



RETURN OF THE PULSE:

Indoor Color Guard Wins Wildwood Competition

By Elisa Matos and Sandy Sanchez

After taking a three year break, the PHS Indoor Color Guard, also known as the Pulse of Passaic, has come back, and they are better than ever! The Pulse of Passaic started back in 2003, under the direction of Mr. Christopher Rusca and Meagan Apgar.

The Pulse was strengthened every year. Practicing and perfecting various programs and giving many students a chance to work with the band, until the 2011 season. That was the last season for a while, but many students wanted to show their talents. Therefore, with a lot of work and dedication from students and teachers, the Pulse returned for the 2014 season.

From there they continued until 2016, which was a particularly rough year for the color guard. The season was canceled halfway, to the frustration of all those involved.

However, to be the best, Indians do not give up. We came back stronger and harder than ever. There would not be an indoor guard this year if it not for the hard work and dedication of senior, Daniel DeJesus. He helped organize members of the indoor color guard. They mentioned and convinced Mr. Rusca that they were interested and more importantly, committed giving a rebirth to the Pulse. The rest is history!

With the indoor season for 2019 approved, organizers needed to find a song and create a show. As if just to show that it could be done, they took the unfinished show from 2016, and finished it. Jennifer Sanchez, Joanne Majdanski, Omar Garcia, Jeanabelle Reyes, and Louis Ballenger came together and created the amazing show, in such little time. Indoor color guard usually starts around November but we did not start until late January.

Incorporating new styles of

dance, flag and rifle work, new formations, and, of course, new members. This hard work paid off when The Pulse won first place at the Wildwood competition! Mr. Omar Garcia, one of the staff members who also happened to be in the 2016 edition of the show, said, "I'm very excited to restart this show with a new group of kids. They work hard and deserve credit."

The miraculous comeback was due to the many members of the team and the staff that advised and coached them. Jennifer Sanchez, Omar Garcia, and Christopher Rusca believe that hard work, dedication and overall team bonding led to such a successful season. "The closer we started to become, as a color guard the better we got, spinning wise and overall just a better team" said Mr. Rusca. He definitely believes that hard work got the color guard to their success.

Mr. Garcia said, "The days pri-



PHOTO BY ELISA MATOS

Indoor Color Guard proudly display their champion status coming in first at the Wildwood, NJ, competition.

or to a competition were usually the days with the most energy and when that energy was used in the right way, they were unstoppable". Mrs. Sanchez added, "The most important aspect of what made this season so successful was the dedication and the desire to want to keep learning."

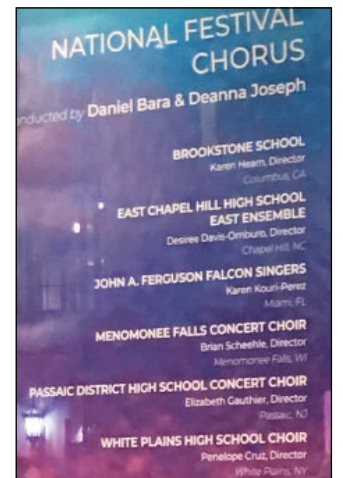
Now that there is a season of

success on the roster of PHS history, there is a reputation to live up too. Work for next year is already under way. Daniel DeJesus said, "I am so proud of what we accomplished this year, and so happy that we are trying to keep that success going through next year." The Pulse needs to remain, the BEST!



PHOTOS BY AMANDA RICE

Above: Full assembly of all the choirs at the National Festival of Chorus created a wonderful sound filling Carnegie Hall. Right: PHS Concert Choir makes the marquee at Carnegie Hall.



PHS Choir Participates in Carnegie Hall Concert

By Alyssa Perez

The old joke about needing practice to perform at Carnegie Hall is actually true. The choir has been preparing for weeks to perform in the National Festival Chorus Concert. There were also two full days of rehearsals with the other choirs, prior to the concert on the third day. It was a lot of work, but it was also a lot of fun.

There is a special feeling as you look out into the beautiful hall, knowing that people will be seeing you there. It makes the singers work harder to try to be as

beautiful in sound, as the hall is in architecture.

Weeks of practice and two days of rehearsals culminated in the final concert. Schools from around the country participated in this special event. Schools from California, Georgia, Florida, North Carolina and New York, (and Passaic) all participated and sang in this concert.

This was the seventh year PHS participated in the National Festival Chorus.

The name and theme of the concert was "Children of Peace." School choirs from around the country sang a variety

of music ranging from a classical song from Handel's Messiah, "And the Glory of the Lord," to a gospel selection "I Sing Because I'm Happy."

The rehearsals totaled about 12 intense hours. However, students came away from the trip having gained a new perspective on singing and performing as well as gaining a great amount of vocal technique.

Senior Ariana Martinez said, "It was truly special to sing with all those other schools. I learned a lot."

As well as the musical gains, they also

had a great time meeting students from all over the country and developed many new friendships. Seeing and understanding other people from around the country, how their choirs work together is the real theme of the show.

This trip gave the PHS Choir members a chance to see what other schools' choirs were all about, and to learn and grow from finding out about the other schools' musical experience.

Actually, learning and singing was really fun, but hey, being in NYC for a weekend is cool!



Avengers: Endgame review - WITH SPOILERS! See page 6

A Personal Account of the Venezuela Crisis

By Margarita Lino

Since 2010, Venezuela has been in a serious social and economic crisis. People were thinking that with Maduro everything would get better than with Chavez. In reality, oil prices continued to go lower and oil production dropped, which caused the government to cut spending. This cut the spending of things people needed such as food and medicine.

The people became angry and they decided to take action, to which the government has started using violence to repress the people. Over the past few years, this situation has become worse; people died in confrontations with police and military; families and children died of hunger and sickness. People kill others for food and medicine. Now anyone can

see the devastation of one of the richest countries, with vast oil resources, fall into a country of sadness and death.

According to a source, who knows firsthand and wishes to remain anonymous, "Living in Venezuela, is living in death. People need to be stealing from others to get food or even women giving their child up for adoption for food or money."

Survival is the only concern in Venezuela now, and when asked how anyone can survive there, he stayed silent. This is the true nature of dictatorship. Silence forced on this source by the fact that his family lives in Venezuela, and he needs to try to protect them. Dictatorships still exist, and people suffer and cannot say anything about it, for fear of protecting their own lives and the lives of their loved ones.

My family is in Ecuador (which is

very close to Venezuela). They are very worried about this situation because it is affecting them. Venezuelans are migrating (legally and illegally) to other countries, Columbia, Peru, and Ecuador. Ecuador is the main place to emigrate for Venezuelans because of the exchange rate of their currencies. Venezuelan money can still buy something in Ecuador. (At press time one Ecuadorian Sucre is 9941 Venezuelan Bolivars. And if you are keeping track for reference, one U.S. Dollar is 250,989,583 Bolivars.)

Ecuador is the favorite place for Venezuelans to immigrate because it is close and they feel like they can make a living there. To quote a source in Ecuador, "Ecuadorians are being a little uncomfortable because Venezuelans go to their

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What Did You Do Over Spring Break?

Spring Break started on Thursday and nothing happened much until Friday, when I had to go to church for Holy Friday. Nothing happened on Saturday. Then, the first Sunday was Easter so I went to church once again. Monday I went to workout at 7:30 a.m., then afterwards, my cousin was working next door so I decided to help her out, I cleaned some storage units outside. After I got out I went home and me and my sister were supposed to watch all the Marvel movies leading up to *Avengers: Endgame*. The plan was to watch three movies a day starting with Iron-Man, Hulk and Iron Man 2, then so on and so forth. On Monday, Wednesday and Friday I went to the gym. Everyday though, I watched three Marvel movies so that I was ready to watch the *Avengers*, and that was it, now just looking forward to the end of the school year and graduation.

— **Isidro Alevante**

I spent most of my time at home. I thought it'd be a time where I could put in more hours at work to save up for my car but sadly the last two weeks of April I did not work because I believe it's a Jewish holiday and they don't work for two weeks. However, I spent my break playing video games such as FIFA and Call of Duty: Black Ops 3. I would try and try to complete the Easter egg on the zombie map "Origins."

Last week on Thursday, it was my little cousin's birthday, so we cut her up a small cake and on Saturday we threw her a little party and my aunt made one of my favorite foods. Most of my spring break I spent at home sleeping.

— **Alexis Castillo**

My friend and I went to the movies to watch *The Curse of La Llorona*. I didn't watch or plan to watch *Endgame* (What?! -ed) since I am not into it. Another thing I did was that I went to go play soccer with some old friends of mine that I haven't seen in a while. Most of my friends were busy and doing other stuff.

Another thing I did was that I watched my favorite Youtube originals show. Season 2 got released during the beginning of spring break and that was the first thing I did. I finished watching season 2 in one day. I feel like I could have had a better spring break. I did spend it with my family too, but I wish I would have gone to Mexico during spring break.

