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Nadya Dato: Advocate and musician



Becca Fine

Have you ever felt so passionate about a subject, or cause, that you want to fight for it? Spread awareness, respectful and impactful event. Nadya go to rallies, educate people on what's going on? If you answered no to any of those questions, then you can be thankful for people who do fight for causes they believe in. This is what senior Nadya Dato has done for the causes she believes in. Nadya has been very involved in PAHS' activism for years, being the president of the Activism club and speaking at multiple walkouts. In her free time, Nadya also has a passion for music, playing the cello and singing in multiple groups.

Some of the causes Nadya is most passionate about are immigration issues, women's rights, and the right to reproductive healthcare.

A particularly passionate topic is gun control. She said, "There have been a lot of statements, but no actual change has been made." A few known activists Nadya looks up to are Hillary Clinton, Greta Thunberg, and Emma Watson. These famous women have inspired Nadya to fight for what she believes in. Big picture, what Nadya wants to change about the world as a whole is how people treat each other, stating the need for "more discussion about mental health, emotions. It's easier to connect online now, but it's still hard to open up."

Recently at PAHS, administration has made the effort to create a more

Written by: inclusive environment for diversity. and Nadya likes seeing all the posters in the hallways in English, Spanish, and Portuguese." However, Nadya feels that the school should "have more clubs that mix different groups of people."

> One of the biggest events Nadya has participated in was the gun control walk out late last school year. Orchestrated by Nadya in a very short amount of time, she spoke at the walkout, and it was an all around said she was "proud that it all came together in such a short amount of time" and appreciated the student body for walking out and supporting

One of Nadya's other main passions is music. She has played the cello since the third grade. In PAHS, Nadya played in the Strings Ensemble, and the Phoenixville Quartet, a group created this year consisting of seniors Emma Martz, Kristen Ray, Kendall Nowak, and Nadya. Outside of school, Nadya plays her cello in a group called the Phoenixville Fortissimos Orchestra.

Nadya's music passion also translates into singing. She is a member of the Phantom Singers at PAHS, and is co-leader with senior Alex Seaman of the acapella group, Vocal Fusion. After Bernard dogs. almost 10 years of music in school, Nayda plans to play cello and sing in

"Ursinus has five or six acapella groups, and I definitely look forward to playing my cello in the Ursinus orchestra," she said.

At home, Nadya lives with her mom, dad, sister Gabrielle, Bichon dog Mia, and Bichon Shih Tzu mix, Oliver. She is staying close by after high school, attending Ursinus College and majoring in business. After col-



Nadya advocating for gun reform at the School Walkout for Gun Control in

Photo courtesy of Nadya Dato

lege, in ten years' time, Nadya said she'd like to be living in a cottage with her future husband and two Saint-

For the underclassmen, Nadya definitely recommends Mr. Curley's English II AP class as being her favorite, claiming: "He was the most patient and considerate teacher you could ask for." Some of her other favorite teachers are Mr. Hughes, and Mr. Lee, her orchestra teacher, highlighting how supportive he has been throughout her music studies.

Looking back at her high school education, Nadya will miss the routine change.' of school most, a common sentiment

among seniors, stating: "Though it can get boring sometimes it's nice to have some structure. See the same faces, same teachers, I'll definitely miss that

Nadya Dato is moving on to college, to hopefully participate in more activism, play her cello, sing, and study business. Her parting advice to lower classmen is "Don't overthink anything. Whether it comes to friend situations or taking certain classes, if you want to do something, just do it. Don't beat yourself up on things you mess up on, because there's always room to

Tawan Srion: Student, friend, future doctor



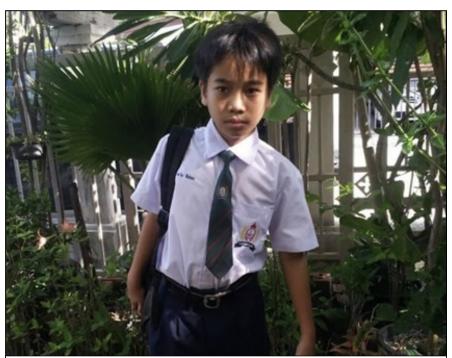
Written by: Jonathon Nejman

Most of you probably already know senior Tawan Srion, who joined us here in Phoenixville about seven years ago after moving from Thailand. He's been an icon in our school, always filling the classrooms with joy and bringing a smile to everyone's face. However, there's lots more to Tawan than meets the eye.

Tawan lives with his aunt and uncle, while the rest of his family still lives back in Thailand. Tawan lived in Thailand for about 12 years with his mom, dad, grandmother, grandfather, and cousin in Udon Thani, Thailand. Tawan lived with a very large family, saying "I think probably about 15 people were living in the same house. It was a normal thing in Thailand that we were living together."

The schools are also very different in Thailand compared to school here. Not only were students required to wear uniforms, but almost every student in Thailand was involved in extracurriculars and taking a special after school. Tawan said that students even treat school like it's a competition.

Moving to America wasn't easy for Tawan. When he first arrived in sixth grade, he faced a lot of obstacles and adversities, such as dealing with language barriers, getting used to a new school, a new culture, and making new



Tawan Srion at age six in his school uniform when he lived in Thailand. Photo courtesy of Tawan Srion

friends.

At PAHS, Tawan is involved in one of the more popular clubs in the school, AFJROTC. He's been in ROTC for about three years now and had this to say about the program: "PAHS AFJROTC is one of the greatest programs in Phoenixville Area High School. We do a lot of interesting activities and games and we learn how to be a leader and a good

The corps is run by the senior leadership, all the members of the cadet, and Lt Col Baldi and Sgt. Knight. After high school, Tawan plans on attending The University of

Pittsburgh to major in biology for pre-med track and Army ROTC.

In the future, Tawan wants to pursue a career as a U.S Army doctor, which he was inspired to do by his father who is an ambulance driver at the Udon Thani Hospital

Tawan said, "I visited my dad at his work and I saw the doctors doing their job. They enjoy helping people, supporting people, motivating them, creating a smile on their faces, and saving lives. It made me feel like I want to be like that one day."

Ever since coming to Phoenixville, Tawan has had dozens of teachers, but one special staff member stood out to him: his Sociology teacher, Mr. Varady. "Mr. Varady is one of the coolest teachers I've ever met because of the way he teaches, acts, explains a lesson, and understands students' feelings. I have a lot of good talks with Mr. Varady in class and homeroom almost every single day we like to joke, and he teaches me lessons or just random things. After graduating, I am going to miss talking with Mr. Varady."

Tawan Srion will always be remembered by his teachers and classmates, and as he moves on to the University of Pittsburgh he says goodbye to PAHS and leaves these parting words for the school's future students: "Enjoy every single minute of high school because before you know it, you'll be graduating.'



Tawan Srion (center) looks dapper with his friends Kolton Finger and Hudson Narke before prom.



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Alex Seaman: Leader and performer extraordinaire



Written by:
Celeste Lennon

Many underestimate the courage it takes to perform on stage, especially in front of the judgmental eyes of peers. It's especially hard to worry about memorization of music or lines and performance quality simultaneously. However, senior Alex Seaman seems at his best under the spotlights. If you've been to almost any music department event at PAHS, it's likely that you've seen Alex performing. Alex has been involved in music and theater for most of his life, and all of his time at PAHS.

Alex's favorite roles included starring as Gomez in PAHS's recent production of "The Addams Family," and playing Prince Dauntless in Facetime Theater's production of "Once Upon a Mattress" this past fall. As to why he enjoyed these roles so much, Alex says that he prefers to play comedic roles like these, as they get better reactions from the audience.

While watching him perform may give you the impression that Alex has always wanted to pursue theater, he originally wanted to be an Olympic gymnast. However, after realizing this was unrealistic for him, he said "then I found theater, and I had always sung because my Dad's side of the family is filled with musicians and artists." After becoming more involved with theater in middle school, Alex decided it was something he wanted to make a career of during his sophomore year of high

school

Theater comes with obstacles, as do all things. Alex is challenged by how vulnerable being a performer is, and said, "you can become really insecure about yourself with no one saying anything in an audition or rehearsal," due to the extremely competitive environment. However, Alex loves the vulnerability of it at the same time. Putting himself in the spotlight, while sometimes scary, provides an opportunity to express himself. Despite these challenges, Alex says that high school theater is worth the reward in the end, as "just in those three or four days you're performing, you feel like you could achieve anything."

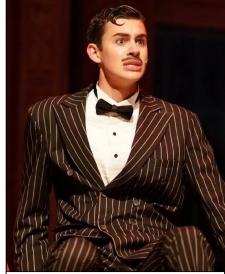
In addition to theater, Alex led the student acapella group Vocal Fusion along with Senior Nadya Dato. After accepting many new members and doing many performances this year, Alex said, "The group has become very close because of how much time we've spent rehearsing, and it's like a real bond we have." After being in Vocal Fusion for several years, Alex feels as though he's passing on a legacy.

Alex was also involved in leading Mini-THON, being in the club all four years of high school and stepping up as a leader both last year and this year. "I like being able to contribute towards a very important issue," Alex said. Alex was very passionate about being involved in the fight against childhood cancer, and found that many people respected his commitment to the organization.

Alex's family includes his mom Kimberly, his dad Edward, his brother Max (class of 2017), and cats FiFi and Helga.

