



PHOTOS BY PHS PRODUCTIONS

Clockwise from top left: Alice (Zaida Telleria) and the Mad Hatter (Leslie Pascal), the cast in finale battle scene; the audience enjoys the performance; the entire cast takes a bow.

‘Alice in Wonderland’ a great success!

By Jose Perez

On January 18 and 19 the newly formed PHS Drama Club, performed its first production, Alice in Wonderland. Performing a play in a new group takes a great deal of effort. This production was not small and so the size of this production made the performance even harder to achieve. However, the effort paid off, this first play by the Drama Club was a huge success.

With a cast of thirty students and a large supporting crew of both teachers and students, this production showcased the vast talent available at PHS. At many of the practices that went long into the evening, students had to demonstrate that they were willing to work together to achieve a goal. “I kept everyone going with my runs to Banana King,” said Anthony Leyva. All the hard work paid off because the audience was treated to a dynamic and enjoyable show. “It was just

so great to see them having fun up there,” said one theater goer. The lead role of Alice is a lot to ask of anyone, and Zaida Telleria did a great job. “It definitely was a lot of work, but it was so fun,” said Zaida after the show. Everyone who was in the show or watching it enjoyed their time in “wonderland”. Hopefully this is just the first of many shows, that will be produced here at PHS.

Marching Band: Behind the Trophies

By Elisa Matos

What is Marching Band? According to Merriam Webster, marching band is “a group of musicians who play instruments while marching together at a parade or sports event.” But if you ask any of the 150 members of PHS Marching Band, they would define it to be so much more than just “playing instruments while marching together.”

Marching band season starts in late June and ends in November. In those six months, the Passaic High School Marching Band practices five days a week, minimum, for three and a half hours each day, at least. Looking and sounding good takes a lot of practice. It takes a lot of work to make it look so easy! Jennifer Sanchez, color guard captain, said, “Marching band is very complex in many ways

and there is so much more to it than just moving around a field”. There are many things to take into consideration like possible show themes, the size of the field, the “shapes” that they want to make, the number of students that are participating in that years’ show, the number of students per section (instrument or color guard). To make all these things happen together in one fluid form takes a great deal of organization, skill and talent, which is where band director, Mr. Christopher Rusca steps in. There certainly is a lot on Mr. Rusca and his staffs’ plate. Each section is in responsible for learning their music, if you play an instrument, the flag/rifle/dance work if you are part of the color guard. So the whole thing is the combined individual attention to detail that gets combined into a massive whole.



PHOTOS BY ELISA MATOS

Above: Marching Band on the field. Below: Band director, Mr. Christopher Rusca, rallies the troops.

99 PINTS OF BLOOD COLLECTED



PHOTO BY YENI FLORES

This year’s blood drive for the American Red Cross saw 146 students participate with over 99 pints of blood collected. “Chubb,” one of the representatives from the Red Cross said, “It is great to see so many students want to help.”

ence, and leadership. The PHS Marching Band had a very successful 2018 season. Coming in first place at the Yamaha Cup competition at Rutgers University, winning the state competition at South Brunswick High School, and then winning second place at nationals, which was held at Metlife Stadium. To be part of marching band takes 100 percent commitment and dedication. Joanne Majdanski, color guard-captain, says she never would have thought that the words “sorry I can’t I have practice” would be the most difficult words to say. However, it was that effort for four years, that is representative of just one part of the commitment and that hard work eventually paid off in skills that she now uses in her everyday life. Skills like time management, confi-

What led to such success? One thing that was in common between Mr. Rusca, Joanne, and Jennifer’s responses was that hard work, dedication, and the hunger to learn allowed for a great season. Besides winning, being in the band gets its participants a second family. Congratulations to the Marching Band.



What is your idea of the best Valentine's Day ever?

The best Valentine's Day is to enjoy time with someone, watching old tv shows and sharing laughs.

- Alexis Castillo

As a woman, the most romantic idea I have for Valentine's Day is spending it like it is still the old days. The idea of going out for dinner, then going out to the movies, is so romantic for a Valentine's Day, but most importantly, it is about the time spent with the person you cherish. Flowers and chocolates should be included too, to make the day more romantic. Even poems written to your loved one, read that night, is my idea of the perfect romantic Valentine's Day.

- Kelly Garcia

The most romantic Valentine's Day is staying home and hanging out with my significant other. Honestly, what is so different about Valentine's Day compared to any other day? The most we could come up with for this year is compete for the title of "Best Handmade Gift Giver." It's nice making something from the heart. Happy Valentine's Day.

- Mirialys Canela-Margarita

Eating and enjoying each other's company on a nice balcony watching the sunset.

- Luis Peralt Acosta

A McDonald's food run, get some fresh baked cookies and then going to watch a movie.

- Edwin Morales

I think the most romantic idea for Valentine's Day would be to take your partner to a beautiful place and surprise him, or her, with romantic scenery with all the stuff that he, or she, likes most.

- Gabriela Liriano Perez

My idea of the perfect Valentine's Day is going out to a nice dinner by the beach.

- Ariana Martinez

Go out to a luxurious dinner.

- Devraj Rana

The most romantic Valentine's Day is to go ice-skating, then dinner, or maybe a night at the museum, or the movies or really anything fun.

- Cinthia Suero

The most romantic Valentine's Day ever would of course be a day where you go somewhere special with that special someone or you get them chocolates and tell them how much they mean to you... and if you don't have a Valentine, then treat yourself to some chocolates.

- Nyzir Roman

In my opinion the most romantic idea for Valentine's Day is going out to eat to a really nice restaurant or make a really nice decoration for your girlfriend to put in her room.

- Denny Polanco-Perez

On small pieces of paper, write down every kind of kiss that you can think of (passionate, on the cheek, etc.). Then fill an inexpensive red felt bag with your "kisses" and give it to your girl. When she pulls a paper from the bag, then you give your sweetheart whatever kind of kiss is described.

- Manuel Lopez Bello

Eating at a restaurant in Paris, enjoying the view, and taking pictures of the memories and enjoying it with someone special.

- Diana Romero-Cuatlayotl

I don't know anything about being romantic. Maybe have dinner with flowers or something.

- Guillermo Castillo

Being with someone I truly care about, no pressure just straight vibing with someone.