— **Kevin Flores**

Usually during spring break I take the time to travel but this year was bit different. With graduating in June and then after that the real world setting in and becoming a young adult, I used my spring break to sleep and catch up on all the sleep I lost. Not only was this a time to sleep, I also used this time to really think about my life outside of high school. During spring break I went on campus tour to Saint Peter's University and New Jersey City University. I chose to stay at NJCU and major in Biology.

— **Meylin Marquez**



GOOGLE

Saint Peter's University

My spring break went by too fast!! I didn't do much for spring break but play baseball. I woke up everyday at 8 a.m. and went to practice or a game. The good part about waking up early and going to practice or a game is that after the games or practice it would still be early to do something throughout the rest of the day. After practice I would go to the gym for 2 hours and then go home and get ready to go out with my brothers and cousins. On Monday, I went from playing a game to going out to bowl with my family, then on Tuesday I went out to eat with my family (brothers and cousins). Wednesday I was exhausted from my game so I stayed home and rested. Then on Thursday I had another extreme practice ending with a work out in the weight room, which got me tired as I could be, Friday was a chill day because of the rain which canceled my practice so I just rested some more. Saturday I had a county game that we ended up losing and then I went straight to work after my game.

My spring break was not even a spring break for me because I was waking up at 8 a.m. each day which was like getting up for school. It was a very tiring week for me, I was not expecting to practice from 8-12 everyday after a game. I wasn't excited to come back to school because I really wanted to rest for a whole week and just chill.

— **Isael Pichardo-Nunez**

Spring break 2019 was the most boring break ever. I was somewhat busy during the

11 day break. The first couple of days I was planning and executing a baby shower at my house for one of my mother's coworkers. Friday, I bought all the ingredients I needed for the cupcakes and flan. I spent all night making the desserts. The next day, I spent all morning decorating the house and putting everything in order. Later that day was the party. It was somewhat fun, excluding all the kids that were running around everywhere. Next day was cleaning day. Also not very fun. The next couple of days were a blur since I was doing the same thing everyday. This was also the week my allergies decided to kick in.

However, Wednesday was different. My mother and I went out to get some errands done. Later that day, I had a financial aid consultation at William Paterson. The meeting went well, and I found out that with all the grants, financial aid and scholarships, tuition was all paid for, basically free. I had 500-something dollars left in the combined "free money" aid, that I could use for books or anything else. The next day, I fell sick. So sick I couldn't move. Mucus clogged up my nose and throat. Fever overtook my body and the headache was unbearable. Regardless, I knew I had homework to finish. And if I was to continue to stay sick and possibly get worse, today was the day I'd finish all my homework. That same day I had to do laundry. So I put on my big-girl pants and went, even though I was feel like I was nearing death. I pulled through because the next day, I was fine. No body-ache, no fever, no headache. Mucus stayed though. After all this, the last days of spring break were another blur. Nothing new, just stayed home and binge-watched some Netflix-original shows.

— **Lizette Portillo**

I basically just worked the entire week, still it was worth it to have a week off of school. I've also been busy saving up money for prom. I went out to the mall to do some regular and dress shopping because this past Saturday my cousin had her sweet sixteen which, by the way, was very beautiful and memorable. I mostly spent time packing up my things, getting rid of old clothes, and throwing out old furniture because I am moving upstairs in my apartment. I move upstairs this week which I am excited but not excited, because for one I get my own room but we have to move things upstairs.

And now about *Endgame*, I've been dying to watch that movie! Last Friday, my family and I had a whole Marvel marathon. I hope this weekend I will get the chance to watch *Endgame*. I however, am trying to avoid the spoilers. So far I have heard the movie was the best, but some scenes were sad and speechless, I hope I get to see it.

— **Chelsea Reyes**

Spring break was full of emotions. I had fun but then I cried. It all started off Thursday after school. The first thing I did was go do laundry. After that I hanged out with a friend and drove around. Had deep conversations. Later on at night my friend and I went to a little get together with more friends. I got home a little bit later than usual. Good Friday came the next day. I slept until maybe 11:30 a.m. Later in the afternoon I went to go get ice cream with my boyfriend and then after that we went to church for mass with his family. Mass was pretty nice. After mass I went out to eat with my boyfriend and hung out with one of our mutual friends.

Saturday I spent time with my family. We went out to eat, my mom, little sister, older sister, her husband and two kids. We went out to the buffet and ate really good food. After the buffet my mom and I made plans to go see a movie with one of her friends from work. We were kind of late on getting tickets in the theater in Secaucus so we ended up getting last minute tickets to *La Llorona* at the AMC in Wayne. The movie wasn't the exact same as the legend itself. The legend and the movie were different. But other than that the movie was pretty good. A solid 8.5 out of 10. Sunday I was going to get my nails done but the nail salon I went to was closed (which I should've figured since it was Easter.) I ended up just going to Dave and Busters with my boyfriend. Then went to eat at his house and spend a little bit of time with his family. Monday and Tuesday I didn't really do anything. Just watched Youtube videos and cleaned my room. Wednesday I finally went to get my nails done. I asked one of my friends Isael to pick a color for me. He chose blue so now I have blue nails :). Thursday I just saw one of my nephews for a bit. Took him to the park along with my god brother. I also went to the mall. Friday morning I went running with my mom and then in the afternoon my boyfriend, one of our mutual friends (who happens to be my best friend) and I went to a Auto Show in New York. We got there probably at 5:15 no more than that. We were there till 7:30 or 8 p.m. After that we went with our friends to go eat at Applebees. We had a really good time. After dinner we went to our friends house and hung out with them. Watched a movie and then went home. Saturday and Sunday I just spent time with my family. Went running again and that was about it.

— **Jaime Rivera**

I've been very active lately even before spring break started. I started going to the gym because my friend motivated me and I realized I wanted to start getting in shape. Once I started going I felt really good about myself, it made me want to continue going and that's what I've been doing since. I spoke with my friends and we made plans to hang out. We went to times square in NYC and to Hoboken. We were there pretty much all day, but I had a great time because we've all been so busy lately. My friends also invited me to some soccer games because they know that I enjoy watching them. I went to get everything I needed done for the college that I am going too. I didn't work because I've been really focused in getting everything I need to graduate on time, so that's my main focus at the moment. Other than that, I really enjoyed my spring break although I wish it would have been longer.

— **Fatima Rodriguez**

My spring break was pretty busy but in a good way where I had plans, usually every spring break I don't have any plans. During spring break I was able to spend time with my older sister and with the track team. On Monday we had a meet with PCTI and JFK and it was an interesting meet, the weather was all over the place. At the beginning of the meet it was pretty good, the sun was out and it wasn't as windy but as it got closer to my events it started to drizzle. On Tuesday I went to eat with my sister and the rest of my siblings at a coffee shop that is 2 blocks away from my house. We were able to catch up on what was going on in our lives and remembering the good times we had as kids.

Wednesday I started to realize that spring break was almost over and that I had to make the most out of my spring break fast. That morning I had a workout and it was pretty tiring and after practice I went home and cleaned, ate, and then took a mini nap before going to the park to play soccer. On Thursday I went to practice and it was a light day so practice was fun that day but the most interesting part was that I had a movie night. On Friday I went to my sisters house to watch movies and eat breakfast, taking the bus that day was tiring since it took 45 minutes for the bus to arrive. Saturday I had practice and later that day I was suppose to go see *Endgame* but there was an error when I was placing my gift card and it wasn't until Sunday that I went to see it and well it was a great movie.

— **Diana Romero-Cuatleoyotl**

My spring break overall was boring, it consisted of the basic stuff. I think that the main thing I did in the break was to move back with my mom. After six months of living on my own I decided to go back. On the other hand, unfortunately I wasn't able to get extra hours at work because they've recently cut down hours due to more employees. It sucked because I wanted more hours to help pay for prom and the rest of my senior expenses. When break started I searched for a prom dress, still looking. I haven't been able to find one I actually like. Neither was I able to attend the police program because the school was shut down, I certainly didn't miss physical training.

I saw people talk about the new Marvel movie, *Endgame*. I saw some of the previous movies you have to see before watching the new one. Watching *Endgame* didn't really catch my attention but only because I thought it would bring an ending no one would really like. I will probably enjoy watching it with my siblings.

— **Kimberly Torres-Barragan**



GOOGLE

Traditional Indian food

This year's spring break was very different from those in the past. Usually during this period of time, I would be spending a normal and quiet time at home playing video game, but this year, in celebration of my sister's marriage, my family decides to scheduled an the whole week of the spring break vacation in India. I haven't been on a vacation in a long time; that's why I was hoping I would be able to have a good time. When we got to the India, my first impression was, "It's so hot here!" Then I went to visit all of my relatives and friend houses, this sense of time was very refreshing. Every evening I was going to play cricket with my friends.

