Shade!

The Handmaid’s Tale’s Winning Streak

The Hulu series earned 11 nominations, winning eight of them. *The Handmaid’s Tale* is based on Margaret Atwood’s dystopian novel. It won best drama (beating out Netflix’s *The Crown*, *Stranger Things* and *House of Cards*), best writing in a drama for Bruce Miller, and best directing in a drama for Reed Morano. Elisabeth Moss won best actress in a drama, and her costar Ann Dowd won best supporting actress in a drama.

New Tech Additions: iPhone 8, iPhone X

By Leslie Pascal '19

Is it a bird? Is it a plane? No! It’s the new and improved iPhone! On September 22, 2017, Apple released a new batch of phones for the year: the iPhone 8, iPhone 8 Plus and the highly anticipated iPhone X. The new phones have various different and new features like A11 processor chips and OLED retina displays.

Now let’s discuss all these new features. The iPhone 8 and 8 plus both have wireless charging, better cameras and improved portrait mode. The

phones also have an interesting feature called augmented reality which changes up the real world. And with the iPhone release means a new update. The IOS 11 update allows a new use for phones. You can now send money through iMessage, Siri can translate languages and we can discover new music with friends in Apple Music.

One more thing. The biggest changes come from the release of the iPhone X which is the new generation of iPhones. It contains the “most powerful and smartest chip ever in a smart phone,” the A11 Processor. The

phone also has features like Face ID with adaptive recognition, Animojis, edge-to-edge screens and a new True Depth effect in the camera app. With these features we also have portrait mode selfies and 10x optical zoom. The phone no longer has a button but a new way to travel through the phone is also shown, which is swiping.

With all these amazing elements the phone comes with its cons. The starting price for the phone is \$999. With all those breathtaking attributes, who cares about your pockets when you have a talking poo emoji?



PHOTO BY MS SCIAMETTA

Newspaper Club

THE HILLTOP STAR

The Student Newspaper of Passaic High School

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Thank you to the members of the PHS community who have contributed photographs, information, and articles to this issue of The Hilltop Star: Without your help, this publication would not exist. We look forward to working with you throughout this school year! Reach out to Ms. Sciametta or a newspaper staff member if you would like to join, contribute information, or respond to newspaper content.

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Earthquake Wreaks Havoc Upon Mexico

By Juliana Disla '20

An earthquake of 7.1 magnitude upset Mexico City on Sept. 19, devastating countless buildings and causing the deaths of more than 248 people across multiple states.

When the debris cleared in the country's capital, at least 216 people were found dead and many more injured under the debris of collapsed buildings. Rescuers continue to diligently search for any possible survivors under the rubble with police dogs accompanying them for assistance.

The amount of collateral dam-

age caused by the earthquake has caused at least 1.9 million homes to lose electricity, but as of now, more than half of them have gained it back. Contaminated water was also restored in a span of 3-4 days.

People are responding to reporters soon after, stating how they were thankful to survive yet another earthquake with their loved ones. People in Mexico are slowly coming together to work as a community to help those lost in the earthquake and other are encouraging them to assist the survivors.

Source: CNN



PHOTO BY CNN

Hurricane Irma destruction

2017 Hurricane Impact and Relief Efforts

By Nathalia Severino '18 and Janessa Mejias '19

Four major hurricanes hit the US and Caribbean hard this fall: Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, Maria, and Nate both caused extreme damage and fatalities.

Hurricane Harvey:

Hurricane Harvey's three lingering US landfalls brought record rain to parts of south Texas and Louisiana at the end of August, burying the region in 27 trillion gallons of rainwater.

Maximum strength: Category 4, with 120 mph winds
Affected areas: Texas, Louisiana
Toll: At least 82 deaths
Cost: \$180 billion in damages
Response: 31,000 federal personnel

Hurricane Irma:

Irma's intense winds and storm surges did serious damage to the fragile Florida Keys. However, as with some other hurricanes mentioned here, its toll was particularly brutal for some Caribbean nations and territories. Irma was the strongest Atlantic basin hurricane ever recorded, and its winds devastated the island nation of Barbuda, damaging 95% of the buildings there.

Maximum strength: Category 4, with 130 mph winds
Affected areas: Florida, Georgia, South Carolina
Toll: At least 61 deaths
Cost: \$150-200 billion in damages
Response: 40,000 federal personnel

Donald Trump and the People vs. the NFL

By Bryan Castro '19

The debate over football players kneeling during the national anthem has consumed much of the country. President Donald Trump has had many issues with NFL players protesting during the National Anthem this season.

President Trump believes that the kneeling protests would've never gained popularity if former San Francisco 49ers player Colin Kaepernick was suspended for kneeling during the national anthem—a protest against police brutality in the United States.

