

THE PURPLE PRESS

PHOENIXVILLE AREA HIGH SCHOOL

NOVEMBER 2023

VOLUME 20, ISSUE 2

20TH ANNIVERSARY

PAHS Fall Play: "A Midsummer Night's Dream"



Written by:
Emma Ward

character (Helena) deals with challenges faces, senior Kate Smith said, "It's a really good reflection of how humans process love differently. I think with Helena she processes love really beautifully where she struggles to believe she's

them rhyme which makes it easier. Remembering my blocking and how I move on the stage really helps too."

The setting of the play takes place in two locations - the Castle of the Duke, and the magic forest.

Yeagle as Puck, (junior) Alex Upton as Oberon, (junior) Leena Collins as Titania, junior Joey Curry as Lysander, junior Silas Swomley as Demetrius, sophomore Anna Sivco as Hermia, senior Kate Smith as Helena, sophomore John DiStasio as Theseus, and senior Mint Both as Nick Bottom. However, the actors are not the only ones doing the heavy lifting. Stage manager Audrey Tresnan (junior) has been an immense help to Ms. Colgan with locating resources necessary for rehearsal.

Speaking of the actors and their contributions, Ms. Colgan said, "I really like collaborating with the actors because even though I'm the director, they're the ones performing. So if they say to me 'Hey I think I would do this instead, I like them telling me that kind of stuff.'"

Approaching the show with a traditional take, the costuming will represent both modern and old-time wardrobes. To add the melodic aspect, live music will be present, courtesy of a violinist attending PAHS.

As far as what the audience will most enjoy, the organized chaos is a large component in the comedy. If looking for a specific character to have a laugh at, Nick Bottom is the perfect persona. Mint Both, who plays Nick, takes the role to its full potential and stated, "I play one of the funnier roles and make a lot of puns. It's a lot of just dumb jokes and sarcasm and I think the audience will really enjoy that."

The course of true love never did run smooth

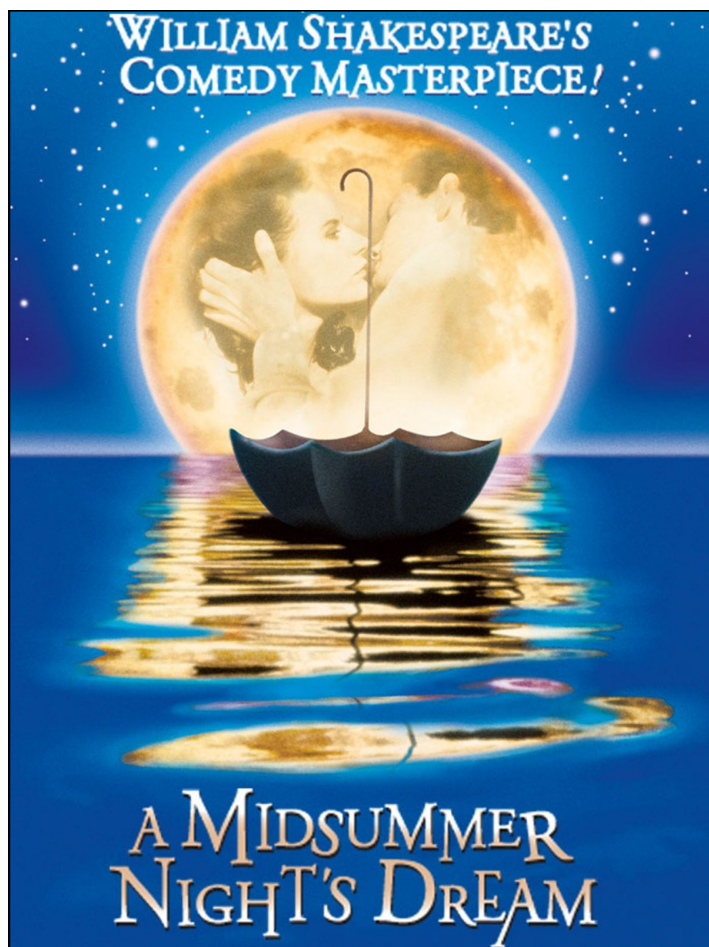
~ A Midsummer Night's Dream

William Shakespeare

Ms. Colgan said, "This is a show where you have to come in and expand your beliefs. There's fairies, and a man's head turning into a donkey. You definitely have to suspend your imagination in this one and go with it."