In addition, at night all my relatives and cousins would come to visit my house to made the preparation for my sister's marriage. Then in that five days of period my cousins and I had decided to divide in group of three that each group would host the party

that five nights for us. Every day I was having joy eating traditional Indian food. I also drove motorcycle which I wouldn't be possibly able to do in the U.S. All of this wasn't the only thing that made me feel that this year's spring break was different from before. This vacation left a very deep impression on me. I am unable to use words to explain how special and how important this period of time was for me. At the end, yes, I did watch the movie *Avengers: Endgame* at home.

— **Munavacharhusain Bunglawala**

What I did over spring break wasn't even that much, but what I can say is that I did have some fun and I did get some rest. On spring break I went to a museum in NY, with my family which it was so fun. Also when we were in NY, I had fun taking pictures and walking around shopping which it was a pretty good day. I worked a lot in spring break which it was part of the plan to work as many days as possible to get ready for Prom. I worked a lot of days not only because it needed the money but also because i wasn't really doing anything at home, because i didn't go away. Which it had planned to go on vacation but it never happened because it didn't went how i had it in mind.

Also I spend my spring break on going to the gym working out. It was one of the most active times, but I usually don't go because I usually don't have the time and energy for it. I made it to the gym for like 5 days of the week, which it was a good thing. Also what I did over the spring break was think and write about when it come back to school about the important things that I have to take care first. Also I went to visit the college where I'm going after high school which is Montclair state university, I loved the school.

— **Gladis de los Santos**

I did a lot stuff, besides sleep and watch television. On Friday, my friends and I took that day to check some available halftime jobs at school #13. It took us like one hour walking and at the end the school was closed, so we didn't have time to ask for the job and we decided to just live. On Saturday I also went out with my friends. We got to run and do some exercise in the park. Also, because the weather was awesome we bought ice cream. After that we all played together on the swing which it was funny because one of my friends fell to the floor by accident. Then Sunday, Monday and Tuesday I stayed at home watching some movies with my little puppy, slept a lot and just relaxed. However, on Wednesday my brother and I went to Rutgers University which is where my brother is studying now. That day he had a meeting, and he invited me so I went with him and we had so much fun there. One of the thing we did there was get involved on some type of promotions that they were doing.

On Thursday I decided to go visit my aunt, I stayed there until Saturday. While at my aunt's house, we went to the zoo, which is one of my favorite places. Also I did my hair, like put in natural curls, and played a little bit with my two annoying cousins. After I came back to my home, my mother, big brother and I had dinner at a restaurant, then we just relaxed the rest of the day and for the end of the spring break.

— **Gabriela Liriano Perez**

I just stayed home for a couple of days and went to practices because I had to train for a race in Philadelphia. I left for Pennsylvania on Thursday for a race on Friday and Saturday. Both days weren't so good. On Friday it was raining and cold and I had to run two events and on Saturday it was just a little cold so it made it more tolerable and after the race I went back home but before me and my team and coach went home we had to try a Philly cheese steak sandwich and it was delicious.

— **Luis Peralta**

My spring break was great. I traveled to Washington for almost a whole week. My mom and siblings live over there. It was so good to see them it's been a couple months already. I missed them a lot. My baby sister has grown so much and it makes me sad but I am really happy I got to see her. She usually wouldn't let me carry her but this time she liked me much more and it really made me happy.

My mom, I missed her a lot. She's coming for my graduation and I'm so happy about that. After I graduate we're going to travel a lot together and I couldn't be any happier. Sometimes I would like to go to school over there but it complicates a lot of things. It confuses me a lot. But I'll be so much more focused. That's the only bad thing about going to see them. After I move back I tend to be very homesick and it confuses my plans a lot. In other news, I also got my license this spring break. (Be careful on the road. -Ed.)

— **Damaris Ramirez**

Over my spring break I went shopping for some summer clothes and summer items I needed just to be prepared. I also went out with my friends to the park to play soccer at school #11 and also to a soccer field at East Rutherford. Also since I am not going to prom my friends and I planned to go to Atlantic City



GETTY IMAGES

Minneapolis

for prom weekend and we found a condo where we can all stay.

I went to the theater about three times; first I watched *The Weeping Women* that came out on April 19 with family. The second movie I watched was *Avengers: Endgame* in 3D it was really interesting although three hours sitting wasn't that fun. And I also watched *DUMBO* with my siblings, they enjoyed it and I did too.

— **Jocelyn Ramirez**

I went to Minnesota with my aunt and uncle. We went to visit some of my friends family, older people that I didn't know. They were nice people. They showed me Canada and we went to different lakes and even visited the city of Minneapolis. I went in the lake and the water was freezing. That's about it. It wasn't that much stuff to do there but I got to met nice people. One of the most exiting part was boarding the plane, it was my first plane trip in 5 years.

— **Sergio Ramos-Hernandez**

During the spring break I worked almost every day except for two days. During these two days I had to attend the Indian wedding of my cousin's sister so I had to attend the wedding, which was at 8 p.m. But I had to prepare for the traditional ritual, so I had to go there at 7 in the morning. It was fun but I didn't get any rest.

During the five working days, I worked about 12 hours on Saturday and Sunday, so that I can save up for college expenses. I worked 8 hours a day for three other days, when not attending the wedding, and I also attended one baby shower, so my spring break was a total disaster.

— **Devraj Rana**

This year I did many activities which I had wanted to do for a long time. The fact of being in school and having so much homework sometimes does not allow me to go with my plans to go somewhere but I was able to take advantage of this free week to go out and forget the school routine a bit. I have always liked to spend time with my mother but it is something that we can do rarely since she is always working and when she rests I have projects or I have to study for exams. I think that this week of rest has made me well to recharge batteries and return with more energy to school. Some of the things I did during my summer vacation was to go shopping, go eat with my boyfriend, go out with my family and sleep the hours of late sleep which has made me feel very good.

One of the things I wanted to do some time ago is to go out with my mom for an entire afternoon and that's what we did last week. I have also gone out with all my family to play bowling and eat tacos in our favorite restaurant. The other afternoons I spent going out with my boyfriend to eat pizza, going to the movies to watch movies and even went to play basketball in the park since he had been doing good weather. Also, during the break I could go to buy things to take care of my skin since I had stopped doing it since the beginning of school due to lack of time. It should be noted that in my free time during the mornings I used to fill in online work forms and yesterday I finally got one. In short, these spring holidays have been great and you could say that I have returned the inspiration to move forward with both my studies and my personal life.

— **Aura Real**

Spring Break fell short this year. I worked extra hours and spent more time with my daughter. Working the extra hours I was able to pay my senior dues and go clothes shopping for my daughter. I celebrated Easter indoors and made a cute Easter basket for my daughter, She went Easter hunting around the house and I dressed her up in yellow and white.

Everyone was talking about *Endgame* but I did not go watch it, I was so busy. I spent my last days with my boyfriend who left for Army boot camp in Georgia, so I was very emotional. I was not planning to go to prom, but my recruiter decided to pay my ticket and help me go, since it's "a once in a lifetime" thing. In conclusion, my spring break was pretty chill and just like any regular week.

— **Sheyla Rivera**

Throughout spring break, I took care of my niece while my big sister went to work. I thought it would be difficult but she mostly

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slept and I took her to the park a lot during the week to keep her distracted. On the 27th, I went to the park around 8 in the morning to clean up. I did it to get rid of centrals that I have but it turned out to be a lot of fun.

On the 19th, I went to the movie theaters to watch Dumbo. I cried so much, from the beginning to the very end. On the 28th, I went to go see *Endgame*! It was an amazing movie, but it left me with mixed emotions. I didn't expect for the characters that died, TO DIE. (NO SPOILERS! - Ed.) But I'm happy that everyone ended up coming back and the fighting scene at the end was just incredible.

- Diana Rivera

Spring break was pretty great, I got to do many things with my family and friends. I played soccer with my friends and it felt good being on the field after so long. It has been so long since I played soccer, that when we were playing a game I was out of breath. I also went to go eat breakfast with one of my friends. Most of my spring break consisted of cooking and cleaning. But other than that it was pretty good. I lost a lot of money during spring break because I had to plan a surprise party.

During spring break, I had to buy a lot of things because on Friday it was one of my niece's birthday. She was turning 11 years old. Since I didn't have school, I wanted to plan her a surprise party because her parents weren't able to be there on her birthday because of work. I bought her a piñata, balloons, a gift, some decoration and a cake and some extra snacks. Planning out the surprise party sort of stressed me out because I was the only one doing it. After hours of preparation, I finally finished. The look on her face when she came into my house, she was so happy. Her two friends came and spend the day with her. I may have lost money but it was worth seeing her happy. It was the best thing that happened during my spring break.

- Alexandra Robles

I spent time with my family. We all went out to places just to explore for a day or two. I also had a lot of family parties but only a few I am grateful today actually have a bond reunite with the family we all get to see each other again have fun & just enjoy. I also was working on my music throughout the break, just collaborating with other people that are into the music industry. I had a family cookout which I called a "BBQ" in the back of my house. I invited some friends to come over. We all get to have great vibes with each other, we all went out to the mall just shop a few things around in certain stores. We also went out to bowling alley and spent probably 3 hours just playing around. I did work for a few hours to make money & save for myself.