Throughout his time at PAHS, Alex has connected with many teachers. Some favorites include Mrs. Howard, Ms. Nice (former choir teacher), and Ms. James, as he admires their passion and dedication to what they do. Alex will especially miss Mr. Lee, and said "he's very different from other teachers because he's been with me since seventh grade so he's seen me grow as an artist and person, as I have with him."

Alex will miss his friends most of all, especially Sophie Sklar, Meghan Schulz, Chloe Zach, Nadya Dato, Kristen Ray, and Caroline Sullivan, and will miss the special relationships unique to school. However, he won't miss being treated like a teenager, and "having to deal with immature boys who wish they could be me," he said.



Alex performing as Gomez in The Addams Family musical at PAHS this spring.

While he believes it's already well developed, Alex hopes that in the future, the PAHS music program will continue to grow. "I wish it got more props from the student body, I wish it was the 'cool' thing. Choir used to be a huge thing, and is how I met a lot of my friends," Alex said.

After high school, Alex will attend Marymount Manhattan for a BFA in Musical theater. In 10 years, Alex plans to be living in New York City working in theater, acting, or singing. "I hope I'm happy and I fill my life with love, and am able to sustain my life with my art financially and creatively," he said.

Alex's advice to underclassmen is "For people in the arts/music department, don't get lost within the actual music or art of what you're doing. Breathe in your craft and let that be a way of healing, and just love what you do."



Sophie Sklar, Meghan Schulz, Alex, Chloe Zach, and **Nadya Dato** posing at Senior Sunrise on their first day of Senior year.

Photos courtesy of Alex Seaman

Avery Stackhouse: Doing it all, with a smile



Written by: Claudia Tracy

While senior Avery Stackhouse is well-known around the school for her good spirits, there is a lot about her that people don't know. Avery sat across from me this year in Art II, and I always caught myself eyeing up her artwork in admiration. She has a very creative mind and is warm to people around her. Not only is she known for being a creative artist, but also for her accomplishments on the volleyball court and her volunteer efforts.

Art has always been a passion of Avery's, but after taking a plethora of classes at PAHS and being around other artistic students, her artistic inspiration flourished. Avery has taken five art classes throughout high school, including mixed media, Art I, Art II, Digital Photography, and Mural Arts. She has come to love working with graphite and colored pencils. When it comes to the themes in her art, Avery said she likes to



Avery's colored pencil drawing, winning 2nd place overall for the Congressional Art Award.

"show emotional aspects, like love or passion. I think it really connects with me."

Art has become not only an important outlet to express herself, but Avery has also been successful with her artwork. This year, she won second place for the Congressional Art Award with her macro-fruit colored pencil drawing of cherries. Her piece will be displayed at Chrissy Houlahan's office, Pennsylvania's U.S. Representative in Harrisburg.

Outside of her artistic ambitions, Avery participates in volleyball, clubs, community service, and works two jobs. Her volleyball career goes back to when she was 10 and joined a club team. Now, she plays the sport both in and outside of the school. For all four years of high school she played varsity, and participated in club. She played for Club Integrity for five years, and has switched over to Vortex for the past three years. In college, she plans to continue playing club volleyball, as a way to enjoy the sport she loves, while still being able to focus on her academics and time management.

Here at PAHS, Avery is a member of NHS as well as MiniThon. She has a strong dedication to community service, participating outside the school as well for an organization called the National Charity League. This is a mother-daughter charity, nonprofit organization that focuses on community service and leadership building. She has earned the Presidential Volunteer Service Award for four years, an award given to the volunteer who has a minimum of 100 service hours and has demonstrated consistency over the span of a year.

Her hard work doesn't end here, as Avery also works two jobs in the Phoenixville community. She works at Giant as a cashier and at Lock 29 as a food runner. Although balancing these jobs with school is tiring, she enjoys talking with the customers.

Avery lives with her mom, dad, and two



Avery is all smiles before, during, or after a match. Photos courtesy of Avery Stackhouse

siblings- Nate, a sophomore, and Hayley, in seventh grade. They recently gained a new member of the family: her puppy, Lily.

After four years of hard work and dedication throughout high school, Avery looks forward to her next chapter in college, although she will miss her friends.

"I really enjoy school, and I had a lot of good experiences to prepare me for college, but I am grateful it's over. I'll be sad about the social aspect of it, leaving my friends," she said. Attending Loyola University, in Maryland, Avery will be studying psychology.

Although Avery has been very wellaccomplished in her high school career, what stands out about her the most is her warm, bubbly personality. She is friendly to all those around her and very welcoming to talk to. As for her secret to happiness, Avery confessed, "I'm not happy 100% of the time. I've just learned to be my own person, and I am just way more happier, not taking in other people's opinions." She believes there will always be negative people, but living for yourself will always pay off.

She added, "There's always going to be ups and downs, but being your own person is way more fun than pretending to be someone else."

As Avery graduates this coming June, we wish her the best of luck on her journey to college. There is no doubt that she will not only be successful, but also be an inspiration to those around her. Whether she is playing on the court, or busy working on her latest art project, Avery Stackhouse will do it all with a smile.



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You know him, you love him; David Nguyen





If you haven't heard a "that's what she said" joke recently, you don't know David. Being one of the most well-known, wellrounded students here at PAHS, you wouldn't be surprised he has a nickname like Diamond David. Senior David Nguyen is deserving of a spotlight in this issue for his spectacular academic achievements and his many contributions to the Phoenixville community. As the vice president of National Honor Society, David is an outstanding role model, peer, and friend to all that he comes across. Oh, and he happens to be our class valedic-

The valedictorian rumors have been spreading since sophomore year, but David is taking the gold for the graduating class of 2023. He has committed countless hours to his school work, showing up and showing out need a giant whiteboard for. for himself and his family.

"I guess I never really never knew in school I was aiming to be valedictorian. I always just wanted to keep my studies and my grades high because that's what my parents really wanted for me," he said.

His parents being immigrants from Vietnam to America and raising him here propelled David to be in the position he was and is in

now: strive for success and do his best. In regards to how he feels to be valedictorian David responded, "In the end it's really just a title. I'm just happy that I got through high school, did well, and I'm able to go to college in the future.'

In addition to academics, David is known for being a tennis star, but David also became a track and field hero in this past school year. He said, "A couple of my friends, Dan Rabiychuk and Neel Sajja, convinced me to come out for cross country in my junior summer, and I just wanted to try it... [and] I met a lot of people who convinced me to stay." The track team welcomed David with open arms, making him want to spend his senior year with them. During the indoor season, he was promoted to captain for his ability to help others and demonstrate what it means to be a leader.

"I learned that a lot of people just want someone by their side, not someone to tell them how they race," he said

When David isn't focusing on his studies or running miles throughout the Phoenixville neighborhoods, you can find him playing video games in his down time, or using the giant whiteboard in his bedroom where he does equations, tutors, or anything else one might

He said, "I used it just recently as an NFL draft board. Everyone should have a whiteboard in their room."

David is an only child living with his mom, dad, and grandmother. They have been his number one supporters since day one, never pressuring him, but always encouraging him to succeed and pursue his passions. David



David with his proud mom and dad before the 2023 prom. Photo courtesy of David Nguyen

major in biomedical engineering, focusing on a pre med track to become a physician in the

David would like to give shoutouts to Ms. Kabatt from AP European History, Mr. Weinstein from AP Statistics, and Mr. Mclaughlin from AP Psychology. As for his will be attending Drexel University this fall to advice to underclassmen, he said, "Just try to

be yourself. Don't let the pressures of high school take over. There's always going to be those tests, but the time in high school is for understanding yourself and enjoying that time. If you don't spend time doing what you want to do and being yourself, you can't be successful."

Nevaya Carr: Jack of all trades



Written by:

Celeste Lennon

Many people hope to find just one passion in life, but senior Nevaya Carr has been lucky enough to find many. Whether it's through academics, running, horseback riding, school clubs, or involvement with local businesses, Nevaya shows dedication to everything she

Despite not running for very long, Nevaya found great success as a part of the Girls' Cross Country and Track teams. Her running journey started with track in her freshman year, but the season was canceled due to Covid. Her first official track season was in the spring of her sophomore year. Nevaya began with hurdling, and formed lasting connections with many people.

Fellow committed runner Alyssa Cunningham and the overall environment of the team helped convince Nevaya to try cross country. Nevaya said, "That season of track was just so special that I was like, 'ok I want to experience this again'." It didn't take long for Nevaya to grow attached to the team and the sport. Nevaya said she loves how the challenges of running require commitment and that "you can see results just by showing up every day."

This year, Nevaya's leadership skills earned her the opportunity to be a cross country captain. She's loved getting to know everyone on the team, and feels her duties as a team captain have been relatively easy because, as she said, "Everyone is so committed and dedicated to the team."

As if passion and talent for one sport weren't enough, Nevaya also has an extreme love for horseback riding and has been riding and competing since she was nine. Last year,

she was ranked 9th in the open division out of competitors from PA, NJ, and WV. At Plainbrooke Farm in Spring City, Nevaya has been riding a horse named Brew for three years and has become very attached to her.

"When I'm at the barn it's just a second home to me. I kind of put it above all else," Nevaya said.