- Anthony Leyva

Go out to eat and give some gifts.

- Lisanna Moricete-Ortiz

The most romantic Valentine's Day is spending time together. On the special day you should do something simple - just stay home watching movies together and just have a dinner, nothing fancy, or maybe fancy. Giving a gift also like a necklace or bracelet.

- Evelyn Tepale Camacho

The cutest thing to do on Valentine's Day is when couples propose on that day, to the one they really love.

- Dana Flores

Just spending time with your loved one is what I think is romantic and having dinner too, oh and watching a movie together.

- Karla Flores

Go home and watch netflix and follow up @king the cute yorkie and that would be the greatest Valentine's date.

- Brenda Tellez Villares

It doesn't necessarily have to be all materialistic, as long as you are with the one you love, enjoying something together and simply just spending time next to each other is enough for me. But if it was to be the MOST romantic, I would say you should spoil her, or him, with anything of sentimental value.

- Yaneli Liranzo

The most romantic Valentine's Day ever is when a person you truly love proposes to you and then asks your dad for permission and when your crush asks you to be their girlfriend.

- Patricia Morales

Secret gifts, like a secret Santa, when people grab a paper in a hat with someone's name and they must get them a gift.

- Jorge Rosemond

Why do we celebrate Valentine's Day?

By Aldara Hernandez

Every year on February 14, everyone goes a little nutty thinking about cards, candy, balloons, and chocolates. But why do we celebrate Valentine's Day and where did it come from?

Actually no one knows for sure, when Valentine's Day comes from or why, but it is commonly thought that it dates back to the ancient Romans. They celebrated a festival called the feast of Lupericalia. While the men sacrificed goats and dogs, the women would line up to be whipped with the hides of the animals that were just slain. The thought behind this was that it would make the women more fertile.

So why is it called Valentine's Day if it was the feast

of Lupericalia? Well, Roman Emperor Claudius II executed two men named Valentine, in the 3rd century. They were martyrs, dying for a cause, and their martyrdom was honored by the Catholic Church with the celebration of St. Valentine's Day. It was still celebrated as a day of fertility and love.

The name of Valentine's Day most likely comes from the Valentine executed in Rome. The emperor was anti-Christian and he was executed for helping young Roman soldiers to marry, which was against the law at the time. So, he gave his life to help young men and women marry, when it was against the law.

This makes shopping for flowers and candies seem tame by comparison. Actually, our idea of Valentine's Day

dates back to the English Middle Ages, when homemade paper cards became a thing.

It was American industry; we're looking at you Hallmark Cards Company; that began mass producing valentine's cards in 1913. Then candy makers got in on the act of a day of love with candies and then other items.

We don't all celebrate Valentine's Day though. According to the NRF (National Retail Federation) even though spending for Valentine's Day will be at an all time high this year, for the first time topping \$20 billion, less people as a percentage are actually celebrating the holiday.

The younger you are the more likely you are to celebrate the holiday, the highest percentage of participants are those under 35. However, the

top reasons for NOT celebrating are that people consider it over-commercialized, they didn't have anyone to celebrate with (one is the loneliest number) or they were not interested anymore.

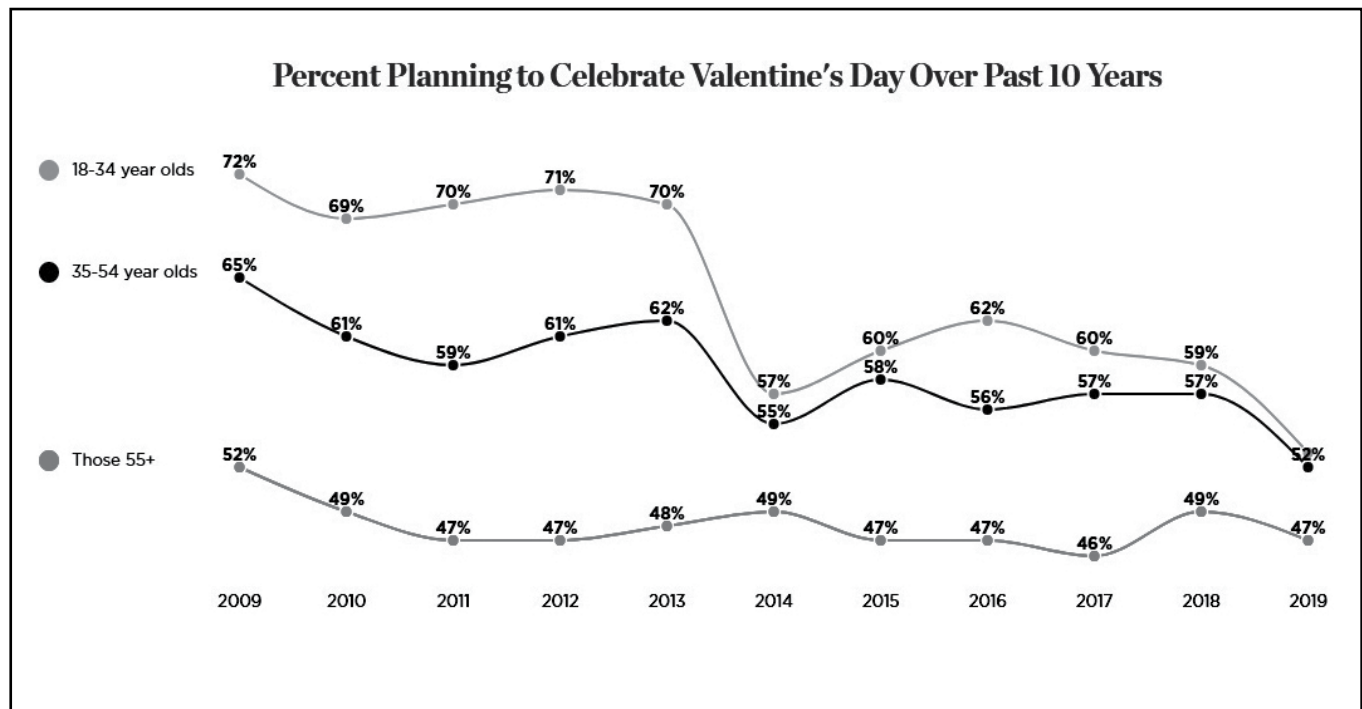
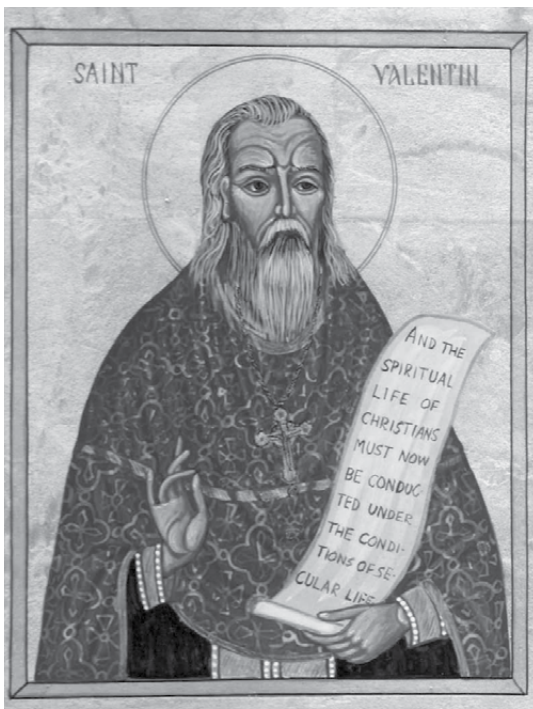
So, while we don't run around smacking each other with goat skins anymore, (thank goodness) we do still commemorate sacrifices made for love and how to express that love. Happy Valentine's Day!