Although "A Midsummer Night's Dream" may not be as well-known as "Romeo and Juliet," it is successful in giving the audience a good laugh and tapping into their romantic side. "The course of true love never did run smooth" remains an authentic and accurate quote today, and you'll quickly realize this in PAHS's 2023 production.

This year's show runs December 8th at 7 p.m., 9th at 7 p.m., and 10th at 2 p.m. Tickets will soon be available on the high school webpage!



worthy of love. But when she ascertains that she is, she won't stop chasing it no matter what."

It is well known that the language of Shakespeare is an older English dialect. One would think that learning their lines would pose a difficult task for high school students. However, Ms. Colgan stated that her actors took it upon themselves to learn and she was beyond impressed. The passion and talent of each individual actor will play a big part in the success of the play.

Speaking to this, senior Elliot Yeagle, who plays the character of Puck, said, "It's Shakespeare, so there's a lot of lines; but a lot of

In the castle, you can expect to see impressive thrones, benches, a set of stairs, and columns to enhance the atmosphere. Regarding the forest, the cast and stage crew built trees out of brown craft paper, chicken wire, and wood glue. Although these trees are 2D, the dimensions cause them to appear 3D. Not only does this technique create a nice depth, but it also allows the actors to hide behind them.

There isn't one main character who steals the show. Rather, the contributions of many pull everything together. A few of the main characters include senior Elliot

"The course of true love never did run smooth." This iconic line, first used in the 1590s by William Shakespeare in his comedy "A Midsummer Night's Dream," still remains prominent today. PAHS's Fall Play will take over the stage on December 8th, and transport you to a world of fairies, star-crossed lovers, and theater gone wrong.

PAHS warmly welcomes Ms. Caitlyn Colgan as this year's director of the fall play. This is Ms. Colgan's first year with Phoenixville, but is far from her first year in theater. Beginning her journey in 8th grade, she has since received her minor in musical theater from York College of Pennsylvania. The first show she directed was "The Wizard of Oz" in the summer of 2022 with youth actors. Since then, she has fallen in love with directing and now works full time in theater. Not only is she directing Phoenixville's fall play, but she is also Spring-Ford High School's choreographer for their spring musical. Ms. Colgan could not be more excited to be involved with Phoenixville's play.

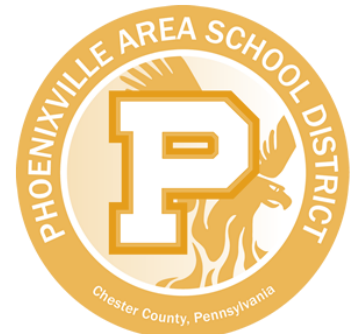
With PAHS not having done a play composed by Shakespeare in several years, "A Midsummer Night's Dream" was a terrific place to start. It focuses around the upcoming wedding of the King and Queen- Theseus and Hippolyta. Key characters also include the four lovers, the "mechanicals" who are attempting to perform a play for the wedding ceremony, and King Oberon and Queen Titania of the fairies who reside in the magic forest. The magic spells that turn love upside down (and a man into a donkey) contribute to the comedy.

Although the show is a satire, it still provides valuable lessons to the audience. Speaking on how her



A classic scene from the play (performed in Seattle Washington at McCaw Hall) in which the fairy goddess Titania unwittingly falls in love with a man (Nick Bottom), who happens to be enchanted with a donkey head. Chaos ensues.

Photo: sfballet.org



IN THIS ISSUE

PEOPLE (pages 2-3)

- ◆ Audrey Tresnan
- ◆ Colt Frost
- ◆ Mr. Chiofolo
- ◆ Rachel Cobb

OPINION (pages 4-5)

- ◆ Who is "more awesomer" - Caitlin O'Meacham or Jackson Deets? **VOTE!!**
- ◆ Top fall music artists
- ◆ A meatless Thanksgiving

NEWS (pages 6-7)

- ◆ NHS Induction, 2023
- ◆ Farewell, Mr. Bankes!
- ◆ New superintendent
- ◆ Intramural programs

SPEAK OUT (pages 8-9)

- ◆ What is one thing you should NEVER discuss at Thanksgiving dinner?
- ◆ If you could buy anything at all on Black Friday, what would it be?