Her experience riding and her barn family have taught her many lessons. Nevaya's riding trainer, Megan Corkum, is a major source of inspiration in her life by reminding her to have fun with her passions. Riding competitions can be stressful as competitors ride a random horse and can't entirely control how their ride goes, but Megan encourages Nevaya to learn from the experience and to stay open minded and optimistic.

In addition to her hard work in sports,

and Ski Club, Parliamentarian of NHS, and vice president of the senior class, where she put her exemplary leadership skills to use.

Nevaya spends her weekends working as a server at O'Grady's on Saturdays and at the G-Lodge on Sundays. As she's typically a shy person around people she doesn't know, her experience serving has taught her a lot about getting out of her social comfort zone.

Nevaya said, "It's a really great way for me to connect with people in the community.'

In her free time, Nevaya is also a fan of thrifting clothes, and is a Plato's Closet regular. She loves the individuality of thrifting and how sustainable it is.

As for her time at PAHS, some of her Nevaya's favorite teachers include Ms. Kabatt, especially with AP Government, and Mr. Sprenkle, as she's learned a lot from Nevaya was president of Environmental Club them. In the fall, she will be attending Penn

State Honors College to study materials science and engineering to continue her passion of sustainability. In 10 years, Nevaya wants to be engineering new sustainable products, such as clothing fabrics or recycled materials, and still wants to be running and horseback riding.

Nevaya's parents, Justine and Steve, and her sisters Peyton (20) and Chelsea (13) influence her hard work ethic and encourage her success across many terrains.

Nevaya's advice for underclassmen is to create a good balance between hobbies, hanging out with friends, and schoolwork. In her own words, "high school goes by fast, so make the most of every moment you have."



At the Plainbrooke Farm stables, Nevaya has horseback riding lessons with a horse named Brew. Their bond helps Nevaya improve her riding skills. Photo courtesy of Nevaya Carr

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Chae'la Hodges: Dancer, leader, and business owner



Written by: Bella Ericson

Being a senior in high school is already an arduous task with college decisions and the realization that your life is never going to be the same. However, Chae'la Hodges defied these odds in her busy senior year by representing the dance community, being the captain of the cheer team, and running her own business.

Chae'la has grown up in Phoenixville her whole life. She lives with her mom, and three sisters, Kaycie, Briel, and McKenzie. Her dad lives in Philadelphia. Chae'la has always had an intense passion for dancing ever since she was a little girl. Chae'la said, "Dancing will always be my first love, I never lost my spark for it."l. When Mrs. Lewis asked her to choreograph a dance for this year's Black History Month assembly, she immediately said yes.

Chae'la said, "I'm the type of person who doesn't just dance to the lyrics, but the beats are what counts, and every little beat matters." Chae'la's inspiration for this dance was to represent the distinct meaning of Black pride. The whole process was a little rough, but once it came together, the BHM dance was something Chae'la was and still is very proud of.

Chae'la hasn't only choreographed this one dance; she is also the leader of the dance ministry at her church called Destiny in Motion. The age range is children five to twelve years old. Chae'la said, "I wasn't very fond of the idea at first. We started off with about five girls and now we are at eleven. They get better and better every time they dance."

Aside from her dance career, Chae'la has been the captain of the high school cheer

team for two years. Chae'la can often be seen supporting each of her team members in stunts. Chae'la mentioned that her favorite part was just being able to help her coaches and communicate with them. She said that they are some of the best people to talk to. The team's biggest accomplishment from this year's season was competing at Nationals at Disney World in February.

Already being involved in so many extracurriculars, many students wouldn't dare to add anything more onto their plates, but Chae'la is also an entrepreneur! Chae'la started doing hair during Covid, and expanded this hobby into a business in June of 2022, called "Touchedbychaae." She chose this name because hair is not the only service she provides, as she also does makeup, and eyelashes. Chae'la runs her business out of her home.

Chae'la said, "Every time someone gets out of my chair they say they got "touched by Chaae" and it makes me so happy!"



Chae'la and **Saige Veneziale** posing at this year's cheer nationals held in Disney World Photo courtesy of Saige Veneziale

Chae'la is very excited for the direction her business is going, she has some big things planned!

Chae'la mentioned that some of her favorite memories from high school included cheering at football games and going to cheer competitions on the weekends. Some of her favorite teachers included Mrs. Lewis and Mr. Baver.

Everyone's high school career imbeds numerous life lessons into them. Chae'la said that the biggest lesson she learned in high school was just how to be herself and to be confident in everything she does. Chae'la said, "People do and always will have their

own opinions about you. It's up to you, and your mindset, to block them out and brush it off like it's nothing."

Chae'la will be majoring in business in college. As of right now, Chae'la is undecided as to what college she will be going to, she's trying to find the right fit. She not only wants to do hair but also wants to be in the beauty industry. She wants to own businesses, and salons.

Some parting words Chae'la has for the underclassmen are, "Have fun, it literally flies by! Don't think too much about the future; it'll get you caught up with what's right in front of you."



Chae'la's logo for her business "TouchedbyChaae" Photo courtesy of Chae'la Hodges

Jude Daly: A modern Renaissance man



Written by: lackson Deets

Jude Daly has been a prolific figure at PAHS for the past few years. Whether you know him for the numerous sports he participated in, his musical talents, or his overall interesting attitude, he always entertains those he is around. Jude has been an interesting, mysterious, and semi-famous figure at PAHS for four years, and leaves behind a legacy of participation in almost every sport, great musical talent, and many adoring fans of Pheonixville's modern Renaissance man.

In his free time, Jude enjoys surfing, skate-boarding with his friend Jackson Deets, and playing many different instruments with his good friends Nate and Alex Sbei. He loves skiing with his brother John in the mountains of Colorado, and walking his half Irish Wolfhound, half Great Dane mutt Scooby-Cu Daly.

On top of all of these activities, Jude has played numerous sports including lacrosse, wrestling, swimming and diving, track and field, and his personal favorite, football. Jude said, "I was lucky to have excellent coaching and pals like Sammy Moore (junior)."

In school, as for favorite teachers, Jude said, "Mr. Hughes is a funny guy and a great math teacher. Mr. Mclaughlin makes good nicknames."

When it comes to clubs, Jude was a proud member and advisor of the non school-



Jude with older brother **John Daly** dressed elegantly for the Met Gala.

affiliated baseball team support club which involved exciting activities like loud cheering, sunflower seed chewing, and roll calls.

Jude is also an avid and talented guitar player and musician, using websites like YouTube to begin learning. Jude said, "I like to pretend to be able to play like some of my favorite bluesmen

such as Stevie Ray Vaughn, Jimmy Page, and B.B. King. It is a fun instrument to play, modify, and build."

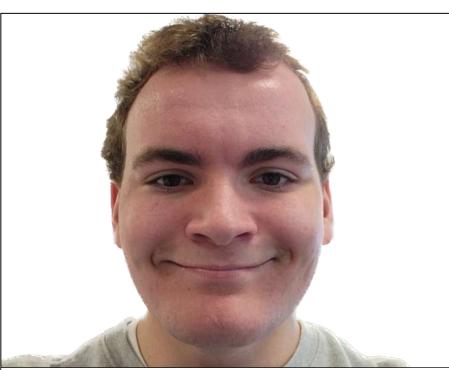
Alongside his interest in guitar, Jude has a strong love for the band Radiohead. His dad had always been a big fan of them so Jude would often hear the music on car rides, claiming, "As long as I can remember I have been a fan." Jude's favorite song by the band is "Weird Fishes/Arpeggi," specifically the live from the basement sessions version of the song.

Jude has a large family consisting of his mother Marti Daly and father Tim Daly, brother John, his sisters Maggie, Charlotte, Jane, and Mary Frances. Jude will miss having all his friends and family in one place, he will also miss his haters because, as eloquently said, "What is joy without hate?" However, Jude will not miss the school desks because they are uncomfortable.

Jude will be attending Flagler College next year in St. Augustine, Florida where he will

study business. Looking into the future, Jude hopes that in 10 years he is happy in whatever field of work he is in, and everyone around him is happy as well.

As for his advice to the underclassmen, Jude offers a classy and appropriate motto: "You will get by."



A selfie from **Jude Daly** raises the debate of if he is an A.I. generated bot placed in the Phoenixville Area School District to keep students interested.

Photos courtesy of Jude Daly

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Taryn Blitzer: Creating a positive influence



Written by: Katie McGinnis 🏸

Senior Taryn Blitzer is an individual who kept herself very involved in school-related activities in all four years at PAHS, and definitely did it very happily. Taryn played large roles in Girls' Golf, and Swimming; in addition, Taryn has embraced roles such as historian of NHS, and Vice President of FBLA, in addition to being involved in Best Buddies, Mini-THON, and Varsity club..

Golf is one of those sports that looks easier than it actually is. Taryn has been playing golf for the past four years on the team, and this year as co-captain. Taryn feels like although golf is an individual sport, though it does bring together a "team feel."

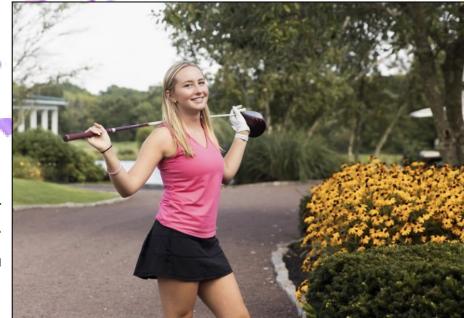
"The coaching staff was amazing," said Taryn. "I love Ms. Waltz and Ms. Foresta." Even after the golf season, you can still find Taryn enjoying the sport on her own time.