I prepared myself for prom before the spring break. I got my clothing for prom, shoes, prom tickets weeks before prom I got my business taken care for that. I am ready from prom & graduation. Also during the spring break I got to see *Avengers: Endgame* which was a good & sad movie.

- Damian Rotte

I was thankful that the spring break happened because I really wanted to take a break and have fun. During the first day I had to take care of some documents so I had to go to the office to have it fixed. Then I got sick on Monday and felt really sore so I really can't go outside with my current condition that time. The weather was really nice but I couldn't enjoy it sadly. My mom blamed it on the gadgets and my sleeping time so she forced me to eat veggies and fruits for the week. So they bought a bunch of strawberries, a bunch of bananas and I have to finish a tray of strawberries everyday. I liked it but it was just too much for me so I hate strawberries now. Then we watched the movie *Endgame* last Saturday along with my relatives. We went in as a family and my friends in the Philippines already warned me about it since I'm very emotional. I ended up crying in some parts of the movie such as when (SPOILER! - Ed.) Black Widow/Natasha died. Her death was unexpected so I was really shocked while tears was leaving my eyes. My mom went with us but she really doesn't watch the movie and as expected she didn't get it.

During the spring break I tried the app called duolingo to learn another language which was Welsh. The only reason I discovered the app was because of the meme. The app is infamous for harassing its users. Not really harass but it will keep bugging you until you finish your daily requirements. I tried to confirm if its true and it did spam so I tend to my requirements as soon as I wake up so it will stop notifying me. If you're also competitive, the app will notify you if someone took



Avengers:Endgame

GOOGLE

your spot in the ranking system that they have. This is really frustrating because I race with people but it's worth it because you get to have fun and learn in the process. Aside from the duolingo thing I was just casually playing the game granblue fantasy and ragnarok on my phone. There was an event that needs grinding and farming so I had to play to get the items before the event ends. Since it was like a war event I had to wake up really early to complete since the main server is in Japan. Since it's JST, the time I'm needed for the game is not really good for my soul. I really didn't do anything school related aside from the extra credit for creative writing because I wanted to have a break from school. The purpose of spring break is to relax your brain from school so why would I stress myself during that time. That's what I think it may be different for the others.

- Mark Zoren B. Valmonte

Over this spring break I did nothing interesting however I had tennis practice everyday including weekends, played video games, watched *Avengers: Endgame* and final season of *Game of Thrones*. We played in County tournament at Wayne Valley on Tuesday, April 23rd. Unfortunately first time ever we all lost in first round and headed back home with 0 points, sure it was very disappointing however our varsity line up was so unbelievable, 4 out 7 players were in varsity that has never held a racquet before so yeah, that is out of the way.

Apart from tennis I would play game specifically Counter Strike till late night, helped my parents at home when I was available. On Saturday 27th went to watch *Endgame* with friends

- Mueen Bunglawala

There wasn't much I did over the break while there not much there was some exciting things I did. I mostly only went to some car meet, saw some nice looking car unfortunately a few accidents too. I was able to see *Endgame* before any of it was spoiled for me. Although, it was difficult to find tickets, I was able to. The seats were not the best but it's better than to get the movie spoiled. After that I pretty much just stay home and just chill.

- Gabriel Alonso

I went shopping for some summer clothes and summer items I needed just to be prepared. Some days I stayed home just chilling. I went to the park when the days were good. Since I'm not going to prom, my boyfriend and I were planning things we can do during that week. I spent time with my family and we went out to eat at a Mexican restaurant. I went to the theater to watch the weeping women that came out on April 19 with my family. The second movie I watched was *Avengers: Endgame* in 3D. It was really interesting although three hours sitting wasn't that fun. I ate a lot of popcorns because they are my favorite. Overall I spent my spring week doing thing I love.

- Rosemary Huaroc

I went to the Dominican Republic with my mom and my dad. We went to visit our family and friends. I had so much fun with my cousin and friends and we went to so many place in a week. We ate a lot; "Mangu" "Rice and beans" "Chicharon" and many more things. We went to the beach and it was so much fun. We also surprised my grandma, she didn't know my mom was pregnant and when she saw her she was in shock.

We went to a little mall in the Dominican Republic where I bought a lot of things for my friends and family back home. I also went to see my favorite artist, "Ozuna." I also went to my grandfather's beach house and ate a lot of "Coco and Mango." This was the best spring break ever.

- Morelia Lora DeJesus

I went to Virginia Beach and Maryland for a college tour. Every year for spring break, Passaic County Community College Upward Bound Program organize a college tour for 3 to 4 days. The program pays for the hotel, dinner and transportation. This year we visit five college and universities. They all have an amazing campus and great opportunities that they offer to students. Instead of just visiting colleges and university for the week, we also went to the mall and visit the Virginia Air and Space Center. They offer over 150 exhibits and had more than 30 historic aircrafts. One of them includes the Apollo 12 Command Module. Other than that, it was pretty warm and sunny for the week so when we got back to the hotel we all went to the pool to cool off.

- Jocelyn Martinez

I just worked more shifts, not necessarily telling my job I was on my spring break, just that I wanted a couple more shifts so I would still come in at 4 and not have to work a morning shift. I went gift shopping and shopping for myself buying a new much needed headset as my old one broke during the break, so I spent several hours questioning FedEx over their estimated delivery time as well as having my package delivery date being pushed back on two occasions yet to be received by the time I'm writing this. I also just spent more time with my parents and friends.

I did watch *Endgame* looking for the tickets on a Saturday was the first hurdle, no inter-



123RF.COM/CEKMA13 Dominican Republic

missions being the second and the hurt to my moral of not being able to finish my large popcorn during the THREE HOUR movie, I took my friend as he is more into this the MCU than me and paid for his ticket the movie was less action and more sentimental, lighthearted, and everyone had some type of closure. Could have gone without the "She's not alone" girl power moment as well it really served no purpose in the fight as they mean to tell me every male simply fled the battlefield and let them have their moment it was just a little unexpected and underwhelming but other than that still a great, great movie and worth the wait.

- Ricardo Molina

Spring break only lasted a week and I went by pretty slow for me. Most likely since I did not do anything that major but it was okay. I was able to rest a lot and play video games majority of the day. Of course my mother was okay with it if I did what I was supposed to do first. Eat, do laundry and clean portions of the house day by day. When I was done, I was able to do whatever I wanted and help out occasionally if my mother asked me to do one quick thing.

In my video game that I play, I was able to climb in ranks and was able to beat my career high. It took most of the week but I did it and I felt accomplished. I had a friend with me so we made it to a new rank together. If you go to your friend list in the game, you can see who has the highest rank overall and I was happy to see my name on the top. It was the end of the season which is 2 months long so the season was going to end soon and then a new season with a new rank. It's exciting but I wasn't able to stay in that rank since I lost a few games but it's okay. I'm ready to start a new season again.

- Alyssa Perez

The start of the spring break was great since my friend had already booked the tickets for *Avengers Endgame* and I was super excited for it. I went out to the mall with my friends almost everyday. I also had dinner in a restaurant with my parents. I also had the counties for tennis which we lost the first round. Other than that, I started watching the marvel movies for a recap.

It was a good recap to watch almost 21 movies. Then the day for *Endgame* was finally here. On that day I had practice for tennis so I went to the practice. My show was at 8 so me and my friends left at 4, bought some *Avengers* T-shirts and then went out to eat. I was home at 3 and was pretty tired but it was worth it.

- Dhruv Rana

I went to Dominican Republic for six days. I went from 04/18-04/24. I went because I wanted to celebrate my birthday weekend with my loved ones over there. It was very fun for me. I went out to eat with my family and went to the pool with them too. I rested a lot over there, it was very peaceful for me because I was very stressed here because of work and the Pre-Police academy that I was in. It was a great spring break for me, I did some great things over there and got to see my dad.

After I came back from Dominican Republic I still had 4 days left of spring break, I decided to work a lot of hours those four days and took care of business. It is a good feeling to get all your things done and become a better person.

- Cinthia Suero

All I did was stay home and clean up. I was also doing my work and catching up on any work that I had to complete. I began studying for my AP exam which is on May 9.

I actually started my spring break an entire week early due to my family having to leave to Dominican Republic before spring break started. So, I initially started my spring break in the middle of April. I stayed in Dominican Republic for 2 weeks; I had a great and a terrible time. I spent a lot of my time in Los Rios, which is by the capital of the Dominican Republic, Santo Domingo. I also got to go to Punta Cana and I stayed at a resort for 4 days. It was right along the beach and they have almost 9 different restaurants based from countries around the world like Mexico, France, and Japan. It was really nice but it was also really expensive. I was also able to go to Boca Chica where I went to the beach and the water was so warm and clear. It was beautiful; I was able to eat fish right from the sea and buy myself some bracelets as souvenirs.