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<https://www.history.com>



HALLMARK.COM

One of the first Hallmark Valentine's cards.



Grab and Go provides breakfast for all PHS students

By Deshani Hendley

The last hectic dash to class has just become a lot more hectic, and a tastier. The district has started this program in all schools to ensure that students get something to eat in the morning. The idea for this program is that students who are hungry are not thinking clearly. Like the Snicker's commercial says, "You aren't you when you're hungry."

Actually, there was a study done by Wisconsin, in 2007. The School Breakfast Program Cost/Benefit Analysis stated, "Studies have shown feeding children a nutritious breakfast increases their school performance, nutrition intake, and overall health while decreasing obesity, disci-

pline problems, and illnesses." The program is just getting started, and it seems like everyone has something to say about it. Joseph Vasquez-Rossis said, "I appreciate the opportunity to get something to eat, but I wish there was better food."

"There should be better food choices. It's like carbs everywhere," Mirialys Canela-Margarita said.

Most students like the program. "I am just glad that I don't have to think about breakfast. Sure it isn't fancy, but I like getting something to eat in the morning," said Kimberly Torres-Barragan. Diavionne Rivera added, "Trying to get to period 1 on time, at least I don't have to think about what I am going to eat."

Speaking of getting to class, Rafael Romeiro stated, "I'm not totally on board with this program. They need to make it easier for students to get in the building. Hey, the program is called grab and go, so grab it and go and let the rest of us get to class."

Overall, this seems to be a successful program, but time will tell if this is helping students. As the Wisconsin study concluded, "Providing school children with nutritious breakfasts has demonstrated benefits that far exceed those from lunch. Nonetheless, neither district administrators, nor the community, generally offer the same level of support for school breakfast programs as for lunch programs. Adding a school breakfast program can



PHOTO BY DESHANI HENDLEY

Alyssa Gonzalez grabs a quick breakfast on her way to first period.

potentially increase nutrition, health, and school performance while decreasing obesity, disci-

pline problems, and illness." Let us hope that will be the case here.



PHOTOS BY KIMBERLY FULLER
Above: PHS DECA team, at the Principles of Finance competition.

Left: Guadalupe DeGaona and Gabriela Farfan will represent PHS in statewide DECA competition in March at Atlantic City.

DECA Club at PHS is on the move!

DECA (An Association of Marketing Students) is the youth organization that prepares students to be emerging leaders and entrepreneurs in the fields of marketing, finance, hospitality, and management.

At Passaic High School, the DECA Club advisor is Mrs. K. Fuller, and she works with Mrs. V. Aristy, the NAF Coordinator (of the Finance Pathway), Mr. A. Maisonet, AP over the CTE/Business Department, and the CTE/Business Department staff to coordinate business and club activities throughout the school year. Currently the club has over 50 members and continues to grow every year.

Recently, PHS's DECA chapter competed at the New Jersey DECA Regional Competitive Events at Ramapo College in Mahwah, NJ on January 7, 2019. Members who competed were: Paulo Almiron, Sandra Canada, Bryan Castro, Ana Coto, Guadalupe DeGaona, Chantal Diaz, Gabriela Farfan, Ciara Flores, Jesus Hernandez-Cortez, Jocelyn Hernandez-Alvarado, Maria Izelo, Margarita Lino-Vanegas, Bryan Marin, Roxana Munoz, Taylor Pettiford, Stephanie Quiroz, Sheyla Rivera, and Jennifer Yumiguano.

For some members, it was a first time experience and for

others, another opportunity to sharpen their competition skills. But all and all, it was a great experience for everyone because they got the opportunity to interact with business professionals and to network with other DECA members in New Jersey's northern region.

At competitions, winning and advancing to higher levels is something that all of the members strive for. Trophies are given to students who place in their competitive event.

We are excited that two of our members have advanced to the NJ DECA State Competitive Events in Atlantic City, NJ that will be held during the first week of March. And they are...drumroll please...Guadalupe DeGaona and Gabriela Farfan. Both young ladies will compete in the Principles of Finance event and will be competing against other DECA members from across the state of NJ.

Special thanks to our administrators, Ms. E. Febres (Admin. Asst. to Mrs. Torres-Gomez), the Passaic District Office, and our chaperones, Mrs. M. McNish and Mrs. L. Sadlon for making our trip to regionals a successful trip.

Good luck to Guadalupe and Gabriela at State Competitions!!!

You should join Teen Pep. Here's why.

By Yaneli Liranzo

Teen Pep (Teen Prevention Education Programs) are for juniors and seniors who have taken the time to be trained in leadership and the many issues that face teens regarding sexuality. Probably the biggest misconception about this program is that they exist just to say no to sex. However, they really just provide the information necessary to prepare teens for the physical, social and emotional consequences of decisions made about relations.