ENTERTAINMENT (page 10)

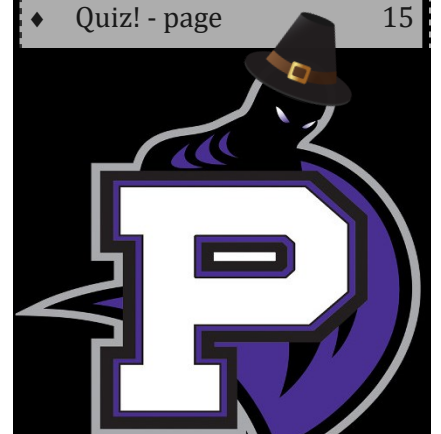
- ◆ Movie review: "Hustle"
- ◆ Videogame review: "Tears of the Kingdom"

SPORTS (pages 11-13)

- ◆ PAHS Girls' Volleyball
- ◆ PAHS Girls' Field Hockey
- ◆ PAHS Girls' Soccer
- ◆ PAHS Boys' Soccer
- ◆ PAHS Boys' Cross Country
- ◆ PAHS Girls' Golf

FOR FUN

- ◆ Horoscopes—page 14
- ◆ Quiz! - page 15



Audrey Tresnan: A magician behind the curtain



Written by:

Kieran Lange

When you're asked to imagine a musical, most people think of the singing and dancing, but all that would fall flat without the copious amount of work put in behind the scenes. In fact, elements like set design, lighting, costuming, and prop usage would be irrelevant without the teams who remain behind the curtain. Enter Audrey Tresnan, a quick-witted and highly-involved junior whose theatrical expertise lies in getting things done, and done fast. Her positive attitude and emphasis on having fun allow Audrey to balance her busy school life, retain good grades, and keep strong relationships with her peers and teachers, all while being the stage manager of the school's plays and musicals.

Although she is known for the work she does behind the velvet curtain, Audrey didn't join stage crew until her sophomore year here at PAHS. In her first year, Audrey acted in both "Rhinoceros" and "The Wizard of Oz," along with assistant-producing a PAHS theater program classic: the Murder Mystery. The Murder Mystery is a show performed at the end of each school year and is described by Audrey as, "completely student directed, student managed, and student produced." She believes the show is a great opportunity for some hands-on experience and was pivotal in her transition from acting to stage crew.

Audrey's first real experience with stage crew came in her sophomore year, where she both acted and stage managed

all by herself in "Peter and the Starcatcher." She has gone on to stage manage three additional shows since then, including the most recent PAHS musical: "The Addams Family."

For those unfamiliar, the stage crew requires lots of hands-on work, and their duties can change on any given day. For instance, it's just as likely to see stage crew members painting the backgrounds of a given scene during after-school rehearsal as it is to see them manning the rigging system, which employs ropes and sandbags used to hoist various set pieces (or the actors themselves) high up into the air. These duties become even more common and sporadic in the weeks leading up to the show.

During a span of time labeled "tech week," everyone involved with the given



Audrey wears her signature backstage headset, ready to reprimand anyone who dares mess with the many props that the stage crew is responsible for.

play or musical is required to attend extended rehearsals lasting hours on end in order to perfect the performance and correct any aspects that the director(s) may not be happy with. This is also the time in which the technical aspects need to be figured out, hence the name. As stage manager, Audrey can be found doing much of the same work as the rest of her crew, but has the additional responsibility of making sure everything is done in a smooth and timely manner. During the actual performance, she can be seen just behind the curtain wearing her signature headset ready to reprimand anyone who crosses the audience's line of sight.

Currently, Audrey is hard at work on the fall play: "A Midsummer Night's Dream." It's a classic Shakespearean comedy of star-crossed lovers and Audrey has reprised her role as a stage manager, joined by an assistant, sophomore Grace Urbanski.

The play has also come with a new director in Caitlyn Colgan. "She has a lot of experience and I'm very excited to see what new perspective she brings to our show," said Audrey. Although performing Shakespeare can be quite difficult, Audrey is confident that they are up to the challenge and encourages just about everyone and their moms to attend.

When it comes to the lessons that Audrey has learned during her time as a stage manager, she stated, "Stage crew requires a lot of teamwork, and so it's made me appreciate the value of working with others, and being a leader learning to balance being easy to talk to and having a good time." Audrey's approach to leadership follows a work hard / play hard model, emphasizing that, "people leave happy, and that's what's important."