When it's too cold to golf outside, you could find Taryn tearing up the pool at the Phoenixville YMCA during swim practice. Taryn also swam for four years and ended up with a captain role this year, and she said she loves swim for the same reasons that she loves golf: "I think it's really cool to be a part of something where it's up to you; you cannot blame anyone else, but at the end of the day, there is a team working together to achieve goals."

Similar to golf, Taryn also loved the coaching of Mr. Weinstein, Ms. Cordingley, and Mr. Gamble. Even off swim season, you will still find Taryn working at the Phoenixville YMCA pool as a lifeguard.

With all of these activities, Taryn still found time to do the things she loves, such as hanging with friends and going to school sports games to participate in the student section.

She said, "My favorite memory would be any time I was in the student section and got to be with my friends and just feel the school spirit and community feel within the school," said Taryn. Overall, Taryn enjoys spending time with her friends, whether it be getting



Taryn's professional senior photo, capturing the love she has of golf.

food, going on coffee runs, or relaxing at home with her dog.

Taryn plans on attending Virginia Tech as a political science major. She's not entirely sure on what career she would like to have, but she hopes to do something related to social sciences. "I want to make a difference," said

Taryn's favorite teachers in high school were Mr. McLaughlin and Mrs. Kabbatt, who taught her favorite classes: AP Psychology, AP Macroeconomics, AP Government, and AP European history.

"Even though these are AP classes, and I did think they were very hard, I loved the environment that [the teachers] created within the classroom, with how engaging they are with their students. Overall, I found my-

self not dreading going to an AP class for the first time," she said.

Taryn took on a lot of roles/responsibilities in high school, but it was all with purpose. She said, "I just wanted to wake up everyday and be proud of who I am as a person, and if something happens one day and I don't like it, I can make the active choice to try and change that the next day. My overall goal was to be a positive influence not only in other people's lives, but in my own life as well."

For her advice to underclassmen Taryn said: "Definitely enjoy every moment at the high school. I can confirm that all four years, especially senior year, went by so fast, and I don't regret taking a really difficult course or being involved in so many things, because they did make so many lasting memories,".

Taryn plans on attending Virginia Tech as a political science major. Photo courtesy of Taryn Blitzer

Noah Kocher: Phoenixville's Gazebo Gazelle



Written by: Griffin Meanix

Noah Kocher, a student blessed with gorgeous hair and an affinity for writing, will be graduating from Phoenixville Area High School on June 9. Noah will certainly be

missed, by teachers and students alike, and it's important to commemorate him for all of nity before he leaves. Noah's contributions include his devotion to the Capstone program, his stellar academic record, his accomplishments with the track and cross country team, as well as his love for his friends and significant other. Due to his hard work and accomplishments, he's headed to the University of Pennsylvania this fall.

Noah, having been a highschooler for four years, has some crucial advice for underclass-

men. One primary recommendation Noah has is to take the AP Capstone program. "I his contributions to the high school's commu-liked AP Seminar and AP Research, and those were the two best classes I ever took in high school, or middle school, or anything." Noah is very close with AP Research teacher, as well as track coach, Mr. Winters. As for how Mr. Winters has impacted Noah's life, Noah said "He has been a big mentor for me and a great coach. He helped me develop as a runner, a student and really as a person."

> Noah was incredibly thankful for the research and writing opportunities supplied by these classes. He said, "They really helped me learn how to write and research and communicate my ideas, and they're probably the most useful classes that are offered by the high school." Noah's project for AP Research allowed him to explore the connection between community gardens and social trust between citizens. Noah conducted his research in Reservoir Park Gardens, on the north side of town, and did a wonderful job contributing to the academic community as well as showed his connection to the Phoenixville community.

> Noah is also quite the romantic, and has been dating senior Noelle Collet for about a year and a half. When asked about Noah, Noelle said: "My favorite thing about Noah is how much he makes me laugh, and he's also very thoughtful and always is coming up with things to make me happy."

> You may have seen Noah spending time as the official mascot of Gazebo, the Gazebo Gazelle, as he and Noelle (Gazebo president) lead a group of writers to publish literary magazines full of poems, essays and other artwork, and develop a very tightly knit writing community.

> Another community Noah represented was the track and cross country team. Noah said, "I have really really enjoyed being on the track team and the cross country team. Those were my first high school friends and



Noah, getting scowled at by long term romantic partner, Noellle Collet.

acquaintances and having them look out for me really helped me grow as a person."

Noah was a cross country captain, and helped lead a new generation of athletes that will be able to carry the team forward. Noah believes that in the next few years the track and cross country teams have potential to do fantastically well.

After four years at PAHS, Noah is excited to move on to college. He will be studying English at The University of Pennsylvania, and looks forward to his own personal growth and career exploration as a writer.

As a person involved in a variety of clubs and activities like GSA, track, cross country, The Purple Press, and Gazebo, Noah's presence at the high school will certainly be missed. And throughout his years at Phoenixville, Noah's impact on his communities has been grandiose to say the least. We all wish him the best of luck at Penn, and hope that his time spent there yields him a fantastic college experience.



Fifth grade **Noah Kocher** poses with **Griffin Meanix** at PAMS. Photos: Noah Kocher



→ MISCELLANEOUS←



The best and worst of the 2021-23 school year



Written by:

After a tumultuous four years of attending Phoenixville Area High School, I feel I can say with the utmost confidence that this year was perhaps the most eventful. Was it because our freshmen and sophomore years were near entirely online, and last year was still recovering? Who's to say? The class of 2023 certainly had an interesting final year. After some thorough evaluating, I've compiled a list of the best and worst of the 2023-23 school year.

The Bests:

I. Sports seasons

This year, Phoenixville sports absolutely dominated the PAC. Most notably, in the fall Boys' Soccer advanced all the way through States for the first time in the program's history. Meanwhile, Girls' Golf won States, establishing the Roberts' sisters legacy at

PAHS. The football team reached Districts, and while they did not advance, the team put up an excellent fight.

In the winter, Girls' Basketball won a district playoff game for the first time in nearly two decades, came close to playing in States, and secured the Frontier Division title. Phoenixville swim had countless team members compete at PACS, Districts, and even States, with Kenzie Padilla placing third and sixth place individually and the girls' 200 freestyle relay placing twentieth.

In the spring, the Girls' Track and Field team once again achieved Frontier Champion status, proving their excellence. And finally, Phantoms Baseball won a thrilling pair of playoff games against Spring-Ford and Methacton to win the PAC.

2 Prom

As opposed to last year's dance held at the Foundry, prom was located at the Sunnybrook Ballroom. Although farther from Phoenixville than the Foundry, the Ballroom offered excellent food, a massive dance floor, and a much better DJ! A special shout-out goes to prom royalty Jewel Golson and Rylee Watson, who both looked like queens on the special night!



The Phoenixville Student Section at a white out basketball game, vividly expressing enthusiasm. Photo: Thomas Schratz

3. School Traditions

Phoenixville has always been known to have immaculate school spirit, and this year did not disappoint! Everyone's favorite spirit day, Jersey Day, brought to Phoenixville by senior Quinn Hoffman, was once again shown incredible support! As Quinn graduates this year, Phoenixville is so excited to be continuing his legacy through the continuation of Jersey Day and the Jersey Bowl.

At MiniThon this year, over \$7,000 was raised for childhood cancer research, as Phantoms of all ages danced and celebrated together for twelve hours straight!

The music theater department was absolutely fantastic once again, and Phoenixville's artistic talents were evident! The Adamm's Family was a fantastic show, and all participants did a marvelous job.

The Worsts:

I. The PJP football game

While PJP in its entirety could be considered a "worst" (kidding!) (no I'm not), this year's football rivalry did not bode well for the Phantoms. After canceling the long-awaited Pink Out game for a variety of safety concerns, Phoenixville proceeded to be handed a loss without fans in attendance-and not a graceful one. With a 42-0 shutout, sports like soccer, basketball, track, field hockey, and lacrosse were left to demolish the Panthers. Although the football game was certainly not a highlight of the

year, being able to prove that Phoenixville is better in nearly every other sport certainly was a focal point of the year.

2. E-Hallpass

There are several things about going to the bathroom at Phoenixville this year which could be considered a worst, yet E-Hallpass takes the cake. While the smell of the F-Wing bathrooms is bad, having to wait for hallway traffic to clear is even worse! Good luck to the underclassmen who will have to wait for the capacity of bathrooms to clear out next year: I'll be walking out of my college lectures during the first and last five minutes of class to use the bathroom if I wish!

3. Attendance

With multiple senior-skip days, what seemed to be a variation of the plague, and a plethora of "doctor's appointments," Phoenixville's student attendance was nothing to write home about. I'm sure next year, every student will have perfect attendance and the balance of the universe will be restored.

Following countless trials and tribulations, the 2022-23 school year can certainly be dubbed as one of the most entertaining yet. To all the juniors out there, if you're looking to have a senior year as memorable as ours, maybe try winning your Powderpuff games next year.