If teens say "no" to sex, that is great. If teens say "yes," well then Teen PEP is there to let you know, hopefully in advance, about everything that you need to know to make an informed

decision, and how to deal with any consequences that come from that decision.

This club activity meets to discuss gender and sexuality issues as to how people identify themselves. How to decide which pronouns when addressing or talking to someone. It is important to make everyone feel comfortable with whom they are and so they will be comfortable to speak out. One Teen PEP educator, Astrid Gonzao said, "Ever since I joined Teen PEP I feel as though it has enlightened me with everything I had failed to pay attention to and neglected. It has genuinely changed my outlook and mindset in many things, and I think this class should be a requirement."

When asked what she likes



CLIP ART BY TEEN PEP.ORG

most about this program, that she thinks it should be a required course, she said, "It doesn't tell me who I should be, what to think or what to do. I feel comfortable talking about my concerns and any questions that I have."

It seems like most students who have had contact with

the Teen PEP program like it so much that they think it, or something like it, should be a requirement. Most also believe the younger the audience the better. Although taking this class at an early age may not be productive, due to varying levels of maturity, they will be learning that gay, queer, transgender, and lesbian people, are all just people, like all of us.

Parents often tell their boys that they cannot play with dolls; and tell their girls that they cannot play with cars. But the coursework of Teen PEP teaches that tolerance begins at home, and that people do not have the right to tell their babies who they can fall in love with, or what they can and can't dress like, just because of what they

were born with physically. Everyone is entitled to be what and who they want to be.

The education provided by Teen Pep is to help high school students make healthy decisions. The goal is help provide students with formal and informal opportunities to discuss issues in an atmosphere of mutual respect and factual discussion.

That Teen PEP goal is something everyone can agree on, the treatment of others as we would wish to be treated, and creating an atmosphere of mutual respect, no matter what someone else's situation. It is not only the goal of Teen PEP, but the goal of everyone at PHS. If you want more information just join up, or go to www.state.nj.us/health/aids/teenpep.html.

EXCELSIOR!

Stan Lee: 1922 - 2018

By Mirialys Canela

Stanley Martin Lieber was Marvel Comics Inc.'s greatest veteran, standing by its side since 1939, back when it was just a small publishing company called Timely Publication. There he worked as an office boy. Yes, Stan Lee started by fetching the lunch and coffees for the guys who actually did the writing and drawing. Then he was upgraded to writing text filler for the companies only prevailing superhero of that time which was Captain America. Being a gopher and a text filler wasn't the spark that Stan needed to become the master of Marvel, as we know him today. It had the opposite effect. He said, "So I figured, I'm not gonna use my real name which I'm saving for these silly comics. So I cut my first name into two, called myself Stan Lee."

However, everything changed in 1941 when the original comic creators Joe Simon and Jack Kirby left to due to some disagreements with the publisher Martin Goodman. As a temporary fill-in, Goodman asked 19-year-old Stan to manage that post until he finds new editors and writers which he never did.

Early in 1942, Stan Lee entered the service, because America had entered World War II. He wasn't recruited to fight but to just make cartoons and propaganda for the war. When he came back in 1945, he was now officially an editor, art director, and writer for the yet to be called Marvel. He met his wife Joan Boocock and married her in 1947 and had a daughter three years later.

By late 1950 now Timely Publications was named Alast comics. However, post the war the comic industries weren't doing so good and made whatever. The publisher weren't accepting any of his work. Therefore, that behavior made Stan frustrated, driving him to brim of quitting.

The first Marvel superhero came in 1961 with the collaboration with Jack Kirby, The Fantastic Four. It was created as a competitor to the popular DC comic, The Justice League of America. So, on the brink of quitting rather than going down with the Marvel ship, (it was losing money and going bankrupt), Stan Lee created an empire. Following the success of the Fantastic Four, a slew of new characters soon sprung from Lee and his Marvel cohorts, including the Hulk, Spider-Man, Doctor Strange, Daredevil and the X-Men.

Stan is known for making his characters real, with common problems that affect us all. So even though they have superpowers, the Marvel heroes share the same problems that we all share. Spider-Man is just a high school kid and a dorky one at that, and he has some of the greatest powers of them all. All the power he has and he still has troubles everyday in school and in his life.

Following the success of the Fantastic Four, a slew of new characters soon sprung from Lee and his Marvel cohorts, including the Hulk, Spider-Man, Doctor Strange, Daredevil and the X-Men.

In July, 2017, Lee suffered the loss of his one and only wife, Joan, after being married for nearly 70 years. After a brief illness himself, Stan went back to work. He kept a full schedule all the way into his 90's, like a superhero himself. However, just like many of the characters that are most likely going to die in Avengers: Endgame, Lee died on November 12, 2018 in Los Angeles, California. Stan Lee's death has left a deep hole in the hearts of his fans.

- Bluebird
- Boomerang
- Bor
- Betty Brant
- Brother Voodoo
- Brotherhood of Mutants
- Burglar

C

- Captain Marvel
- Peggy Carter
- Sharon Carter
- Cat-Man
- Chameleon
- Circus of Crime
- Clea
- Clown
- Cobra

- Ego the Living Planet
- Electro
- Enchantress
- Enclave
- Enforcers
- Eternity
- Executioner

F

- Fafnir
- Falcon
- Fancy Dan
- Fandral
- Fantastic Four
- Farley Stillwell
- Doctor Faustus
- Femizons
- Fenris Wolf
- Fin Fang Foom

- The Governor
- Gregory Gideon
- Grey Gargoyle
- Jean Grey
- Dr. John Grey
- Grizzly
- Groot
- Growing Man
- The Guardian Project

H

- H.E.R.B.I.E.
- Agatha Harkness
- Hate-Monger
- Hawkeye
- Heimdall
- Hela
- Hera
- Hercules

- Rick Jones
- Erik Josten
- Juggernaut
- Junior Juniper

K

- Ka-Zar
- Kaecilius
- Kala
- Kaluu
- Kang the Conqueror
- Kangaroo
- Karnak
- Karnilla
- Master Khan
- Kid Colt
- Kingpin
- Klaw
- Eric Koenig