As for interests outside of her theatrical work, Audrey has taken a particular liking to forensics and psychology, and pictures her dream job as a, "Forensic



Never one to sit still, Audrey broadened her geographic horizons last summer visiting several European countries including England's Buckingham Palace. Photos courtesy of Audrey Tresnan

psychologist by day, Broadway stage manager or director by night."

Being an only child with no pets Audrey has a very strong relationship with her mother and father, who both encourage her to pave her own path and stay on top of the mounting work of junior year. Additionally, Audrey has worked for two summers as a camp counselor where she continues her leadership duties by organizing games, crafts, and the oh-so-popular talent show. She loves the kids she works with, and ironically finds them easier to deal with than many adults.

Audrey's hard work and determination is truly infectious. She continues to shine both behind the curtain and in the classroom, bringing a sense of fun that is impossible to miss. Keep an eye out for her work in "A Midsummer Night's Dream" this December, and any future PAHS theatrical productions!

Colt Frost's gymnastic journey



Written by:

Erik Groff

Have you ever done something that requires all your focus, mental and physical? Something that can lead to much acclaim, but also conclude with severe injury? That's what Colt Frost, freshman gymnast, has committed to since he was a kid. Gymnastics is a very demanding sport, requiring honed resilience and the ability to overcome many barriers, both mental and physical.

Men's gymnastics comprises six events: parallel bars, vault, still rings, floor exercise, horizontal bar, and pommel horse. These events range from tests of resilience and strength to creativity and elegance, depending on the nature of the event.

Colt said he got into gymnastics through his parents signing him up in elementary school and he has loved it ever since. He said, "I don't have a particular favorite, but the most difficult for me is the pommel because you have to constantly stay at the same speed and any small mistake can ruin your routine."

Colt's journey in gymnastics has been like many other gymnasts: long, but building great mental and physical resilience. The practices are very tedious and gymnasts have pretty long weeks. Colt said some of the worst physical pain he has ever in is dealing with callouses, a known hatred of gymnasts. The work in gymnastics never ends either, with rigorous prac-



Colt with his little brother Miles, happy to be with family. Photos courtesy of Mrs. Frost

tices and long days when the events occur.

Colt said, "I practice five days a week, three hours a day, usually doing three events a practice following the Olympic order." The Olympic order is the standard order for these events named after international events. Through long weeks of tough practices, gymnasts get ready for events so they can continue to qualify for further rounds and competitions. The pinnacle of growth for a gymnast is advancing to the next level, which requires a series of skills in a routine a gymnast must be able to do. Colt is now level 7, which is good for his age of 15.

Colt said many roadblocks can occur in gymnastics, especially with injury or struggle to advance. The biggest struggle for

Colt has been a recent switch in gyms to Roth Crosspoint Gymnastics that he is still getting used to.

Though there are many challenges in gymnastics, there are also many privileges and perks to enjoy. Colt says he specifically likes to travel with his team and once he even met Olympic male gymnast, Justin Springs. Colt said that gymnastics takes up a lot of his time, but he enjoys the challenge it brings and the privileges that come with the work he's put in.

Colt isn't just a gymnast, having a whole life outside of the time-consuming sport. Some of his other hobbies include things like CrossFit, camping, and movies. He likes all his classes, but Ms. Eberly's World History class would have to be his

favorite.

Colt's parents are also important people in his life and our community, his dad being a Phoenixville police officer, and his mom being a math teacher here at PAHS. He said his parents have worked hard to be flexible, even in their important roles. Colt also has a brother named Miles, two dogs named Lucy and Bubba, and a guinea pig named Pookie. Overall, Colt's life is eventful even outside of gymnastics.

So, being a promising gymnast, dedicated student, and family man, Colt Frost has gained mental resilience, physical toughness, and maturity beyond his years. Expect him to vault over any obstacles in his path.



Colt Frost performs on the parallel bars, a difficult routine that requires intense focus and core strength.

Mr. Chiofalo: The man behind the math teacher



Written by:

Maddie
Witcoski

What do you think teachers do outside of school? Do they constantly just read, grade, and solve math problems? PAHS math teacher Andrew Chiofalo will definitely prove this idea wrong. Frequently crossing state lines to catch a 9 p.m. concert, attend a Phillies game, or go on a random adventure with a friend are just a few of his many different hobbies when not teaching. Along with being a vigorous and effective teacher, the man we call Chio enjoys music, sports, good food, and traveling.