Dr. Scioli and **Quinn** at the Jersey Bowl. Quinn brought the Jersey Days tradition to PAHS. Photo: Lorraine Kelly

PASD Wall of Fame 2023 Inductee: Mr. Hank Coyne

Written by: Dr. Andrew Timar

The Phoenixville Area School District Wall of Fame Committee met this past March and chose Mr. Henry "Hank" F. Coyne III as the 2023 inductee to the Wall of Fame at Phoenixville Area High School.

Mr. Coyne was a dedicated teacher and coach for the Phoenixville Area School District for 36 years from 1984 until his retirement in 2020.

Born in Fort Knox, Kentucky in 1961 and raised in Camp Hill, Pennsylvania, Mr. Coyne is a 1979 Graduate of Cumberland Valley High School in Mechanicsburg, PA and a 1980 graduate of Cushing Academy in Ashburnham, MA. While in high school he was a varsity letter winner in both football and lacrosse.

Following high school, Hank attended Juniata College in Huntingdon, PA, graduating in 1984 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Pre-Law/Secondary Education. While at Juniata, he played varsity football all four years. Hank furthered his secondary education at Villanova University, earning his Masters of Education degree in 1984, and at Pennsylvania State University (Great Valley, PA) with a Principal's Certification in Secondary Education in 1995.

Mr. Coyne began his teaching career with the Phoenixville Area School District in 1984 at the junior high school (PAJHS) where he taught 7th grade US History and 9th grade World Cultures until 1992. He then moved to the high school (PAHS) where he taught 10th grade US History and 11th grade Econom-

ics and Government until 2020.

Throughout his tenure at the junior high and high schools, Mr. Coyne has coached multiple sport teams and has been involved in several extracurricular student activities including: PAJHS Football 1984-1985, PAHS Varsity Football 1987-1999; PAHS and PAMS Wrestling as well as PAHS Varsity Wrestling 1984-2003; PAJHS and PAHS 9th Grade Baseball 1986-2012; Student Government Advisor 2009-2020.

He established a Student Voter Registration at PAHS 2009-2020, presented the Veteran's Day Program at PAHS from 2009-2019, and established the PASD Wall of Fame in 2004. He has coached high school varsity football at neighboring school districts since 2000 at Owen J. Roberts, Pottstown, Great Valley and currently at Conestoga. He has also been a PIAA wrestling official since 2013. He currently serves as an Extra Ordinary Minister at Sacred Heart Church in Royersford, PA, a position he has held since 1990.

Mr. Coyne has received numerous awards and recognitions over the years, including the 1989 Phoenixville Jaycees Outstanding Young Fitness Leader, 2004 Who's Who Among American Teachers Award, 2010 Congressional Youth leadership Award, 2010 Pennsylvania Senate Recognition for Medal of Honor Grove Clean Up at he Freedoms Foundation in Valley Forge, 2014-2019 V.F.W. Post 1546 Phoenixville Voice of Democracy Award, 2016-2022 PAHS Senior Class Teacher Impact Award, and 2020 V.F.W. Post 1546



Mr. Henry "Hank" F. Coyne was inducted into the Wall of Fame in a ceremony at PAHS on Monday, May 15, 2023.

Phoenixville National Citizenship Education Teacher of the Year Award.

The Wall of Fame Committee inducted Mr. Coyne into the Wall of Fame in a ceremony at PAHS on Monday, May 15, 2023.



SPECIFIC OUT



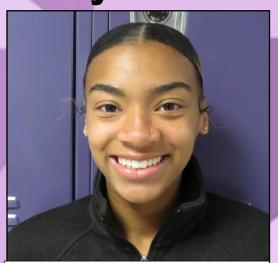
"If you could change one thing about your high school experience, what would it be and why?



Tristan Middleton "Actually try during junior year because 11th grade is hard."



Zach Paat - "Get rid of Covid, so all four years could be normal."



Rylee Watson - "I would have been more active in school because it opens you up to other opportunities."



Ryan Jasudowich
- "To meet Nate
Harker sooner."



Ryan Curley (Class of '01) - "I would want floors and ceilings and way less construction, because it was too dusty."



Neel Sajja - "I wish I had joined the basketball team, the football team, and marching band at the same time."



Zack Samuels "I'd change the
administration so
I could do what I
want."



Nick Dabrowski "I'd Improve
Jerry's sandwiches and juice
selection. The
sandwiches are
hard and we
need more
juices. I love
Jerry though."



Brendon Schwartz - "I would do as many clubs as I could, but Covid shut everything down."



Benny Leboon "I would have
gone [to school]
for the first 3
years. I was
online for 3
years."

By: Jackson Deets



SELLION CUID

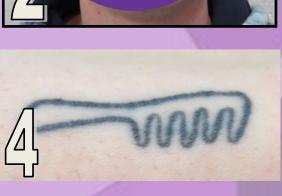


Can you tell which senior is in each photo based on this feature?





























1- Joy Kabukuru, 2- Tristan Middleton, 3- Matthew Leidy, 4-Tori DeLuca, 5- Joelle Gorman, 6- Moddy Spivey, 7- Gregor Duffy, 8- Mike Sposato, 9-Jonathon Mejman, 10- Eric Jonathon Mejman, 10- Eric 12- Sydney Mixon, 13- Zeke 12- Sydney Mixon, 13- Zeke

→ RETIRING TEACHERS ←

P

Sadly, PAHS is losing four teachers who have become legends at PAHS over their combined 121 years of teaching. Read about their careers and what's next for them!

Ms. Waltz

Q: Where did you attend high school and college?

A: Spring-Ford High School and Ursinus College.

Q: Were you working anywhere prior to PAHS?

A: Yes, I was a long term substitute teacher at Garnet Valley as well as an LTS at Spring-Ford High School as a gifted teacher.

Q: Describe the classes you taught over the years.

A: Mostly 9 Honors, 10 Honors, AP Seminar and most recently AP Literature and Composition. Oh, and my favorite class, Techniques of Writing!

Q: What are your favorite memories from working at PAHS? For how long?

A: Working with the students, the staff, as

well as leading the Girls' Golf team to a State
Championship last year. I have been here for
school year so once school ends, I plan
iust focus on the golf course. We are a

Q: Why have you chosen to leave PAHS?

A: My family owns a golf course in Limerick called Turtle Creek Golf Course and Waltz Golf Farm. I've been working at the golf course on weekends and during the summers, especially with the passing of my father 6 years ago. It is truly a family business with my sister, mother and husband all working at the same place, so when my mother decided to step back from the business, I naturally offered to step away from education in order to help her out. It was a difficult decision, but I look forward to the opportunity reinvent myself halfway through my life.

Q: What's next for you?

A: Well, I'm currently trying to balance man-

aging a golf course and finishing out the school year so once school ends, I plan to just focus on the golf course. We are a seasonal business so hopefully once the season winds down, I can spend a month or two in Key West with the rest of my family.

Q: Tell us about your family.

A: My mother, my sister who lives in California, and my husband, John. I also have a Border Collie named Nittany (go PSU!!!!) who loves to harass the geese on the golf course. Her sister, Jem, is a quirky calico cat who loves to ignore me.

Q: What will you miss most about PAHS?

A: I will miss the students. Many call me the Ice Princess, but I actually love working with students and seeing their full potential. I will also miss the wonderful staff, especially my colleagues in the English Department.



Ms. Groff

Q: Where did you attend high school and college?

A: Colleges: West Chester, Penn State, Widener Universities. Fun fact: I graduated from West Chester the last year it was known as West Chester State College; the next year, it became a university.

Q: Were you working anywhere prior to PAHS?

A: Residential school for adjudicated youth, meaning students lived there and were placed by the court system, most due to criminal activity, but some were wards of the state because they didn't have families who could take care of them.

Q: Describe the classes you taught over

the years

A: English classes for grades 9, 10, 11; Techniques of Writing; reading courses.

Q: What are your favorite memories from working at PAHS? For how long?

A: The many students I've had the privilege to teach, as well as wonderful colleagues with whom I've worked. I have been here for 24 years (41 years total in education).

Q: Why have you chosen to leave **PAHS**?

A: I'm retiring from teaching.

Q: What's next for you?

A: First, I plan to spend some time relaxing -

and waking without an alarm! Then, I hope to travel and return to hobbies I haven't had enough time for, such as hiking and needlework of all types.

Q: Tell us about your family.

A: I look forward to spending more time with my son, mother, siblings, and their families.

Q: What will you miss most about PAHS?

A: I definitely will miss teaching and interacting with students. I read about a newly published book or a classroom activity that sounds interesting, and I'm a bit startled to realize that I won't need that for next year, that I won't be teaching anymore.



Mr. Gamble

Q: Where did you attend high school and college?

A: Methacton HS, Old Dominion BSME, West Chester teaching cert., Villanova MS Environmental Engineering.

Q: Were you working anywhere prior to PAHS?

A: Carpenter, HVAC installer, Engineering Technical Sales.

Q: Describe the classes you taught over the years.

A: Physics, Engineering, Environmental Science, Programming.

Q: What are your favorite memories from working at PAHS? For how long?

A: Second grade Bug Lab, Coaching Swimming with Mr. Weinstein and Mrs. Cordingley, The

Honor Grove Clean Up. I have been here for 27 years (31 in teaching).

Q: Why have you chosen to leave PAHS?

A: I'm ready to go sail around and explore.