- Mandarin Dino
- Manelli
- Mangog
- Captain Marvel (Mar-Vell)
- Martha Connors
- Marvel Boy (Robert Grayson)
- Masked Marauder
- Mastermind (Jason Wyngarde)
- Alicia Masters
- Matador
- Maximus
- Aunt May
- Medusa
- Melter
- Mentallo
- Mephisto
- Merlin

O

- Doctor Octopus
- Odin
- Olympians
- Harry Osborn
- Norman Osborn
- Overmind
- Owl
- Ox

P

- Karen Page
- Painter
- Richard and Mary Parker
- Pinky Pinkerton
- Plantman
- Plunderer
- Pluto

- Purple Man
- Hank Pym

Q

- Quasimodo
- Quicksilver

R

- Radioactive Man
- Rebel Ralston
- Rattler
- Ravage 2099
- Ravonna
- Rawhide Kid
- Red Barbarian
- Red Ghost
- Redwing
- Rhino
- Franklin Richards
- Ringmaster
- Randy Robertson
- Robbie Robertson
- Ronan the Accuser
- Betty Ross
- Thunderbolt Ross

- Flash Thompson
- Thor
- Tiboro
- Tigra
- Tinkerer
- Bolivar Trask
- Toad
- Trapster
- Bolivar Trask
- Tricephalous
- Triton
- Tumbler
- Two-Gun Kid
- Tyr
- Tyrannus

U

- Uatu
- Ulrik
- Ultimo
- Uncle Ben
- Unicorn
- Unus the Untouchable

V

- Vanisher
- Volla
- Volstagg
- Vulture

W

- Walking Stiletto
- Adam Warlock
- Warriors Three
- Wasp
- Watcher
- Anna Watson
- Mary Jane Watson
- Whiplash
- Whirlwind
- Whiz Wilson
- Wyatt Wingfoot
- Witness
- Wizard
- Wonder Man
- Wong
- Wong-Chu
- Warren Worthington III
- Wrecker

X

- X-Men
- Professor X
- Xemu

Y

- Yancy Street Gang
- Ho Yinsen
- Ymir
- Yon-Rogg
- Yondu

Z

- Zabu
- Zarko
- Baron Zemo
- Heinrich Zemo
- Zeus
- Zombie

T

- T'Chaka
- Glenn Talbot
- Thing

- Porcupine
- Pepper Potts
- Princess Python
- Prowler
- Psycho-Man
- Puppet Master

L

- Laufey
- Leader
- Leap-Frog
- Ned Leeds
- Living Brain
- Living Laser
- Living Tribunal
- Lizard
- Lockjaw
- Loki
- Looter
- Lucifer
- Willie Lumpkin

M

- Machinesmith
- Mad Thinker
- Madame Masque
- Magneto
- Man Mountain Marko
- Man-Beast
- Man-Thing

- Metal Master
- Midgard Serpent
- Millie the Model
- Mimic
- Mindless Ones
- Miracle Man
- Mister Fantastic
- Mister Fear
- Mister Hyde
- MODOK
- Mole Man
- Molecule Man
- Molten Man
- Monstrosos
- Montana
- Baron Mordo
- Mordred
- Morgan le Fay
- Morrat
- Mother Night
- Mysterio

N

- Count Nefaria
- Foggy Nelson
- Night Nurse
- Nightmare



ILLUSTRATION BY NASIER NORMAN

- Izzy Cohen
- Collector
- Crime Master
- Crimson Dynamo
- Crystal
- Cyclops
- Cyttorak

- Richard Fisk
- Vanessa Fisk
- Fixer
- Funky Flashman
- Forbush Man

- Bill Foster
- Jane Foster
- Frederick Foswell
- Frankenstein's Monster
- Freak
- Frigga
- Frightful Four
- Nick Fury

- Hermes
- High Evolutionary
- Hippolyta
- Happy Hogan
- Hogun
- Hulk
- Human Cannonball
- Human Torch

- Krang
- Kraven the Hunter
- Kree

I

- Iceman
- Idunn
- Immortus
- Impossible Man
- Inhumans
- Invisible Woman
- Iron Man

J

- Jack Murdock
- Jackal
- J. Jonah Jameson
- John Jameson
- Edwin Jarvis
- Abner Jenkins
- Jester
- Gabe Jones

G

- Galactus
- Galaxy Master
- Mac Gargan
- Gargoyle
- Giant-Man
- Gibbon
- Gladiator (Melvin Potter)
- Goliath
- Googam
- Goom
- Gorgilla
- Gorgon (Inhuman)

D

- Daily Bugle
- Daredevil
- Death-Stalker
- Destroyer
- Diablo
- Doctor Strange
- Doctor Doom
- Domsday Man
- Dormammu
- Dorrek VII
- Dragon Man
- Dredmund the Druid
- Doctor Druid
- Dum Dum Dugan

E

- Eel
- Egghead

Stan Lee Characters

A

- Abomination
- Absorbing Man
- Acrobat
- Actor
- Adria
- Aged Genghis
- Agon
- Air-Walker
- Liz Allan
- Ancient One
- Annihilus
- Ant-Man
- Ares
- Asbestos Man
- Athena
- Attuma
- Avengers
- Awesome Android

B

- Balder
- Batroc the Leaper
- Beast
- Beetle
- Billy Connors
- Black Bolt
- Black Knight
- Black Knight (Nathan Garrett)
- Black Knight (Sir Percy)
- Black Panther
- Black Widow
- Black Widow (Natasha Romanova)
- Blastaar
- Blizzard
- Blob

MOVIE REVIEW

Animated movie takes you into a new 'Spiderverse'

By Jorge Hernandez

Probably the best part of "Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse" is fun. This movie has good guys and bad guys, but the fate of the planet does not hang in the balance. This spider origin story feels more fun just because there is not a heavy feeling of major events hanging in the balance.

This is an animated film, and it seems to work for this retelling of Spider-man. The action is non-stop, in a way that a live action movie can-

not match. It is also a feast of pop-culture references. It really feels like New York. Actually it feels more like modern New York than the "regular" Spider-man movies.

Don't worry, Spidey is still the same type of character we have come to love and respect. He is still a super smart, loner teenager, from Queens, who questions himself and must fight supervillains. And he does it with the traditional Spider-flair.

The one thing that IS different is that this Spi-

Continued on Page 6



GOOGLE

Spider-Man: Into the Spiderverse

‘Spiderverse’

Continued from Page 5

der-Man is not Peter Parker.