Chio grew up in Northeast Philadelphia and originally attended a local high school that wasn't very well-known for its academics. He was selected during his freshman year for a magnet program which allowed him to commute over an hour to the local Temple campus every day and attend the George Washington Carver School of Engineering and Science. Every day, he'd take a bus, train, and subway to get there. Chio described this as a unique high school experience, as he had access to the entire Temple campus and even could do things like go bowling at lunch! He then went to college at Temple for accounting, a career which he pursued until he was 29.

However, Chio eventually decided that accounting just wasn't fulfilling enough for him. Kids in his neighborhood would constantly line up outside his door for math tutoring, and this is where he found his passion for teaching. At 30, Chio went back to school at Temple and got his

teaching degree in mathematics. He now says, "This job allows me to sleep really well because I think I'm helping people meet their dreams".

Chio has been teaching for 25 years now and has enjoyed every second of it. In his own words, his teaching philosophy is to "teach in a conceptual manner that kids have the ability to walk through any door in the future. I want my students to have every opportunity available to them." This year, Chio teaches AP Calculus BC, Multi-variable Calculus, and Algebra I.

One of Chio's main pieces of advice to younger people is that they should "Travel and keep traveling." He believes it's super important to become exposed to other cultures and the way different people live in order to grow your perception of the world. Among his own travels, he's been to many national parks, something he calls 'backcountry backpacking.' Among these parks, Chio's been to The Grand Canyon, Glacier National Park, and Acadia National Park and even rode on a snowmobile with a guide through Yellowstone National Park. In 2015, Chio also went to Beijing China, where he walked the Great Wall and saw the Forbidden City.

When not traveling, in this free time Chio enjoys going to concerts, sports games, Broadway shows, and reading. Chio's favorite musician is John Foreman, lead singer in the band "Switchfoot." Of the hundreds of concerts he's attended, he's seen this band over 35 times! His favorite song is titled "Meant to Live," as he loves the message that we are meant to live for so much more than a monotonous, cookie-cutter everyday life. He loves music that has meaning and said, "When the lights go down and you listen to the lyrics, they should mean something in your life." He believes that good music should put your life into perspective.

Chio is also known to enjoy a good book. His favorite authors include Tad



In 2012 in Norfolk, Virginia, a star-struck **Chio** stands with his favorite musical artist, John Foreman of the band "Switchfoot." A huge fan, Chio has seen the band in concert almost 40 times.

Photo courtesy of Mr. Chiofalo

Williams, Terry Brooks, Neil Stevenson, and Ted Decker. He's even read a 32-book series known as "The Shannara Chronicles" by Terry Brooks.

As for family, Chio's older brother is a programmer for the state of NJ, while his younger brother is a retired detective. His pride and joy was his eleven year old Beagle named Bailey, who unfortunately recently passed. Chio is currently looking at rescuing another Beagle. Before owning a dog, he used to have two ferrets. Chio said, "I used to sneak them out and put them in my pockets and take them with me everywhere. Nobody would know."

Another little-known fact is that Chio was part of the Big Brothers program when he lived in Philadelphia. He is still

close with one of his little brothers, Danny, who is now 37. One of Chio's proudest moments being chaperone/driver for Danny on his first date in 10th grade with a girl named Jamie, and now the two are married.

At the end of the day, Andrew Chiofalo is not only a remarkable math teacher, but also has a whirlwind of interests and experiences separate from solving calculus problems. It's always interesting to hear about the lives of our teachers, the people we see everyday yet know very little about. Chio is no exception. So, whether you see him during your next math class or at a Phillies game, be sure to go up and ask him what he's reading, or what concert he's seeing next.

Rachel Cobb: The senior behind the scrubs



Written by:

Lilly Sivco

Interning at the Phoenixville Hospital is not for the faint of heart. Nurses, doctors, and medical assistants experience many strenuous tasks each day that the typical citizen would not be able to endure. Rachel Cobb, a senior at Phoenixville, has experienced firsthand the challenges and tasks that are necessary for medical practitioners, observing sights that she believes "would send other students into shock." As a member of the Allied Health program, she attends the hospital for her first three periods of school every other week to view medical procedures, shadow doctors, and learn about the nursing process. While Rachel has learned extensive amounts of information about medical care and experienced the joy of helping patients, she has also seen the shocking elements of the healthcare industry.