My time was also terrible because my great grandmother had passed away while I was there. I was really upset that I didn't get much time with her while she was alive being that I was always in the United States and she was always in DR. While being in Los Rios, I realized how much my people live in pover-

ty. The streets are so terribly deconstructed, laws aren't enforced there, people get murdered and kidnapped all the time. The houses there will sometimes have the lights go out for hours or days at a time and most people get water from fire hydrants outside. It just reminded me to always be humble and grateful of what you have. My family had to live through that growing up and they moved here to give the rest of our generations to come, like me, to live a better life and have more opportunities to succeed. It was a very humbling experience and even though it involved tragedy, I learned a lot and I enjoyed most of my time there. I can't wait to go back and see my family again.

- Carlines Espinosa

This year's spring break was very different from those in the past. Usually during this period of time, I would be spending a normal and quiet time at home, but this year, in celebration of my niece's birthday, my sister scheduled an all inclusive five day vacation in Florida.

I haven't been on a vacation in a long time; that's why I was hoping I would be able to have a good time. Who knew I would get sick just a few days before we were to head out. I thought I wouldn't be able to enjoy this vacation, but who knew that once we got to Florida, I suddenly felt that my body was extremely light, as if I hadn't been sick at all.

When we got to Florida, my first impression was, "It's so hot here!" I think it was the weather that improved my condition. The weather there is warm there all year round and the temperament of the people there is also very good. Maybe it's just a stereotype, but I've always felt that all people there have great personalities. I seemed to have lost my sense of time in Florida, and my attitude became like the attitudes of the people there, "No need to rush, just take it easy!" Having always been in the busy and bustling city, to me, this sense of time was very refreshing. I spent 4 happy days there.

- Luisa Fernandez

I actually got to see a lot of movies at the movie theatre, with my family and friends. Then we went to Six Flags, for the rides and had so much fun. The movies I saw at the movie theatre were *The Curse of La Llorona*, *Pet Sematary*, and *Avengers: Endgame*. Watching these movies was a whole lot of fun. But the movie I least liked was *The Curse of La Llorona*. I was expecting more horror on watching this movie, since there was old stories about how scary this myth was. It could have been so much better, in my point of view.

Something else I did was that I got to see my family that lives far away from Passaic. It was great seeing them again after so many years. It's always a good feeling seeing relatives from far away. We all got to catch up on so many things that had happened throughout time. My spring break was actually amazing, I can't say it could have been better because it was a actually good spring break.

- Stephanie Garcia

My spring break was boring, it wasn't as interesting as I thought it would be. I quit my job that Saturday at the beginning spring break and I do no regret it at all. I made a promise that I was going to work out a lot now that I don't have a job or anything to do but I ended up going running the first 2 days of the week, then I got too lazy to go back. And during spring break was when I decided I actually wanted to go to prom. I also slept a lot and watched the Black Panther like 4 times because its such a good movie and I didn't get a chance to watch *Endgame* so I thought why not just watch other Marvel movies since it is the hype now. However, I was not ready to come back to school because I just feel like spring break was 3 minutes long. I wanted to cry when I was waking up for school because its just so devastating that the break is over but the thought that I graduate in 44 days is what is keeps me going.

- Eva Medina

This spring break all I did was work extra hours. I also bought another car this week and I'm glad I did. There was not much to my break besides that. I also went to a party On Saturday, in Pennsylvania, came back home Sunday afternoon. That's about it for my spring break I actually didn't have one.

- Brian Paulino Abreu

The week after spring break, was the JROTC Nationals Competition. So that whole week I practiced every morning and afternoon. Some days it was really hot so it was really hard to focus. On some days it even rained, which wasn't as bad as the heat but it was still distracting.

During spring break I also started my new job at Wendy's, I only worked for a little because it was mostly training, but it's going good so far.

A few days before spring break, I ordered my prom dress, so during the week of spring break I was tracking it online because I was excited to get it. Although I wanted to, I did not see *Avengers: Endgame*, but I did see it a week after online. Even though a few people did spoil it, which I'm still upset about, it was still a great movie.

- Janette Robinson

Throughout the break I did various activities. I had the chance to finally catch up with my sleep which was the best feeling. Not only that but I had time to focus on my self care for example using face masks and being relaxed vibing out to music throughout the process. I feel like spring break gave me a chance to get myself together mentally and spiritually-not worry about homework, whether I completed my work etc.

Especially going to Brooklyn throughout the week staying over there with my cousin catching up. Though this week went by so quick I enjoyed my free time going on daily walks, being active. I also went to look for a prom dress which I did get and it's cute. I went shopping as well which makes me happy, releases my stress. Overall, my week was well spent. Looking forward to graduation now.

- Irais Rojas-Ahuatl

What I did this spring break was not all that much, I stayed home on Thursday because I knew that nobody was going to be doing any work, and I was right. I had did all my work previously like every other day so I can be free all spring break. I went to go apply for jobs during the break and hopefully I get a call back so that I can start earning some income you know. On the 23rd I got a game called *Mortal Kombat 11*, loved the story, great game. And I played games with my friends online and that was most of my week.

Also I was trying to avoid being spoiled about *Endgame* while I went on instagram to see what was going on, a lot of memes and fake spoilers about the movie, but I plan to see the movie very soon, maybe Friday this week I will see it. Hope it is good like the older movies. Also have to wait after the credits just to see if there is anything after it considering that they always do that. That was how I spent my week. It was a nice spring break, hope it was longer though.

- Nyzir Roman



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Prom dress shopping

I worked a lot at Domino's Pizza. I was mostly at work than being home. Also on Saturday it was my step sister birthday and we made her a birthday surprise. On Saturday I had fun and ate a lot of cake and food. Spring break week was stressing a lot to me because I haven't got anything for prom. I'm freaking out that someone else going to have the same dress as me. My mind this whole week was crazy because I had so much stuff in mind like going to the gym, work, preparing for prom, babysit and more. On Saturday morning I went to the gym to start losing weight which felt pretty good. No, I haven't seen *Endgame* yet because I'm waiting to be off one of these days to go see it.

- Kathian Sanabria

Spring break was little boring I was home cleaning and cooking for my parents. I got to see my best friend, we went out to eat and have fun. I got the chance to do some virtual work and help my friend look for her prom dress. I went to visit this beauty school in Hackensack to get more information. I also got to sleep more and stop stressing.

I got to spend time with my little nephew and take care of him. I went to the park and to parties. I really didn't do a lot in spring break it went by fast I was planning to go to my aunt house in PA but she had plans already.

- Yeimi Tula

I spent most of my days staying home playing PUGB a mobile game. I was playing that game with my cousin who slept over my house and basically spent her spring break with me. I went to New York with my best friend and cousin. We tried a Korean drink that tasted like root beer because while being in New York you have to try new things. So that was cool trying something from a different culture.

I also took my little brother to his baseball practices. He had two games over the break but sadly his team lost both games :(he has one this week so hopefully this will be our win. I was able to catch up on some shows that I didn't have to time to watch because of school that was good. So yeah this basically sums up my spring break and no I'm not glad to be back but just two more months and I'm out :).

I went out and hung out with my friends. Had very good and close games that were very competitive. Bought my prom dress and made appointments. Did some spring cleaning. I did not see *Endgame*, but everyone else was, and they are still is talking about it. Had good sleep even though my sleeping

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PROM 2019!

By Yeni Hernandez Flores

For years, as long as I can remember, all I wanted to do is get to senior year and go to the Prom. It is not just a dance, but also a celebration of all the years we have been in school, and that it will end soon is a little sad, but also exciting. It is a chance to get dressed up, have a fancy date, and pretend to be ROYALTY.

The theme of this year's senior class is royalty. We really did feel like royalty too. The venue for the prom this year was The Legacy Castle in Pompton Plains. It looks like a castle too. As everyone drove up in the best car they could get a hold of, and stepped out all done up, we felt so special.

It was such an amazing feeling one you walked through the arch into the castle. Seeing everyone dressed up in gowns and tuxedos was so nice.

"It was pretty dope," said Nasier Norman.

On the big balcony everyone was provided stunning views, just like looking out on your subjects, you know, if you

were royalty. The views were incredible, but just being there, seeing all your friends that you have known for years, being together was great. Everyone was so happy.