This is a different universe of Spider-Man. Thanks to a disruption in the space-time continuum, there are a couple of Peter Parkers, a robot spider, a cartoon pig spider, a black and white Spider-Man, and even a Gwen Stacy Spider-Woman. They all converge, to give Miles Morales, the reality of being a true spider-man.

He does learn throughout this movie

that, “... with great power comes great responsibility.”

This movie is truly for everyone. Whether a fan of Spider-Man in the comics, or on the screen, or not yet a spider-fan, this movie will entertain.

Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse

Rating

PG

Running Time

1 hour 57 minutes

TV REVIEW

The Punisher

By Derek Henriquez

I think the biggest problem with the Punisher season 2 is that it does not connect to the rest of the Marvel Universe. You will not see any references to the Infinity War in this season, if you were looking for it. However, there aren't any connections to anything else Marvel here either.

There is no reference to Daredevil, Jessica Parker, or any other show. Actually, I think the show suffers the most because the show doesn't even follow much if its comic origins either. There are a few easter eggs in this season, but it doesn't follow a lot of what I was looking for in a Punisher show.

The biggest nod to the comic past is that Frank Castle, still goes by “Pete,” as in Peter Castiglione, a pseudonym he's used several times over in the show. It stems from Frank's original Italian family name, which was later Americanized to Castle. It also serves as a good way for him to have an alias, so that Castle can remain dead, and keep the heat off him.

Agent Madani, is back, after surviving her gunshot wound to the head, from another character who has returned from

season one, Billy Russo. She has recovered physically but not mentally and she seems like she is on the edge for most of this season. I guess she has a lot to work out. Billy Russo is also dealing with his mental health, but he is also horribly scarred across his face because of what Castle did to him at the end of the last season.

The show is definitely worth watching, especially if you are a Punisher fan, or just a Marvel buff. However, it does seem to be all by itself in the universe of Marvel. It doesn't connect to other stories which is the Marvel trademark. Also, the show has been cancelled. So, it looks like the Punisher may have died for real this time.



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The Punisher stars Jon Bernthal as “Frank Castle.”

STREAMING REVIEW

‘Bird Box’ on Netflix

By Deshani Hendley

Netflix seeks to be one of the biggest producers of shows, and so they have been using many sources to create new shows and movies for their service. Novels have been a great source for movies for as long as movies have been around. The Bird Box, which was just released on Netflix, is taken from a 2014 novel by Josh Malerman. This post-apocalyptic novel was first published in England, but it quickly came to America.

The plot is about a woman who needs to get herself, and her children to safety, even though her enemy is invisible. It must have been a difficult movie to make, because it takes place in three different times and is told mostly through flashbacks.

The world of this movie is scary, with a monster that can create insanity as soon as anyone sees it. No one is immune and the world has fallen into chaos. The only defense is to keep your eyes shut and block out the world.

The plot is complicated when the protagonist Malorie (played by Sandra Bullock) has a child and takes charge of another child born the same day, but whose mother has died. She has two children in this scary world and has never let them outside. They have not seen anything in the outside world. She only calls them “boy” (Julian Edwards) and “girl” (Vivian Lyra Blair). While it was never made clear why she did this, the most likely explanation is that she doesn't want to give the names to avoid some of the pain of losing them, because they are likely going to die. It is a horror movie after all.

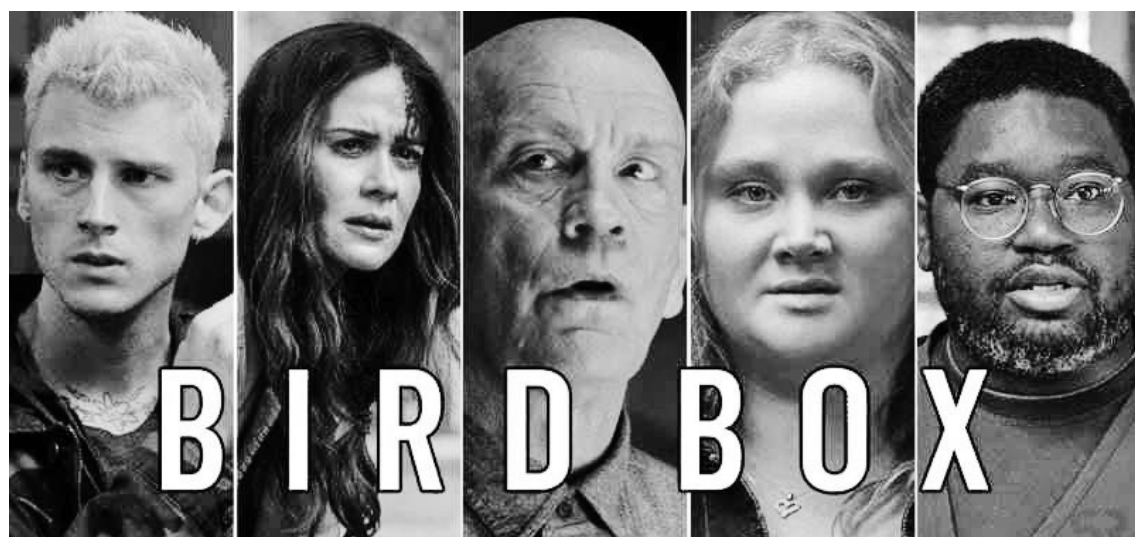
The biggest complaint for this novel is the ending, where a weird kind of safety is realized, but it seems forced. There is no resolution and after the big ordeal, it seems like a little bit of a let down.

The mood of this movie is the best part and it is scary in many parts. The suspense keeps the viewer to the end and it is definitely worth the watch. Enjoy.



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Above, Sandra Bullock stars in “Bird Box.” Below, additional cast members, from left to right: Machine Gun Kelly, Sarah Paulson, John Malkovich, Danielle Macdonald and Lil Rel Howery.



Courses in criminal justice available at PCCC

By Yeni Hernandez-Flores

Crime seems to be everywhere, and someone has to help solve these crimes so that the world will be safer for the rest of us. If the call to make the world a better place is within you, the maybe you might have thought of being a police officer, FBI agent, CSI technician, or maybe even a lawyer.