For example, during her first week of rotations, Rachel was interning in the Intensive Care Unit when she heard echoes of a woman screaming down the hall. Nurses were repeatedly telling the patient to "be quiet" and "stop screeching" after she had been disrupting other patients for two hours, but the woman refused.

Rachel commented, "Nobody should give health professionals a hard time because their jobs are so difficult to begin with." She has also witnessed the same

patients being checked into the hospital multiple times for similar reasons. If these individuals had followed the advice their doctors gave, they would not have been forced to return to the hospital. No matter how irritating medical advice may be, Rachel believes that you should "suck it up and listen to your doctor."

Rachel's interest in healthcare began at

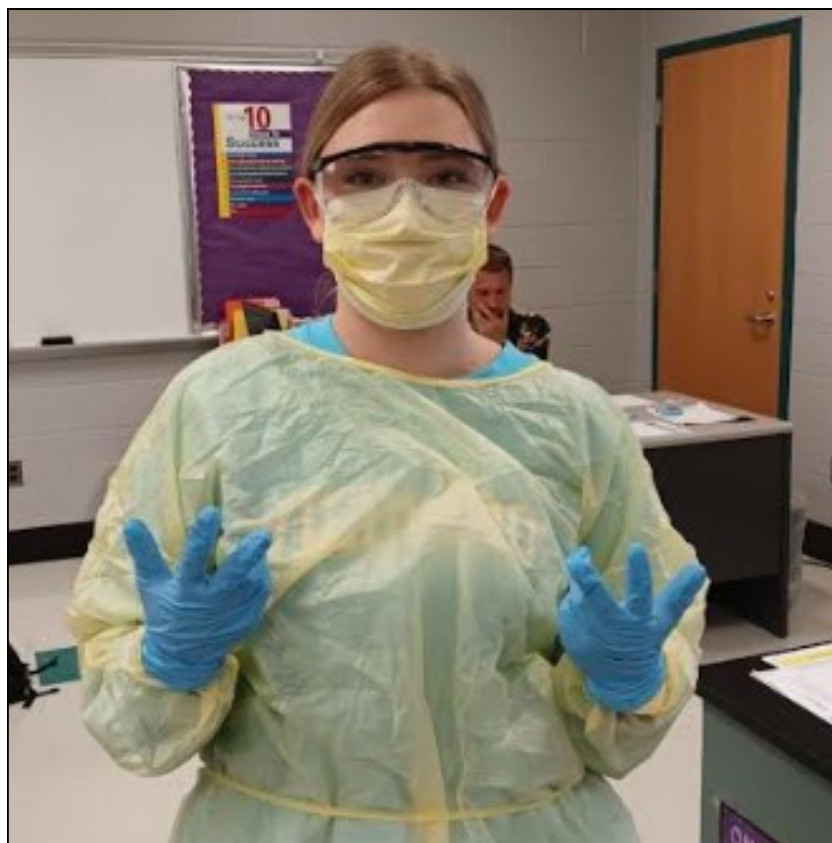
eight years old. After deciding to sprint across the Barkley playground in Uggs, she tripped and fell on the concrete, being taken to the hospital with a concussion. Despite this traumatic experience, Rachel was able to look back on this event in a positive light, and said that "the nurses in the pediatric field were the nicest, most understanding people." Years later, she

realized that she wanted to benefit the lives of sick and injured citizens because of the profound, positive impacts that Paoli's nurses and doctors had on her life.

Rachel has dedicated almost half of her school day towards health classes for the past two years. During junior year, to supplement the Allied Health program, she took Anatomy and Physiology, Careers in Healthcare, and Medical Terminology. This year, as a senior, she takes Foundations of Clinical Practice, Medical Law and Ethics, and Safety and First Aid. While it may seem impossible or gut-wrenching to learn about so many medical terms and procedures throughout the school day, Rachel believes that the benefits outweigh the stress of these health classes.

In her free time, Rachel enjoys spending time with her Australian Cattle dog, Leo, cats named Oreo and Lily, and her brother, Aidan, who is currently attending Temple University to study computer science and physics. In addition to studying for Mr. Gianni and Mr. Smiley's classes and interning at the hospital, Rachel also works at Cinderella Nail Salon on Bridge Street. After checking customers into their appointments for the past six months, she has learned how to deal with difficult clients in the service industry as a whole. Rachel stated that she upholds the importance of "being tolerant and knowing how to speak with people, especially if they are irritated."