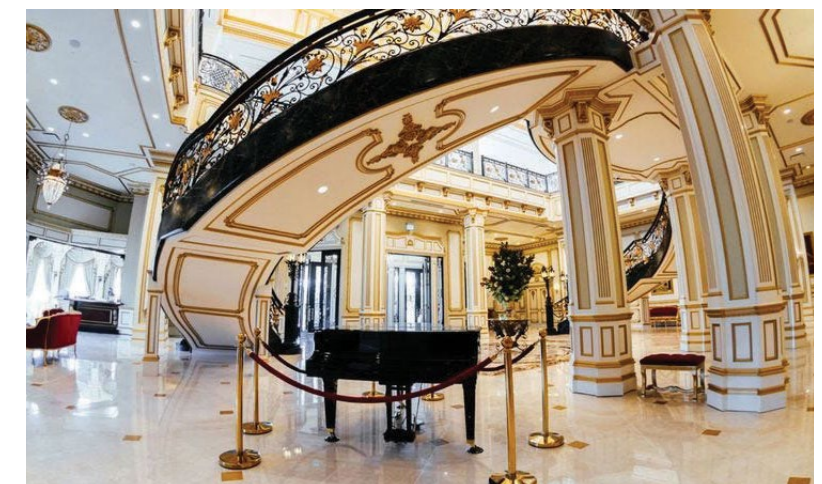
Music at a dance is critical, and the DJ was great. He played a pretty good mix of songs so that everyone had a chance to hit the floor. The music and the lights got the crowd hyped up.

All that dancing makes you hungry and thirsty. There was a big buffet that went all night long. Genny Rivas said of the food, "The mini burgers and mini cheesesteaks were so good, I was cleaning off everyone's plate."

There were also cocktails and even a variety of desserts afterward.

The committee that created the decorations should be congratulated as well. The crown centerpieces were so beautiful. They added to the whole experience.

The prom this year was a huge success. Students had a great time. Mr. Maisonet said, "I am so proud of my senior class. They behaved so well. Truly they are royalty."



Endgame Review WITH Spoilers!

By Henry Hernandez

Now that enough people have had the opportunity to see *Endgame*, this review can be written with all the gory spoilers intact. Know that if you haven't seen it yet, what are you waiting for?

Ever since so many characters at the end of *Infinity War* blew away as dust, after the snap heard across the universe, fans have been waiting for the last installment of the third phase of *Avengers*. So many movies have led to this point and there was a lot riding on the line for this final episode.

It would have been so easy for this movie to be anti-climactic, with all the hype that the action just could not live up to it. However, this was not the case. In fact, this three-hour movie kept the audience in suspense the entire time. This was a real movie and not just a wrap up of the previous films. Actually, there were many unanswered questions at the end of this film. As promised, there will be spoilers.

The somber feeling at the end of *Infinity War* carries over to the beginning of *Endgame*. Half of the galaxy's population as well as many beloved characters were turned to dust with the snap of Thanos's (Josh Brolin) fingers. We know that many of them were going to come back, especially Spider-Man because he gets his own film, (Spider-Man Far From Home) later this summer. The real question was how were they going to do it?

Of course, time travel would play a part, especially since we found out that Thanos destroyed

the stones as soon as he finished his deed. After he did what he set out to do, he destroyed the only source of power that could reverse his work.

It takes Toni Stark (Robert Downy Jr.) only about five minutes to crack the time paradox formula (with some prompting and the discovery of the time loops from the quantum realm from Ant-Man, Scott Lang (Paul Rudd). We knew that was coming from the end credit scene of Ant-Man and the Wasp.

The really neat thing that going back in time (actually going back to three different times) (told you there were spoilers) was a great way to reminisce about the variety of movies over the many years leading up to this film. It was familiar and rewarding to relive the great scenes from scenes like the Hulk smashing up New York during the end of the first *Avengers* movie, especially since he is embarrassed by his fury now that he is Professor Hulk.

Thor also gets the chance to talk with his mother one last time, and The Hulk gets a lot of insight from The Ancient One. This is not your average time travel movie because when time is changed in the past, a new timeline is created, and it does NOT affect our time. It is mind bending and confusing sometimes, but it also creates a little humor when many of the key characters are talking about how time works using popular movies, like *Back to the Future* and *Die Hard*.

A touching scene was when characters like Steven Rogers (Chris Evans) sees and watches through a window, his girl Peggy

Carter (Hayley Atwell), working for SHEILD. Another great scene is when Toni Stark finally gets the chance to face his father Howard Stark (John Slattery). It was on the day of Toni's birth and his father is excited and nervous about being a father, which is a side of Howard that Toni had never seen before.

Of course, the action of this movie, all moves towards the final battle scene, where portals from all the parts of the Marvel universe open to bring warriors to fight Thanos. It gives a chance, and in fact a final chance, for Captain America to "assemble" the *Avengers*. Of course we all waited for Thor to become thin again, and Thanos seems oddly easy to beat in the first scene and impossibly difficult in this scene. We could also have done without the scene that actually interrupted the action, to let all the female "I have your back" heroes scene.

In the end, this was a movie about the past, and about a questionable future. The past is organized and resolved in a way that brings peace to many of the character. Toni Stark and his father, Thor and his mother, Steve Rogers and his girlfriend, all get a second chance.

However, the future is uncertain; Captain America passes on the shield to Sam Wilson, The Falcon, (Anthony Mackie). Toni Stark does not get to remain with his family and raise his daughter, Morgan Stark (Lexi Rabe), even though Happy Hogan (Jon Favreau) promises to buy her as many cheeseburgers as she wants. Thor starts a new career, again giving up the throne to Valkyrie (Tessa Thompson), and becoming

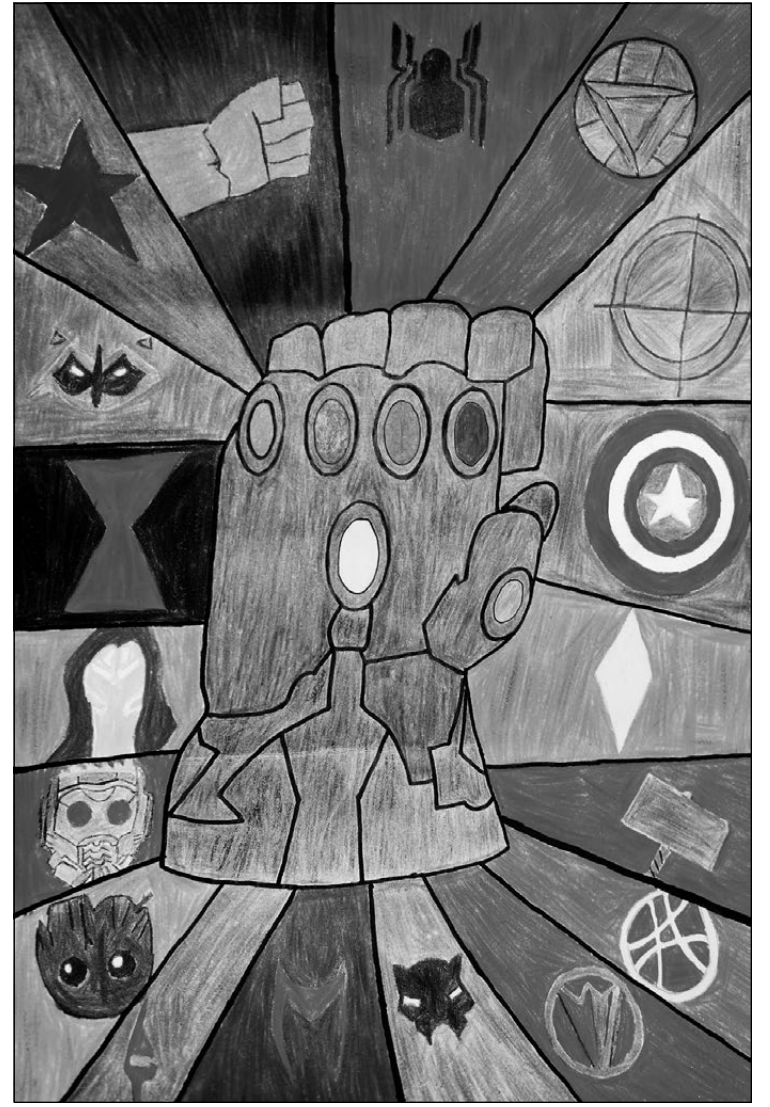


ILLUSTRATION BY RAFAEL RAMIRO

an Asgardian of the Galaxy. Bruce Banner (Mark Ruffalo) has now melded with the Hulk, to become Professor Hulk.

One of the best subplots is the story of Clint Barton, Hawkeye (Jeremy Renner) and Natasha Romanov, Black Widow (Scarlett Johansson). Natasha redeems him from his dark world, after the loss of his entire family. She is sacrificed willingly for the Soul

Stone, to be able to beat Thanos. Therefore, he comes back and she does not.

In the end, this is a huge story that cannot be told in one or even two movies. The Russo brothers did a great job. This is a fitting end to the first major phase of the *Avengers*, but it is really more of a transition into the next phase of action and adventure. I cannot wait.

Spring Break

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schedule is messed up now from going to sleep like at 4.

This spring break could've went better if I didn't get sick towards the end but the weather was nice throughout the week. At my game I hit a triple also went 2-2 in one of my games.