Criminal Justice is a big part of a society to try and control of anti-social behaviors. Today there is a big need for law

enforcement officers. Officers are there to enforce the laws and protect the citizens.

PHS offers a great program in which you can take college classes for free. Free means absolutely NO COST. This course takes place in PCCC, and the first class a new student will take is (CJ101) Introductions to Criminal Justice from 6-9 p.m. This is just an introduction, just enough to see if criminal justice is a good fit and if you are up to the task.

Then there are two more courses to get certified. The next

one is (CJ103) Juvenile Delinquency and finally, the last one is (CJ105) Criminal Investigation Class.

Each class is progressively more difficult and to get this certification students need to take these three classes at PCCC and also an AP class here in the high school. There is also a bonus with this: you get three college credits.

So what kinds of things get learned in these classes? That is a good question. First, students learn why things happen and

what happens when the law gets involved. The criminal justice system is complicated, but interesting.

Careers in law enforcement can pay because these professionals are provided generous pension plans and attractive retirement packages. Law enforcement and criminal justice careers offer some of the most rewarding benefits of any career field. However, those who pursue a career in law enforcement and criminal justice do so because they want to, not because they

have to. They feel the call to serve their community and make things better.

So, if you want to give it a shot I recommend it. This can be a head start towards your criminal justice career. Throughout the class we have assignments to do we also have a midterm and final.

The great thing about it is preparing you for college-based learning. While it was difficult, it was also interesting, so if you have an interest, go for it. It is a great opportunity here at PHS!

Review of American Horror Story: Apocalypse – Season 8

By Christopher Ochoa

The eighth season of “American Horror Story” is called “Apocalypse.” It began with a nuclear armageddon, which is why it is called apocalypse. One of the best things about this season is that it merged characters from earlier seasons. FX has really outdone themselves in hooking the audience with new and fresh stories and exciting and suspenseful productions.

From the opening scene of the first episode, the season hooked me. As the last survivor of Los

Angeles flew away from the ruined city, I had to wonder, where would the story go from here? After that first explosive episode, the series really moved slowly until episode three when everyone died!

Overall, though, this season seems to be like Ryan Murphy’s gift to FX (the producer of this show) before he heads off to Netflix, to do whatever he wants over there. After getting rid of 90 percent of the characters in episode three, this show is really great. It keeps moving and the stories grip the audience.

If I had to pick a season that Apocalypse is most like, I would have to say Hotel. That season was all over the place, and had craziness where anything could happen, and often did. While it did not make sense sometimes, it was definitely entertaining.

This show and this season are very demonic and full of bad experiences, but it is that uneasiness that makes the suspense of this show the reason to watch it. I think they could not have done a better job this season. It is definitely worth the watch.



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Sarah Paulson (center) returns for season 8 of American Horror Story.

Let’s take a serious look at cyberbullying

By Jose Colon

Make no mistake child predation on the internet is a growing problem. The internet has become a big problem, and it’s getting harder to get teens off of it. The internet was a beautiful thing when it was first created for everyone back in the 90s.

The internet was first made for work, school, and talking to friends & family. However, in recent years teens have taken an amazing thing and made it into some teen’s worst nightmare.

Cyberbullying is a huge problem and it happens to a lot of people around the world. Some teens don’t know this but cyberbullying is a criminal act. Many teens feel that because it’s just the internet that nobody’s really getting hurt, but little do they know it’s causing many deaths and it’s causing many other teens to be insecure.

Many teens feel that just because it’s just the internet that nobody’s really getting hurt, but little do they know it’s causing many deaths and it’s causing many people to be insecure.

Cyber bullying has become such a tremendous issue that laws have been created to protect teens and even adults. People who tend to be doing the act don’t really



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understand what the consequences are or that there are laws for any type of bullying especially cyberbullying.

Crimes that are considered cyberbullying are: “(1) threatens to inflict injury or physical harm to any person or the property of any person; (2) knowingly sends, posts, comments, requests, suggests, or proposes any lewd, indecent, or obscene material to or about a person with the intent to emotionally harm a reasonable person or place a reasonable person in fear of physical or emotional harm to this person; or (3) threatens to commit any crime against the person or the person’s

property.” (Cyberbullying Research Center).

Those laws were the “Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act” so that means it even applies on school grounds. If teens understand that what they’re doing is wrong but they keep committing the act, the real question why does it happen? Why does cyberbullying happen? My answer to that question is that sometimes kids feel like they have nothing good in life so when they see another student prospering, they see an opportunity to put them down.

Here are some researchers points of view on why teens become cyberbullies: “Popular kids

or teens may bully because they see it as a way to stay popular, and hurting others makes them feel powerful; Kids or teens who are less socially successful may bully because: It helps them cope with their own low self-esteem, they think it will help them fit in with their peers, and they have trouble empathizing with those they hurt.” (Delete Cyberbullying).

Even though the bullies have their own problems it should reflect on those who haven’t done anything wrong.

Getting bullied has a big effect on people especially on the internet because it will stay on the internet forever for people to remember it always.

But there’s a month where bullying has awareness it helps people see the real hurt it brings on others. That’s where National Bullying Prevention Month comes in, it’s the month of October where people show support and tell stories of their own experience.

“Every October, schools and organizations across the country join STOMP Out Bullying™ in observing National Bullying Prevention Month. The goal: encourage communities to work together to stop bullying and cyberbullying by increasing aware-

ness of the prevalence and impact of bullying on all children of all ages.” (Stomp Out Bullying).

Nevertheless, it’s not just a month of support but they’re also given a weekly activity for anti-bullying.

“My pain might be the reason for someone’s laugh, but my laugh must never be the reason for someone’s pain.” (Charlie Chaplin).

Teens should take a stand against cyberbullies and try to help someone that is going through a rough time even if it’s the bully himself. Take a stand and help bring peace to broken hearts and minds.

The victim or even the bystanders seeing any type of bullying happen should always report it. You can do this by talking to a cyberbullying hotline or to a trusted adult. Here’s a number where teens can call and talk to someone about their situation, 1-800-829-0067. (Cyberbullying Hotline). It even has a member login if they want to make an account where they have support about their bullying problems.

So if you know someone going through bullying help them seek help and improve cyberbullying. Remember that cyberbullying has a serious effect on lives!