After pursuing healthcare for over two years, Rachel would like to advise her peers to "Pay attention to your health, think about how others are feeling, and eat an apple a day to keep the doctor away!"



Rachel tries on a disposable lab gown with sanitary gloves while learning about lab safety in Mr. Gianni's Foundations of Clinical Practice class. Photo courtesy of Rachel Cobb

Who is more "Awesomer": Jackson Deets or Caitlin O'Meacham?



Written by: Caitlin O'Meacham

Being awesome is being like Caitlin

For some people, being extraordinarily awesome may come as a challenge, but certainly not for me. My name is Caitlin O'Meacham and I would be lying to say I'm not extremely cool, smart, funny, kind, and generous. In other words, I'm awesome. These are all traits that just come naturally to me. While he may seem awesome to some, I find it hard to believe my fellow journalist (Jackson Deets) is nearly as awesome as me. So, let's get this important debate started to prove that *I* am more awesome (awesomer) than Jackson Deets.

als and my Districts meet at Lehigh University! Some people may not think cross country is hard, but I'm sure they would change their mind if they had to run a 5K. Overall, I'm just a pretty awesome person, and I do a lot of awesome stuff. Most people I know can agree there is not much that's wrong with me. Just to be sure, I interviewed my mother, who so nicely pointed out my one problem saying, "Your only fault is your addiction to Dunkin', honey." I personally would not consider that a bad thing, since I need that energy to run well. Unlike Jackson, my ambitions of being a super awesome person drive me to do



Anna Carruthers, Me (Caitlin O'Meacham), and Josie Reed pose together for a picture after Qualifying for Cross Country PIAA states for the third year in a row. How AWESOME is that! Photos courtesy of Caitlin O'Meacham

I would definitely consider myself a people person. I love talking with anyone that will listen and engage with new people all the time. Fashion club leader Celeste Lennon said: "Caitlin, you're so awesome, cool, perfect and funny in every way. You're so fun to run with at cross country." You see, she really encapsulated me as a person and just how awesome I am because I even make hard tasks like running fun!

I interviewed my bestest friend in the whole world who definitely would not give a biased opinion on me whatsoever (senior Maddie Witcoski). While talking about my beauty and intelligence, Maddie stated: "Caitlin is a diligent worker."

Hard work is something I do take pride in (stop by the Bistro on Bridge in Phoenixville to see me in action.) At work I host the majority of the time, but I pick up bussing shifts and serve as well. I am basically a triple threat, and not to toot my own horn, but there isn't much I cant/dont do at my job. I balance my school life, work and sports, which can get hard, but I'd say I do it pretty graciously. I don't even think Jackson has a job, so that's not very awesome.

On top of my busy lifestyle, I'm extremely committed to the sport I do: Cross Country. I have been on the varsity team since my sophomore year of high school, and qualified for States as a team for the first time that year, and have qualified every year since. As a sophomore at States, I was definitely one of the slowest people there, but that didn't matter because a lot of people tell me I'm a great supporter! While I'm out and about running and supporting my team, Jackson is literally just rolling around skateboarding, which is super boring. Is skateboarding even a sport? If it is, I cannot imagine people actually being interested in it.

This year I was made a team captain for cross country along with five other girls in my grade. I have had the highest attendance record for practices this season, which really paid off in my Invitation-

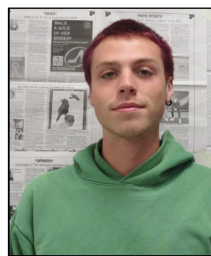
better things for the people around me. Obviously, the world does not revolve around me, but it very much could considering how much awesomer I am than Jackson (he is fairly awesome, just not as



VOTE HERE: Who's more awesomer?



My closest friend (Madeline Witcoski) and I looking super awesome at our senior Homecoming dance. This picture was taken moments before we broke it down on the dance floor.



Written by: Jackson Deets

Why I'm more "Awesomer" than Caitlin

I'm Jackson Deets and I think that I'm much more awesomer than my classmate Caitlin because I'm a universally influential figure in the Phoenixville area. Caitlin seems like she's nice, but the awesome factor is kind of lacking. I think I provide a lot more awesomeness, like going out to eat with friends, listening to songs that I like, and going on walks in nature or something, I guess, I don't know. I'm a sponsored skateboarder and get to go on trips around the country for free bro, so like c'mon stop playing with me.