— Marissa Hernandez

I spent most of the time with my sister, my boyfriend, and working during spring break. During the first few days, I went to work and spent that weekend with my boyfriend and his mom. Then, I went to visit my sister in Dunellen, New Jersey. We went prom shopping since my prom is coming up. I found a dress and a pair of heels to wear for that event. We also went out to eat a lot and spent some time with our cousins. I'm glad I was able to spent some time with my sister, because we haven't seen each other in so long and she helped me find a dress for prom. Now I don't have to worry about finding a dress.

When I got back to Passaic, I had to go back to work which was fine, because I wasted a lot of money at the mall. During the last few days, I hung out with my boyfriend a lot. We went to the mall to do some shopping and we also went to see the End Game. I'm not really into Marvel movies like that but he wanted to see it so bad so we went together. The movie was awesome, I really enjoyed it. I guess you can say, I had a good spring break.

— Alyah Jimenez

Yeah, I went to see *Endgame* and *La Llorona* during the break. *La Llorona* wasn't really scary, it was a waste of money,



WARNER BROS
The Curse of La Llorona

because I live for scary movies and I sobbed so much during *Endgame* I was dehydrated when I got out of the movie theatre.

— Anonymous

Over the spring break I got a job at Chick-fil-A. It's not hard labor but customer service is still customer service so it's not easy. I work at the mall which also has a movie theater. *Avengers: Endgame* came out this weekend so after that 3 hour movie all those hungry people decided they wanted Chick-fil-A. The lines were really long and I was on register. I was lucky to survive.

I was unfortunately spoiled on the *Endgame* movie. The spoiler was on a random instagram comment section. It nearly ruined my spring break but getting employed saved it. I caught up on sleep during the break and also bought some clothes. Overall the break was a nice 6/10.

Over spring break I tried to be as productive and hardworking as possible. I was thinking of taking another day to work more and get more money, but I had other important things to do that taking extra hours during days I did work was the best way to make more money. Tuesday was a day I thought I would stay home and do nothing and catch up with some of my school work, but so much of the house laundry was piling up too much so I went and did laundry on my day off instead. Thursday was the original day I wanted to see *Endgame* to avoid spoiler, but there was an event at PCCC and I thought I had to go since it was about a degree I was planning to go for. After the presentation, I stayed a little longer to talk with a friend who was at the top of the class and was studying the same thing I wanted to study.

Saturday was the big day, the day when I went to see the *Endgame*. To most people, it was just another big summer movie that must be watched to talk about later. But to many others, it was the end of an era and will hold a special place in many people's heart forever. From the movie, I loved the way it started with every character changing and at the lowest point in their lives with iron man settling down, Thor getting fat over the guilt of not aiming for the head, and Captain America telling others to move on and forget the past. I could go on but I don't want to get



GOOGLE

Chick-fil-a

too emotional, I am grateful to watch all these movies with many other incredible fans of the franchise and would love to experience it all over again.

— Stephen Mejia

During my spring break, I tried to keep myself productive. I went to church for Holy Thursday, Friday and Easter. I did research on the history and structure of policing in the United States, Sir Robert Peel, and his nine principles. After learning more about the topic, I had to write an essay. That assignment was for my criminal justice class. Also, I studied for my AP Psychology and Spanish exam. I read a book of my favorite romance author Nicholas Sparks. I went to watch the *Curse of La Llorona* and *Endgame*. For the *Curse of La Llorona*, it was good but it could've been better. The three hours of *Endgame* was worth it but sadly someone spoiled it for me. On the last day of my spring break, I went to a Mexican parade in Philadelphia.

— Monzerrath Perez

Spring break was exactly 7 days (excluding the weekends) filled with relaxation. I was able to spend my break with my mom's side of the family at their house. What's so cool about the house that they live in, since it's a 3-story home, in each floor there lives one of my relatives. So any time I was bored I would just go down to the 1st or 2nd floor and just hang out with whoever was there. My break also consisted of being active. The beginning of the week the temperature rose which meant we were able to play outside in our yard or go to the park. It was a very fun active week.

My break also consisted of catching up on many school work. Many of the school was related to either missing assignments or homework that I was given. I was also able to complete and submit a college applications that I needed to hand in and even

complete my FAFSA. I was able to catch up on the things I needed for prom since its right around the corner. I was able to finally pick a dress which is on its way so now I have to get the little things I need like shoes, jewelry etc. Overall my spring break was very productive. I was able to be active, catch up on any work and just rest which was very much needed.

— Giselle Ramirez

I really did not go out much. I went to the park to babysit my cousins. My mom's birthday was on Saturday and we made a surprise party. It was me, my mom's husband, and my aunt (her sister in law). My mom's sister-in-law made rice, beans and fried chicken and bought a cake and the little kids wanted pizza. Throughout the week I did all the house chores and watched Netflix. When it was pouring outside I looked out the window and watched the rain fall. That is what I basically did this spring break.

— Nelcy Reyes

During my spring break it felt like forever. I went out with my boyfriend over the weekend. We went to a trampoline place named "Urban Air." It was exciting to say the least. I also went to NYC to go to a meet and greet for an Instagram comedian, he was a cool guy. After that, me and my best friend got to spend the rest of the day in NYC.

I didn't get to see *Endgame* which was unfortunate, I still haven't had the chance to see it. Looking for prom stuff was hard mostly because I'm a very indecisive person but there was no luck there, everything was last minute. Overall my spring break was stressful but fun.

— Yaire Rodriguez

I found this spring break to be one of the most relaxing and productive yet. I was able to do several things and at the same time I had time to relax and forget about all the school stress. The first Saturday of spring break, I was invited to a party and ended up going to three. On Easter Sunday, I watched "Criminal Minds" all day. Monday, I went to the mall and bought shoes. Since AMC has \$5 Tuesdays, I went to the movies that day. I watched the movie called "After" and hung out with my friends at Wendy's after.

On Wednesday I had to come to practice for the musical "Emma, a Pop Musical." Thursday and Friday were days to relax, watch more "Criminal Minds" and help my



HISTORY.COM

Easter

mom paint her bedroom. Saturday I ran several errands and went prom dress hunting. I didn't find any so I just ended up buying mine online. Lastly, Sunday I procrastinated and did homework last minute as well as fill out several scholarships for college.

— Laura Siri

My spring break started on Friday morning when I went to church with my family for the commemoration of the Crucifixion of Jesus. Next day I went with my brother to the movies with the lady that takes care of him we watched the movie "Little"; went back home to help out my mom. Monday morning started with waking up early to help my mother get my brothers ready for school. Later we went to the bank then went back home. Tuesday, same morning routine, but then I went with my mother to Shop-Rite to buy the supplies we need for the house and came back home.

Wednesday morning, same as before, then later on we went to Kohls to do some shopping for the sweet 15 that was on the upcoming Saturday. Took the bus there and after we finished we took the bus back but stopped at the grocery store for milk. Thursday the same, then went to the doctors with my mother so they can check her for the pain that she has been having lately.

Friday I stayed home but dropped off my brother for his program. My parents took my younger brother to the hospital while I stayed home. My brother came back from his program. Later my parents came and just stayed home the rest of the day. Saturday I went with the lady to the movies with my brother while my parents again took my other brother to the hospital. We watched *Endgame*. The movie theater was packed and I liked it. Sunday is usually the day that we all just stay home and don't go out.

— Evelyn Tepale Camacho

Life After Endgame: Top 10 Movies for Summer 2019

By Damien Barreiro

So, you just finished watching *Endgame* and now you are wondering what to do with the rest of your summer. That movie was epic and summer is not even here yet. My prediction is that 2019 will be the biggest grossing movie summer ever. Here is why, in release order:



10 - John Wick: Chapter 3 - Parabellum (released May 17)

If action movies are the stuff of summer fun, then why not check out a summer movie that offers Keanu Reeves saying "Guns. Lots and lots of guns."

Reeves returns in the third installment of the John Wick series, with a \$14 million price tag on his head. He killed a member of the international assassin's guild, and now is facing assassins everywhere. That should create enough action for anyone. If it is, anything like the first two then it will serve the adrenaline junkies well.



9 - Aladdin (released May 23)

If all out action is not your thing, and perhaps a love story, with magic and music is, then what would a summer be without a selection of Disney movies? No plot summary is necessary because Disney has been in the process of remaking all their iconic animated movies in live action. *Beauty and the Beast* was first, and now there is *Aladdin*. Instead of Robin Williams as Genie, the

first character to sign on to make this film was Will Smith. He should be able to carry off the role with his comedic credentials. There is also a little tribute to the original Genie, Robin Williams, who recently passed. This is definitely a film to take a date.



8 - Godzilla: King of the Monsters (released May 31)

It has been a long time coming, but monster fans will finally be able to see the sequel to the 2014 *Godzilla* movie (yes, five years ago). This film offers more chances for the audience to just "let them fight". It is also the 35th movie in the Godzilla franchise. That is a lot of city destruction.