Q: What's next for you?

A: Moving to Tilghman Island, MD and sailing around the Caribbean in the winter.

Q: Tell us about your family.

A: my daughter Emma is graduating from George Washington in May; my son Jake is a nuclear engineer in NJ. My wife Sharon continues to work for Warner Bros. as a VP of video game sales.

Q: What will you miss most about PAHS?

A: I don't tend to miss stuff in my life. I try to live in the present, but I sometimes think about the future too much. I rarely dwell in the past.



Mrs. Cordingley

Q: Where did you attend high school and college?

A: My high school was Thomas A Edison High School in Elmira, NY, then I went to Harwick College in Oneonta, NY, and then Ursinus in Collegeville, PA.

Q: Were you working anywhere prior to PAHS?

A: I had worked in industry, as a Chemist for I3 years. I took a hiatus after having my second child. During those four years at home, I took courses at Ursinus College and got my teaching certificate.

Q: Describe the classes you taught over the years.

A: All chemistry classes, from CC to AP. I have been here for 24 years.

Q: What are your favorite memories from working at PAHS?

A: When people ask what do, I tell them I am a high school teacher and 9 times out of I0, I hear ewwwww; that must be awful. But quite the opposite. I love when kids talk to me... make me laugh... enlighten me...even annoy me...basically, inviting me into their world. I will miss teaching and the feeling that (perhaps) I am making a difference. I cannot fathom not going to swim team practice or proms or graduations, and above all seeing my teacher friends.

Q: Why have you chosen to leave PAHS?

A: When I first uttered the word retirement three years ago, it felt very odd, surreal almost. My colleagues dismissed the idea as did I...but ...fast forward to this year. When I

said the same thing, it had "weight" and a feeling that this definitely was it... and meant to be.

My leaving is bittersweet...but really, everyone eventually leaves the familiar to try to something new. Am I right?

Q: What's next for you?

A: My husband and I just bought an RV and are looking forward to traveling. There is also the anticipation that my children Andrew (married to Jillian) and Alyson (engaged to Chris) will give me grandbabies. I always wanted to learn violin, or write a book, or compete in a triathalon. AND now, I'll have the time.

Q: What will you miss most about PAHS?

A: Let me just say...I will miss all of you!





\rightarrow SPORTS \leftarrow

P

Phantoms Baseball: Let them cook



Written by:

Chris Melvin

Phoenixville Baseball has been at the forefront of PAC baseball for four years, always competing for the PAC title. The Phantoms finished the regular season with a 13-7 overall record, and a PAC record of 11-5, but a surge through the playoffs awarded them the esteemed title of PAC champions, and a first round win at

The Phantoms were coached and led by fourth year head coach Geoff Thomas. Assisting him were Coach Endy, Coach Frain, Coach Rutchauskus, and the legendary Coach Doc Kennedy. These five coaches have elevated the standard of Phantom Baseball to

consistently perform as a top team in the league.

The starting lineup consisted of nine seniors and two juniors, with contributions from everybody. Seniors Lleyton Coupe, Dylan Antonini, Brendon Schwartz, Colin Bull, Wade Carruthers, Hudson Narke, Jake Straight, Avery Schwartz, and M.A. Smaltz all set a good example for the underclassmen by showing that players need to practice hard to perform well. Juniors Christian Cervino, Sam Marsh, and Nico Nattle all started too, with Christian being the only junior in the pitching rotation that consisted of standout players such as Antonini, Narke, Bull, Avery Schwartz, and Brendon Schwartz.

The Phantoms had some gutsy wins this year, including two close games against Upper Perk that ended in 2-I, and 3-0. They had an exciting 6-0 win over reigning District One champ, Owen J. Roberts. Christian Cervino tossed seven innings of six hit, no run baseball, en route to a dub.

The Phantoms finished 4th in the PAC



Seniors **Lleyton Coupe** and **Hudson Narke** high five after a successful half inning at the plate for the Phantoms.

Photos: LifeTouch

overall and faced rival Spring Ford in the first round of the conference playoffs. They played at Spring-Ford, and came out on top 5-4 after a stellar pitching performance from Hudson Narke. They advanced to the PAC championship to face Methacton, and the Phantoms left it all out on the field after a 13 inning showdown that resulted in the Phantoms winning by a final score of 5-2. Dylan Antonini and Christian Cervino both pitched extraordinarily, propelling them past the Warriors into PAC Champions.

Headed into Districts, the Phantoms were hungry and determined to prove all the doubters wrong. They hosted Harriton in the first round, at home, and put up a stellar performance. Falling behind 5-0 in the second inning seemed catastrophic, but the offense erupted and the Phantoms came out on top 15-7, taking their first District playoff win in over a decade. However, the Phantoms fell short in the second round at Strath Haven, 5-0.

This post-season run was possible because many of the members of the team had great seasons, and showed great strides in their development as players. Narke, Carruthers, Coupe, Antonini, Smaltz, Bull, Nattle, Marsh, Straight, Avery Schwartz, and Brendon Schwartz spearheaded the potent Phoenixville lineup, ran the bases confidently, pitched their hearts out, manufactured runs, and played excellent defense.

All of the seniors on the team played a vital role in leading the squad on and off the field, and they set a great example for the underclassmen. The program's future is heavily reliant on their star-studded underclassmen Anthony Cervino, Christian Cervino, Nico Nattle, Sam Marsh, Kevin Kingsbury, and Tommy Whitesel.

Avery Schwartz said this about this being his last year: "I will miss the opportunity to play with a lot of friends, who I grew up with and have known for awhile."



Avery Schwartz delivers a devastating fastball en route to a one hit performance over Methacton.

Hudson Narke had this to say about his teammates: "We have a lot of fun on the bus rides and kept our spirits high." He added, "I will miss the guys I grew up playing with since I was eight."

Coach Geoff Thomas had this to say about his team: "It is an honor to be the head coach of these amazing young student athletes. They are great people. I will truly miss the senior class and will welcome them back with open arms to come back and visit future teams. I also wish them the best in what lies ahead for the senior class in their future endeavors."

It is evident that this team has left a lasting mark on the Phoenixville Baseball program, as well as a future banner championship in the gym.

Girls' Softball: Trust the rebuilding process



Written by:

Emma Ward

Graduating 12 seniors last year, the Girls' Softball team entered the 2023 season relying more on underclassmen than ever before. The leadership from the coaches and seniors assisted in forming a cohesive environment that made it possible for players to focus on the fundamentals of the game and gain experience throughout the season. Ending with an overall record of 2-15, the Phantoms expect to rebuild into a strong competitor next season.

Entering her fifth season as head coach, Coach Claire Emplit was excited to work with the girls. She was accompanied by Coach Maydun, Coach Taylor, and Coach Jason. The captains this year included seniors Anna Moore and Sophie Sklar, and junior Olivia Jacketti.

Going into the 2023 season, it was uncertain as to whether the Lady Phantoms were going to have a pitcher or a catcher. However, freshman Abby Boylan stepped up as pitcher, and Cora Perrone and Willa Narke as catchers. About Boylan, Coach Emplit stated, "We saw her confidence and endurance develop as the season went along."

The Varsity Softball starters consisted of Cora Perrone (junior) and Abby Boylan (freshman) as pitchers/catchers, Lilly Washington (junior) at first base, Natalia Thomas (junior) at second base, Alina Rakowski



Junior Cora Perrone catching Boylan's mix of pitches.



Freshman **Abby Boylan** hurling strikes in her first win against Pottstown. Photos: LifeTouch

(sophomore) at shortstop, Gabby Cappelli (junior) at third base, and handling the outfield were Olivia Jacketti (junior), Willa Narke (sophomore), and Reese Thompson (sophomore).

Although every game had its moments, some key highlights included Abby Boylan's first win against Pottstown, Olivia Jacketti's home run against Upper Merion, Megan Sakowski's (sophomore) diving catch against Upper Merion, and Willa Narke's incredible game both offensively and defensively versus

When speaking of the team's achievements, senior captain Anna Moore stated, "In our game against Pottstown we had a crazy comeback. We were down 9-2 and we came back and beat them 24-11." This game serves as a prime example of the resilience the Lady Phantoms demonstrated.

Off the field, the girls held fundraisers and enjoyed the bonding time. Every year over Thanksgiving they could be seen selling pies, and a favorite memory for many was spending time together at Chick Fil-A.

Senior Captain Sophie Sklar stated one of her favorite moments was "at games in the dugout just having fun and supporting each other." Even through some tough losses, the Lady Phantoms relied on one another to keep spirits high and enjoy every game.

Using this year as a rebuilding year, the girls are hoping that next season will accurately reflect their hard work. Speaking on the season on the whole, Coach Emplit stated, "It was a difficult year and we struggled through many games, but there was definitely a strong sense of comradery that grew out of the challenges. I was proud of how far this young team came and was able to keep their heads up despite the adversity."



<u>→SPORTS</u>←



Girls' Lacrosse: Two-time Frontier Champions



Written by: Emma Ward

After winning the Frontier Division in the 2022 season, doing it again in the 2023 season after losing a group of seniors was more than any player on the Phoenixville Girls' Lacrosse team could have asked for. However, ending with a PAC record of 9-3, an overall record of 11-7, and a second consecutive Frontier title, it's safe to say the girls had a triumphant season.