SUPERBOWL REVIEW

Super Snoozefest – Patriots win again

By Jorge Rosemond

Let’s state the obvious, and that is that this was one of the worst Super Bowl’s ever.

Even if you are a Patriots fan, the defenses dominated what was supposed to be a great high scoring game. It did end, though, with Tom Brady getting another ring, and the New England Patriots getting a record-tying sixth Super Bowl win.

This was also the lowest scoring Super Bowl ever. The only touchdown was thrown by Brady for the Patriots. The ending score was 13-3, because the Rams never got to the end-zone. No other Super Bowl has ever gone into the fourth quarter without a touchdown on the scoreboard. That does not make for a very exciting game.

Some say that the Rams didn’t even deserve to be there because they were in the big game due to an official call error in the conference title vic-



GOOGLE

Yawn, wake me when it’s over.

tory at New Orleans. Actually, the Rams never got close to the end zone and so the game was never really in doubt.

The Patriots can’t keep this winning streak forever, with Bill Belichick at age 66. He is the oldest Super Bowl winning coach.

The Patriots have definitely won some big games, including the Saint Louis Rams in 2002, Carolina Panthers (2004), Phil-

adelphia Eagles (2005), Seattle Seahawks (2015) and the Falcons in 2017. They LOST to Philadelphia last year.

All in all, this was a game of records being broken and tied by the New England Patriots, but it was also, just plain boring. When the outcome of the game is known in advance, then it doesn’t lead to a lot of suspense. I hope next year’s game will be more exciting.

THE HILLTOP STAR

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Hilltop Logo Banner by Danny Rivera

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 Mr. Harris or a newspaper staff member if you would like to join, contribute information, or respond to newspaper content.

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PHS senior hopes to transition from 'Indian' to 'Duck'

By Jorge Rosemond

PHS senior Luis Peralta, when he leaves us this June, hopes to make us proud. After he hangs up his blue and red Indians uniform for the yellow and green of the University of Oregon Ducks. The Ducks are known for being a constant contender for the NCAA Championship, so when they came looking at PHS for the best. Luis's journey cross-country is due to his amazing skills and talents on the track. He is that fast.

Not only is he going to one of the best schools, known for track, but he is going on a scholarship. "When I went there, I just knew that Oregon was the place for me," said Peralta. "I just got a chance to bond with the guys who are going to be my teammates and everyone was friendly," he added, "I didn't know how they would treat me being Dominican, but they were great!"

This year he won the 800 meter at the NJSIAA State Meet of Champions and holds the record for that event.

He recently returned to his childhood home of Dominican Republic to compete there. He won the Dominican National Championship in the 800m with a time of 1:50.62. At the Olimpico Juan Pablo Duarte in Santo Domingo, he scored the fastest

high school time this season. Luis hopes to be able to compete in the Olympics one day. "That would be so cool to represent in the Olympics," he said.

Maybe the best thing about Luis is that no one would know about how fast he really is, he goes about being a student, going to class (sometimes even late - sorry) and getting his education while perfecting and practicing his sport. Now Luis Peralta is concentrating on his sport, being as fast as he can, and finishing school. "I just want to graduate and go to college and run," he said about his goals for the near future. One thing is certain, that he will make PHS proud as he becomes an Indian Duck.



STAFF PHOTOS

Above, Peralta competing at Milrose.

Left, Luis Peralta with Coach Rivera making the Oregon "O".

NJROTC Drill team competes on higher level

By Juan Orozco

The PHS Drill Team is a special unit, a team that is within the NJROTC program, who dedicate themselves to competing in dedicated drill meets. "The NJROTC Drill Teams are comprised of the elite cadets in the NJROTC Program. These cadets are taught to be competitive, yet supportive of each other and continuously motivate each other. They pay attention to the details of marching in step while maintaining military bearing," Senior Chief McMasters, leader of the Drill Team and the NJROTC program.

It is also student run by, Captain Jessie Pimintel, Commander Ariel Aguilar and Lieutenant Commander Guadalupe Guerrero. This team is made up of about 80 cadets. The Drill Team competes in competitions in our locally, in-state, and a few out of state competitions.

The two competitions that we've competed in and they are the Bethel Drill Meet and Man-

chester Drill Meet. In these two competitions, PHS placed in Color Guard and New Cadet.

The Drill Team practices every day at 7 a.m. The commander for Unarmed is Jessie Pimintel. Unarmed means that cadets learn how to march without rifles. The Commander for Unarmed Color Guard is Jocelin Carpinteyro.

"[Unarmed Color Guard is] made up of four cadets, two rifles and two flags. So far, we've placed second place in the Manchester Drill meet. Even though we made mistakes we kept our bearing and we showed our positivity," said Carpinteyro.

The commander for New Cadet Color Guard is Yeardeley Urena and she said, "I'm having a good experience with it because the person who teaches me does a good job." She is also a New Cadet.

The Commander for Unarmed Exhibition is Dairy Moya. Exhibition is special moves that go beyond the basic marching



PHOTO BY JUAN ORAZCO

Group photo of drill team competitors.

movements. It is a lot more complicated and challenging. It is challenging because they

have to be able to multi-task various movements and they also have to do all the moves at the same time.

The Commander for Unarmed New Cadet is Benjamin Bonilla. New Cadet is just what people might think; they are the newest cadets that joined this year. They learn all the basic command and the unarmed commander chooses the New Cadet Commander. New Cadet Drill is new every year, so every year is an entirely new team. Benjamin said of the new experience, "Drill Team is fun and you get to learn new things. We meet new people and work together to compete. I like it and I don't regret joining it."

The commander for Armed is Guadalupe Guerrero. The armed team is very similar to

the unarmed team. The only difference is that they utilize rifles. They learn more things because their rifles have to be a certain way but everything else is the same thing.

The commander for Armed Exhibition is William Salas. This team also deals with rifles. In armed exhibition they learn special moves using rifles. They learn how to spin rifles and flip rifles, throw and catch rifles, and it takes a lot of practice to get it right. Sometimes it's complicated and it takes a lot of practice to ensure that everything they are doing is not only correct, but looks good. "We continue to practice even though it tough," said William Salas. It is that continual practice that makes the Drill Team so good.



PHOTO BY JUAN ORAZCO

Drill teams practice for competition every day before school starts.