While some markets get this movie as *Godzilla II*, it is actually the third film in the legendary franchise. *King Kong* was the second, which was sort of a Vietnam era, prequel to these *Godzilla* movies. It also sets up the king of the monsters for a long awaited rematch with King Kong. Yes, that battle is already in production and slated to be released in March 2020. *Godzilla* and *King Kong* fans will be picking their sides for this major battle.



7 - X-Men: Dark Phoenix (released June 7)

Three summer films were mentioned and it did not include a super-hero movie. That seems strange after the release of *Avengers: Endgame*. However, there is *Dark Phoenix*, which is the next installment in the rebooted X-Men

series. Coming in after *X-Men Apocalypse*, these heroes must face the full power of Phoenix, after a mission goes badly.

If you remember the events from *X-Men: Last Stand*, Phoenix is a world shattering power, but she was defeated by those who were closest to her, Wolverine finishing her off, even though he was in love with her. The *Days of Future Past* installment erased that time line, which is confusing, but also liberating because we get to see a new take on the powerful Phoenix.



6 - Men in Black: International (released June 14)

A "sidequel" is a film that is part of the same universe but not necessarily in the same series. *Men in Black: International* takes Thor and Valkyrie, (sorry, just cannot stop thinking about *Endgame*), and actually it is Chris Hemsworth and Tessa Thompson, to join the MIB. In this sidequel, The Men in Black are based in London, instead of New York, to fight off yet another alien invasion. The preview looks hysterical, especially when Hemsworth has a hammer that does not do exactly what he expected.



5 - Toy Story 4 (released June 21)

Another sequel that has come along after, way after, its predecessor is *Toy Story 4*. In case you forgot, *Toy Story 3* was release in

2010, nine years ago. Four picks up where three left off, where Sheriff Woody and Buzz Light-year have found new life after Andy gave them to Bonnie. (Yes, you can stop crying now.) The new "toy" is a spork named Forky, and they need to go on a road trip to save the toy. It is PIXAR so it will be good.



4 - Spiderman: Far From Home (released July 2)

Now that Peter Parker has been resurrected in *Endgame*, he is free to go back to school, and even go on a field trip to Europe. Spiderman will face threats from the multi-verse, fighting alongside Nick Fury and Mysterio. This is the first film post-*Endgame*, so there is a great deal of interest about where the franchise will go now that there is an evident multi-verse that can lead the Marvel heroes anywhere.



3 - The Lion King (released July 19)

From that very first note, everyone knows that Simba is being born. Another Disney remake in live action rather than its original animated masterpiece is *The Lion King*. The story should be easy to remember, and it looks as if this edition hasn't changed it much. It is a great plot and should be a great film.



2 - Dora and the Lost City of Gold (released August 2)

Yes, this seems to be the summer of cartoons getting live action remakes. This one is Nickelodeon though. This adventure film is adapted from the "Dora the Explorer" TV show. Isabela Moner is the title character, which is odd because she is too old for the role. They must be doing a teenage version of Dora, which just seems wrong, but could be funny. Dora goes on adventure, after exploring the jungle, now she must navigate high school.



1 - Fast and Furious Presents: Hobbs and Shaw (released August 2)

Perhaps the surprise of the summer is the action comedy from the *Fast and Furious* franchise. This seems different from the other movies from this series. While it is billed as a buddy cop movie, it seems like anything but from the trailer. They seem to detest each other, but do not worry; they will probably work it out by the end of the film, if they do not kill each other first.

So, this summer will end like it began with a great action flick, and isn't that what summer movies are all about? Enjoy!

Honorable mentions that did not make the list:

- Doom: Annihilation*
- Brightburn*
- Shafi*



Map of northern South America shows that Venezuela's problems easily spill over into many other poor countries.

A Personal Account of the Venezuelan Crisis

Continued from Page 1
country to work hard for their families in Venezuela. They're taking our jobs out."


Ecuador's economy is not that good either. The average Ecuadorian is paid 250-300 dollars every month, if they can find a job. Getting a job in my country of Ecuador is very difficult. People need to see what they can do to feed their families. Many Ecuadorians sell whatever they have

to have enough food to feed their families, but we are better off than Venezuela. "We are beginning to starve because of this high unemployment."

Ecuadorians see that Venezuelans are starving. They understand that the high unemployment and insecurity of that country is horrible. However, Venezuela had very strict immigration standards when they were one of the richest nations in South America. Now

that they are in bad shape, they want to have free immigration to other countries and that is unfair.

The Ecuadorian economy was bad, and now it is getting worse. People will always find a way to escape their own troubles. While Ecuadorians feel the pain and suffering of their neighbors to the east, they also have to take care of themselves. There is more than enough poverty to go around in South America.



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 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 NJROTC Drill Team Competes in Florida

By Juan Orozco

A trip to Florida sounds nice, right? The sun and the sand, a relaxing trip with a cool drink and fun in the sun sounds like everyone's dream Florida vacation. Well, when you go with the PHS Drill Team, there is also a lot of work that needs to be put forth on the way to the National High School Drill Team Competition (NHSDTC).

Everything that we practice during the entire year goes into this competition. We have to practice to perfect multiple events. We practice for Regulation, Color Guard, Exhibition, and Inspection. So, before we go to Florida, let us talk about what we do in Passaic to prepare.

As always we have our normal practice every day at seven in the morning and now that the NHSDTC is here, we are required to come to every practice. When others are going on vacation, our spring

break was filled with practices every day, in preparation for the NHSDTC.

After spring break, we practiced all of that Monday, because we left the next day. On departure day, we prepared our personal belongings, as well as our ROTC belongings. We had to make sure we brought all our rifles and extras, just in case. We also brought our color guard stuff.

By five o'clock we were already on the road. (Yes, five in the morning). We were on the bus for twenty hours. We made multiple stops along the way in states like Delaware, Georgia, Virginia, and North Carolina. All the cadets stretched their legs for a few minutes, grabbed some snacks and drinks, before we were called back on the bus for another stretch of interstate highway.

Finally, when we made it to Florida, and saw that sign, the cadets cheered because we

were almost there. When we got there, we unpacked the bus and organized our things in our hotel room. The rest of that day, we had to ourselves.

Our free time went all too quickly. Then, on Thursday, we practiced all day. We got to the arena and got a chance to practice and get a feel for the drill deck. The deck felt different and unfamiliar compared to where we are used to competing in PHS.

Once all the practice was over, we went back to the hotel and started preparing our uniforms. Our uniforms had to be ironed, neat, and everything had to be measured well. In short, our uniforms must be perfect.

After a long day of practice, inspection and practice some more, we got the rest of the day as free time. It was not that much time.

Then, all too quickly it was Friday, competition day. This day started early. Breakfast was served at six o'clock and



PHOTOS BY JUAN OROZCO

Top left: Armed marching
Top right: Unarmed Exhibition performing
Above: Unpacking the colors

when we went to breakfast, we already needed to be in uniform. That means that we had to wake up way earlier than that so that we had time to get everything ready.

The competition was great. It was fierce. Many schools worked very hard to be there and demonstrate their skill.

While we may not have done as well as we would have liked, we learned a lot about competition and about ourselves.

We may not have had the perfect Florida vacation on the beach, but we became better at competition. Just wait until next year!



Varsity Volleyball Goes to Championship

By Henry Hernandez

Legacy is the slogan of the Varsity Indian Volleyball Team. It is what they use to motivate themselves for practices and their focus for the year as they try to complete a perfect season. At press time that season is 12-1, a great feat.

But what does legacy mean to them? They think about how they work and how they want to be remembered. With a season that good, they will be remembered for a lot, their work, dedication and talent.

Senior Joseph Vasquez said, "I am so glad we could end the season on a high note. It is great to have the school recognize our hard work." Another senior, Bryan Aquino said, "I hope everyone knows that with hard work we found success. We work really hard."

Their coach agrees, Mr. Munoz said, "I've been very lucky to have these student athletes." He added, "They spend time, energy, and money to do club volleyball." The varsity players graduating this year are Bryan Aquino, Noel Kelly Camarena, Wilbert Gilbert,

Kendall Malloy, Eddy Pena, and Joseph Vasquez. With so many seniors graduating from the team, there might be concerns about the long-term success of the team, however, that is not the case. "There are so many great players coming up next year, who are sophomores this year. Passaic will have a great volleyball team for years to come," said Joseph Vasquez.

Therefore, the secret to the success of this team is the long-term hard work and dedication. Coach Munoz said, "I consider myself a teacher first. I teach the skills of volleyball. I ask about their short and long term goals." He added, "Goals vary from player to player. I can only work with students that want to be their best." This philosophy seems to have worked, because this team is the best. They are ranked number one in the Liberty League Division this year. They are also seeded number one in Passaic County (the last time was in 2016).

The passion of these players makes them proud and successful. Their LEGACY, left to all us, is that hard work towards a goal pays off!



PHOTOS BY COACH MUNOZ



Top: Varsity volleyball team
Center row left: The volleyball is served
Center row middle: Setting up the serve
Center row right: Joseph Vasquez returns serve
Left: Ready to block a return