Entering her 16th season as head coach, Aamina Thornton was excited to guide the team for another year. Working alongside assistant coaches Shira Thornton and Kirstin Zernhelt, they were successful in leading the Lady Phantoms to a memorable season. The captains this season included seniors Jaime Michaud, Kira O'Donnell, Julia Grosso, and Caroline Flick

Coach Thornton spoke very highly of the captains, stating on the field they lead by example. Off the field, they would bring goodies for underclassmen as a supportive system, and the underclassmen would do the same for the seniors.

Senior captain Caroline Flick stated, "My favorite moments were the bigs and littles. Getting each other snacks for away games on the bus was always fun."

With a new player stepping up each game, the starting lineup for the Lady Phantoms varied. However, the varsity squad included seniors Julia Grosso, Jaime Michaud, Caroline Flick, and Kira O'Donnell; juniors Mackenzie Hickey, Kylie Joyce, Ava Matta and Ava Siaton: sophomores Alexandra Coupe, Ava Demutis, Danielle Eliasson, Bridget Kelly, Natalie Murray, Erin Reedy, Natalie Illingworth, Amelia St. Hilaire, Ellie Ruch; and freshmen Audrey Burke, Samantha Schwartz, and Addison Graver.

Although every game was important, key wins included beating Upper Merion in both face offs. The rivalry between PJP II and Phoenixville will continue into next season.



as captains of this formidable lacrosse squad.

Photo: LifeTouch

as the Lady Phantoms won one game against them, but lost the other. Individual accomplishments that ultimately helped the team was freshman goalie Samantha Schwartz logging over 100 saves this season. Not only that, but senior captain Jaime Michaud and sophomore Erin Reedy both scored 50+

Commenting on the team's perseverance, Jaime stated, "The coaches didn't give up on us. Coach Shi always said, 'If I didn't believe you guys could do it then I wouldn't be here.' She did believe in us because she kept pushing us harder and harder because she knew we had the potential."

In the postseason, the Lady Phantoms faced off against Boyertown in the PAC semifinals. They unfortunately fell short of continuing to the finals. However, considering their season began with the girls going 0-4, reaching the PAC semifinals was a significant accomplishment. To continue to Districts, the Lady Phantoms needed to place in the top 24. Placing 25th, they barely missed the cutoff. Nonetheless, confidence is high that they will be able to make Districts next season. The team chemistry and ability to never give up were key factors that lead the squad to this

About the Lady Phantoms' persistence, Coach Thornton stated, "Each week they kept getting better and better. We are so proud of the hard work, the team bonding/ camaraderie, and level of play that they brought to the field on a regular basis."

Off the field, the girls held a check writing campaign fundraiser, as well as additional fundraisers with Kampus Klothes and Fancloth. The girls bought and sold merchandise and a part of the proceeds went towards the team's incentives The Phoenixville Athletic League sponsored many of the girls' games, and came through with posters for the seniors on their Senior Night. Clearly, the support not only from parents, coaches and teammates, but also the community contributed to the success of the 2023 season.

Within the next few years, the program is expected to continue to improve. This year's seniors set a great example of how the underclassmen should lead the team and become Frontier three-peat champions.

After a fantastic season, Coach Thornton stated, "I want to thank my players and parents for all their support during this season."

The girls celebrate their Frontier championship after their win against Pottsgrove on Senior Night. Photo courtesy of Coach Thornton

A bright future for the Phoenixville Boys' Lacrosse team



Written by: Gavin Cataldi

The Phoenixville Boys' Lacrosse team were at the bottom looking up last year, with an 0-8 record in the PAC. Coming into the 2023 season, their hopes were high and the team showed great improvement all around from last year.

Much of the team's new success can be attributed to new Head Coach Brock Johnson, and his assistants Coach Dickey and Coach Burnett, Senior team captains Pat Field, Eric Loftus, and Jeff Cappelli also played an important role both on and off the field. They set the standard for other members on the team, helping every member become



Ben Hathaway (junior) passes the ball to his teammate, setting up for a goal against Upper Moreland.

stronger and improve at the game. The varsity players at each position showed impressive skills and dedication throughout the

Despite an overall record of 3-12 in 2022, the team achieved a 6-9 overall record in 2023. This included two key victories, one over Upper Moreland when they won 8-7, and against Pottsgrove when they won 7-5. The Phantoms lost to Pope John Paul in a close battle (9-5) on Senior Night, showing tremendous growth from their 16-6 loss to the same team last year. The team's PAC record was 2-7, and even though they didn't make the PAC playoffs, they were very close to getting to Districts. They placed ninth overall and just missed the cut of eight teams

The positions of the starting players were Will Linko (sophomore), Pat Field (senior), Brady O'Donnell (sophomore) and Finn Blanton (sophomore) on attack. The Phantoms had Christian Rosone (junior), Dale Mackay (junior), Eric Loftus (senior), Dane Leopold (senior) and Adam Paolone (junior) in midfield. On defense, the team had Kyle Reedy (senior), Dan Aselton (junior) and Jackson Campbell (junior). Last but not least, Jeff Cappelli (senior) was the Phantoms' goalie.

The team's strengths included their improvement in dodging, shooting, and team defense, resulting in scoring more goals and giving up fewer goals than last year. According to Pat Field, the team saw great improvements and became "much better at moving the ball around, and had a great defense."

The chemistry they have with each other was another factor that made the team stronger. Everybody on the team has great friendships and made many great memories.

As for what he will miss the most about the team, senior captain Jeff Cappelli said "definitely the locker room shenanigans."



Senior Captains Pat Field, Jeff Capelli, and Eric Loftus look foreboding before their game against the Boyertown Bears.

Photos: LifeTouch

The Phantoms also held a fundraiser: their annual cornhole event. This fundraiser was very successful and covers the needs and initiatives for the team.

The team is excited for their future, as they will continue to keep growing with Coach Johnson. He also looks forward to working with the middle school team and local youth organizations to support the growth of the future Phoenixville athletes.

Overall, the Phoenixville Boys' Lacrosse team showed great improvement this year,

building a more competitive group while creating a positive and fun lacrosse experience. Coach Johnson's message to the players and supporters is "Thank you to our senior class, our parents and the rest of our team for your dedication to our program. Everyone welcomed me to the team with open arms and I'm very proud of what we all accomplished together. Our staff is already really excited already about next year and would love to talk with any student who thinks they may want to try out lacrosse next spring. Let's Go Phantoms!!"

<u>→SPORTS</u>←



Track and Field: Legends in the making



Written by: Noah Kocher

No matter how you measure success, PAHS Track and Field has had an exceptional season. With multiple PAC Champions and District Championship qualifiers, the team met and exceeded performance expectations. The team also developed a positive, supportive, and successful team culture, centered around head coach Mr. Winters' hallmarks of effort, execution, and time on task. With the introduction of new coaches, including Mrs. Eberly



Freshman **Peter Gibson** in a tense high jump matchup at Pottstown. **Photo: Justin Winters**

for sprinting, and alumni Karl Terstappen for pole vault, as well as the reintroduction of beloved hurdles coach Matt Chiappetta, the team was strengthened in structure and resilience and has a bright future ahead.

In the regular season, the boys' team finished with a winning 3-2 record, only falling short against Pottsgrove and Upper Perk, and the girls' team finished with a dominant 5-0 record, crushing all of their PAC competition to win the Frontier division and secure an unbeaten season. Coach Winters singled out the senior night victories for both the boys and the girls against rival PJP as best team wins, saying, "We dominated them."

A highlight of the conference season for senior distance runner Jacob Cross was the 4x400 meter relay against Pottsgrove. Although the boys lost the meet, the team rallied together to cheer on both the boys' and girls' 4x400 teams to grab narrow wins in the event. According to Jacob, "[Pottsgrove] has a very good team especially when it comes to sprinting, so beating them in this event brought the team a lot of hype."

Another dramatic 4x400 relay occurred at Upper Merion, where the boys' team managed to win the meet by snatching a 4x400 win that tied the team scores 75-75, with Phoenixville winning on a tiebreaker of 10 first place finishes to Upper Merion's 8.

At the PAC championship, Phoenixville showed out, with sophomore thrower Emine Ulcay winning the girls shotput and setting a school record of 38 feet 2 inches; senior Rylee Watson winning triple jump; junior Will Brennfleck finishing third in both the 1600 and the 3200; and the girls' 4x800 meter relay finishing second.

At the PIAA District I Championship in Coatesville, Phoenixville athletes Emine Ulcay, Rylee Watson, senior hurdler Emelia Faulker, junior distance runner Anna Carruthers, junior distance runner Kenzie Padilla, and senior



Senior Chloe Zach (left) and freshman Erin Dewane (right) battle it out with a PJP sprinter in the

Photo: Tom Connett

in the shot put, triple jump, 100 meter hurdles, and 3200 meter run. Watson finished fifth in the triple jump with a mark of 36 feet 8 inches and qualified to compete at the PIAA State Championship at Shippensburg Universi-

All of this success is built on team culture. Senior captain David Nguyen said, "A big strength of the team for me was how resilient we were. There were a lot of challenges, mainly at the beginning of the season, that really tested us. I didn't see anyone falter or give up. We only got better.'