People of the U.S. have been upset over the events also, some think the protest goes against the foundation this country was built on. They focus on the fact that the national anthem wasn't adopted until the Great Depression and it was a demonstration of hope.

Some believe that the everyone has focused on the NFL and President Trump rather than the whole purpose behind the protest. "It's become very basic and watered down," said L'erret Jazelle Ailith, the communications manager for Black Youth Project 100.

We don't see the focus on mainly Trump and NFL football players stopping anytime soon. Protesters fear that the main focus would be on Trump and his followers rather than the main reason behind the protest and what it stands for.

Hurricane Relief Efforts

Celebrities Pitch In

Somos Una Voz

"Somos Una Voz" means "We Are One Voice." This was a benefit concert made by Jennifer Lopez and Marc Anthony to raise money towards donations to help Puerto Rico, Mexico and the Caribbean with damages from the most recent natural disasters; Hurricane Irma and the 8.2 magnitude earthquake. Somos Una Voz was also created to bring food, shelter, medicine and power for those in need after the disasters. You can attend concerts, donate online or even text in a donation to Somos Una Voz.

Hand in Hand

On Sept. 12, Hand in Hand, a televised benefit for hurricane relief, hosted an hour long, commercial free concert to raise awareness and donations for the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey. Hand in Hand partnered with charities that were also helping Texas with the Harvey aftermath. These charities included the ASPCA and Direct Relief. Some people who attended or performed at this concert included Jaime Foxx, Leonardo DiCaprio, Drake, Robert Deniro and many more. Although the telethon lasted an hour, Hand in Hand is still taking donations.

Bethenny Frankel

Bethenny Frankel of the "Real Housewives of New York City" has chartered private planes to bring supplies to the citizens of Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria. She made these efforts with her B Strong program just weeks after she underwent two surgeries for skin cancer.

Maximum strength: Category 1, with 90 mph winds

Affected areas: Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama

Toll: 0 US deaths

Cost: While original projections reached \$4 billion in damages, as Nate weakened, so did the cost impact. After the storm, estimates for damages topped out at \$2.5 billion.

Response: President Trump allowed an emergency declaration for Mississippi and 39 counties in Alabama before the storm, which allowed FEMA to coordinate relief efforts. Source: CNN

Trump's Military Transgender Ban

By Luis Morales '19, and Darlene Martinez '19

Almost everyone has heard the news of President Trump's very controversial military transgender ban, whether it was through a traditional news outlet or the President's favorite way to speak his mind, Twitter.

On July 26, 2017, Trump tweeted "After consultation with my Generals and military experts, please be advised that the United States Government will not accept or allow Transgender individuals to serve in any capacity in the U.S. Military. Our military must be focused on decisive and overwhelming..."

The president's new restriction will not let any man or women who identifies as transgender be able to serve in any capacity in the US Military. Essentially, he stated that allowing them to serve would create enormous medical costs and disruption.

Additionally, some people may point out how during the Presidential campaign, Donald Trump was considered to be an ally of gay/lesbian and transgender people and had promised to protect the rights of these groups, but now, it can easily be seen that his real views of these groups have come out.

This current issue regarding the ban is in an open debate in court and the final decision has not been finalized yet. Until then, it is in high hopes that the courts will not go forward with this ban and it will be disregarded.

Teen Health: Drugs and Alcohol

By Janessa Mejias '19

September was National Recovery Month. This brings awareness to substance abuse and celebrates those who have recovered from an addiction or substance disorder. However, it is important to be aware of this issue during all months of the year.

Are you aware of the signs of a teen addict? Teens are more commonly known to do drugs due to peer pressure or just because of the environment they live in.

As of 2013, 22.7% of high school seniors reported smoking marijuana compared to a 16% cigarette smoking rate. It's 2017 and many of today's pop culture topics include drugs and alcohol. What kind of impact does that have on our teens?

Passaic High School freshman,

Divya Rana, indicates that teens addicted to drugs and alcohol are "harming their bodies" but at the same time she's a firm believer of allowing teens to "do whatever they want."

However, there are in fact about 5,000 teens between the ages of 11-17 that are natural born addicts. This is due to an addicted mother who has done drugs while pregnant. Children born into addictions may develop physical issues and experience very painful withdrawal.

Underaged drinking has also become a bigger problem in America. The issue with Teens drinking is the fact that they binge drink and that comes with way more issues. Some of these things include car accidents, brain damage, alcohol poisoning, sexual assaults or possibly fatalities.

PHS CLUBS



PHOTOS BY JOHANA LASTOR AND MS. SOTO

Top, Youth Alive Bible Club. Bottom, Lead for Diversity.

See more club information on page 2.