According to Coach Winters, because last year's senior class made up a significant part of the team, this year's team was young, and Winters set a goal to "re-establish a sense of normalcy, expectations, and culture that could

distance runner Alyssa Cunningham competed sustain for another run." Although this year was focused on rebuilding, the team was still massively successful.

> As for the future, Coach Winters said he sees the team being dominant even as early as next year. "We have SO much talent - but it was raw this year," he said. "Next year we'll be really good now that we used this year to build the culture."

> Coach Eberly agreed, saying that taking her new place in the team's in-sync coaching staff makes her excited to grow Phoenixville into a track and field powerhouse. "It's like molding clay," she said. "We have so much unrealized talent."

With this much talent on the Phoenixville Track and Field team, the Phantoms will look forward to a legendary season next spring.

Boys' Tennis: Raising a racket



Written by: Zaid Abdel-Majid

The Boys' Tennis team this year didn't break any records, but they showed much growth and a lot of heart. Last year the team said goodbye to a lot of seniors, who also happened to make up most of the varsity squad. With most of the varsity team needing to be replaced, this year the team focused on training and rebuilding for the next season.

The team had a rough season in the PAC conference, winning five matches and losing seven. This year's varsity lineup consisted of a range of all four grades, but mostly freshman and seniors. This year featured seniors Zach Paat playing first singles, Tarun Emani at second singles, and freshman Owen Graver playing third singles. The varsity doubles pairs often changed, but ended with seniors Evan Desmarais and Connor Vitz playing first doubles, senior Zaid Abdel-Majid and sophomore Joey Matilla at second, freshman Max Goudie and freshman Jared Vitz playing third doubles, and fourth doubles became a combination of junior Nick Vanderveer, sophomore Adam Langran-Smith, and/or junior Jake Sullivan.

This year was Head Coach Ricardo Saad's 6th year, and Assistant Coach Abriana Nolan's 4th year coaching. They understood that the team had a lot of players who were used to training and playing tennis for fun, rather than competitively. They didn't want to take all the record this year, the team had a lot of heart. fun out of tennis, but they needed to focus the team on winning and gaining experience playing from a competitive standpoint.

The team captain this year was senior Evan Desmarais, who has been on the team all throughout high school. The coaches were



Seniors **Zach Paat, Tarun Emani, Connor Vitz**, and **Evan Desmarais** pose for a picture before a match. Photo: LifeTouch

looking for someone who could take charge of the team and help keep the underclassmen under control. Evan was able to connect and communicate with everyone on the team. He said, "One of my favorite moments this year was a practice we had where we all played King of the Court together."

Even though the Phantoms had a mediocre Coach Nolan noted: "Instead of coming off the court defeated, they came off wanting to practice and continue to improve their game to be more successful with each match.

The group never had trouble lifting each other's spirits, even after devastating matches. Each practice had the majority of the team in attendance ready to train and refine their playing. The crew was always able to put their all into every match played, resulting in everyone being proud of their performance.

To close out the season, Paat and Emani both reached the second round at the Boys' Tennis PAC Singles Tournament. They both gave it their all, going against the best of the best players from each school. The Boys' Tennis PAC Doubles Tournament had many strong contenders as well, including Phoenixville's pairs of Zach Paat and with Connor Vitz, and Zaid Abdel-Majid. with Evan Desmarais. Each team was able to win in the first round, but both teams lost in the second

The future of the tennis team is looking up, with the strong freshman players working hard to improve their skills and competitive strategies. Many of the freshmen this year have shown incredible potential and the team is excited to see each and every player flourish into fierce competitors.

Although the team this year had a lot of hiccups, they still had a fun time playing tennis and being able to work together. The whole crew is excited to see what the team will accomplish in next year's season.

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→SENIOR PLANS←



ABDEL-MAJID, ZAID **ABENDSCHEIN, SETH COLIN** AGUILAR VELASQUEZ, GERSON ROBERTO Employment ALVES DA SILVA, MARIELE ANTON, AMELIA ROSE ANTONINI, DYLAN FIORE AOUADI, JIHAN KAMEL **AUGUST, AVERI LYNN** AUJARD, JOSETTE ALIZABETH **AZANON LUCAS, ELIAS JOSUE BAILEY. CASSANDRA DIANE** BARRIOS CARRERA, STEYSI CORINA **BARRIOS PEREZ, ODALIZ RUBELINA BEECHER, LUCAS JOHN** BERNAL, ALEXANDER JAVIER **BLANCK, NICHOLAS PETER BLAND, GRACE ANNE**

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BULL. COLIN MATTHEW

CAJ LOPEZ, BRITNEY CALLAHAN, IAN TIMOTHY CALLEN, AIDAN CHARLES CAMPISI, GIANNA ISABELLA CANEL VARGAS, BYRON ESTUARDO CAPPELLI, JEFFREY JAMES CARR, NEVAYA BRIELLE **CARRUTHERS, WADE MARTIN CARVER, DYLAN DANIEL** CASTELLON ARGUETA, CESAR ISAI **CASTILLO-PEREZ, MARI CARMEN** CATALDI, GAVIN LOCKWOOD CERVINO, SIENA KATHRYN CESARSKI, MAIA JOY **CHALLENGER, MORGAN PARKER**

CHAVEZ PEREZ, MARLON IVAN CHILEL CHAVEZ, CARLOS DANIEL CHILEL VENTURA, ANDERSON EDILIO CHIROY-VENTURA, ANDY ALEXANDER CIRONE, QUINN ANNABELLE **COLEMAN, BYSIL IMIN COLKET, MEREDITH ELISE COLLET, NOELLE KRISTINA COLLINS, EMMA GRACE**

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→SENIOR PLANS←



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Employment

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Reed College **Employment**

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Villanova University Indiana University-Bloomington

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Pennsylvania State University-Penn State York **University of Pittsburgh-Pittsburgh Campus Montgomery County Community College**

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Pennsylvania State University-Penn State Main Campus

Seton Hall University John Carroll University

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Louisiana State University

North Carolina State University at Raleigh

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Employment

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WAGNER, NOAH BAILY

ZEINER, INGRID ELIZABETH

Apprenticeship Program Employment Ursinus College Montgomery County Community Colle Monmouth University **Macalester College US Marine Corps University of Virginia-Main Campus**

Indiana University of Pennsylvania-Main Campus **Employment**

Pennsylvania State University-Penn State Main Campus **Roanoke College**

If a graduating senior's name is missing from this list, it is because the guidance office did not have the information at the time the issue was published.



The Purple Press Senior Farewells

Chris Melvin - I'd like to shout out to Gavin Cataldi, Johnny Nejman, Griffin Meanix, and Claudia Tracy. Without them, Journalism class wouldn't have been the

Becca Fine - High school was definitely an experience. Whether good or bad, we'll find out in like 10 years when I reminisce. I got sick a whole lot, missed about a year and a half, but in the end I think I had a lot of fun this year. One thing I'm certain on, is how awesome (and buff) Mr. Zittel is. Although he has encouraged a couple hooligan behaviors of mine, I feel he was a great influence on me, helped me figure out my future, and has prepared me for my future English career. I've also loved being a part of The Purple Press. Even though I've been late once or twice, and missed the yearbook picture (bruh), it was still a lot of fun and encouraged my love for writing. I might not miss high school whatsoever, but I'll definitely miss the newspaper. Also, shoutout to Mr. Wilcox - he's a real one (and 12 years old). Thanks administration for letting me graduate, lol.

Olivia Giardina -Thank you for a chill class, and goodluck to the rest of you, you'll need it... shout out Tommy Gamble!

Bella Ericson - Even though I've only been a student at Phoenixville since sophomore year, I will do nothing but cherish my time here. On my very first day of junior year I was welcomed into a friend group I will never forget. As memorable as junior year was, my senior year will forever live in infamy. I've always had the reputation of "the quiet girl" attached to my name, but this year was different. The girl that teachers would call on because she spoke so little became the one that they overlooked because she couldn't contain her confidence in the classroom. The infamous Mr. Zittel made my love of writing only grow fonder during his theatrical English classes as well as Journalism class. Mrs. Hudgins helped me figure out the steps I need to take in order to pursue Forensic Anthropology; because of her, I feel secure in knowing where I am going next. The passion she has for her students and her teaching can be seen every day. It never fails to make me smile.

Gabrielle McNamee - Find the things you love the most while you're here! I am so thankful for my time with the Purple Press, and all the opportunities it has provided. Thank you to Mr. Zittel and the staff for always trusting me, encouraging me, and supporting my decisions! I can't wait to see you all at graduation and then never again. Feel free to venmo me tuition money- DC isn't cheap: @ellemcnamee.

Claudia Tracy - Don't stress yourself out so much. It will almost never be worth worrying over in the end. Enjoy your time in high school and do your best, whatever that may be. I have loved the memories and friends I've made over the years. along with many lessons learned. I am so happy for all the seniors and wish everyone an amazing summer!

Noah Kocher - Thanks so much to Mr. Zittel and The Purple Press for having me this year! There are things I won't miss about high school, but for each of those things there are dozens of important lessons I've learned, so it wasn't all bad. I can't wait to see what my fellow seniors go on to do and I'm so excited to hear about how this year's underclassmen grow up to take our places at PAHS!

Zaid Abdel-Majid - Thank you, Ava Smith, for being the best friend in the whole world.

Katie McGinnis - High school was pretty okay . College will be fun. Goodbye!