I decided to ask my girlfriend Olivia Giardina who is more awesomer because she knows me best and is totally unbiased. She said that I'm more awesomer because "I'm always down for a sweet treat" (which is true), like some ice cream or some candy, maybe a little pastry idk, and I think that's really awesome. To further my case, I asked her about Caitlin and she said, "I like her a lot," "she's cool," So yeah, that didn't help my case (she wasn't supposed to say that). So, scratch that. Many other people would agree that I'm much awesomer.

I may not have a job right now and might not be a great cross country runner, but I do get to go on awesome trips across the country for free to skate and have fun with my friends. You see, I have spent a ton of time skateboarding, practicing, getting better, and filming with friends and people I have met along the way. It's a very awesome community, but can be very difficult to get connections and gain acknowledgement from companies. However, I have been able to do that because I'm awesome (if I really have to say it again). I get free boxes of shoes from Vans, free boards, and free griptape.



That's me doing a big awesome trick on my skateboard in Pittsburgh, PA. Try doing that, Caitlin. Photo: Robb Estberg

I think my life is pretty awesome and I think I deserve some credit for what I do, because how many other people from around here are really doing what I'm doing? Whenever I'm around people I'm usually bombarded by compliments, praise, acclaim and admiration, all of which is normal for me but further proves my point that I'm awesome without even thinking about it.

One of my best friends, Rowan O'Hara, loves to give me praise, like it's almost a pastime for him. Every time I'm around him it's, "Oh Jackson, you're such a cool guy. I'm so happy you're friends with me!" and "I don't know what I would do if I didn't have a friend like you!" Another one of my close friends, graduate Keith Jacoby, said that I'm much awesomer than Caitlin because, "I don't even know



That's me effortlessly chillin' at Prom 2023. Photo: Olivia Giardina

Pretty much anything I need skating wise I can get for free due to spending so much time around people who are in the industry.

I also know how to play a bunch of instruments, I have helped design clothing for brands, and I've modeled here and there. I don't just run races and talk about my mile times or whatever runners do. Why not do something fun rather than the faster equivalent of walking?

who that is, but I know YOU Jackson, and you are awesome!" What a great guy, but anyway.

I'm great and I think a lot of people would agree because why wouldn't they? I skateboard, I have cool outfits, and I'm really just good at everything. I think the only downside of being as awesome as I am is overwhelming myself with the constant weight of awesomeness. It can be a lot if you do not know how to handle it. But I do, I think.

Top 3 artists to listen to this fall



Written by:
Cat Baxter

Autumn is undoubtedly one of the best seasons to listen to music. Not only can you feel the chill in the air, but you can almost smell it too, along with pumpkin, cinnamon, and rained-on leaves.

With school still in its first few months and the weather changing in our favor, a hot drink and a solid playlist should definitely be considered as fall essentials. So based on Spotify's personalized "Autumn Mix," I've compiled a list of my top three artists to listen to this fall.

Artist #3: Hozier

Often using religious and literary references in his music, while drawing inspira-

tion from artists such as Nina Simone, Billie Holiday, and Woody Guthrie, Hozier is an Irish singer and songwriter who has been active within the music industry since 2007.

With breakout songs such as "Take Me to Church" and "Cherry Wine," the musician originally began his music career with open mic nights in Dublin before signing with indie label Rubyworks Records.

Hozier's most recent album, "Unreal Unearth" released just this year draws inspiration from Dante's 14th-century epic, and combines pastoral folk, soaring epics, and mythology into the 16-track work. His striking imagery and soft sounds are perfect for the fall climate, especially the tracks "Eat your Young" and "Unknown / Nth".

Artist #2: Mazzy Star

Most popular for their song "Fade Into You" off their second album "So Tonight



The founding members of Mazzy Star, **Hope Sandoval** and **David Roback**, posing for an unreleased photoshoot in 1992, just a year before their second album altered the alt-rock genre of the 90's for good. Photo: Pinterest

That I Might See," Mazzy Star sounds almost like a haunted folk country band, and can best be described as "dreamy."

The band remained in the shadows for most of their musical careers, which began in 1988 with the remnants of the band Opal, which was at the time touring with The Jesus and Mary Chain, before disbanding and recruiting Hope Sandoval as lead singer.

Mazzy Star is undoubtedly an autumn classic with their soft and yet quite subtle and unmistakable voice, and the dream-like state which accompanies each track, although the band itself has not released new music since 2013.

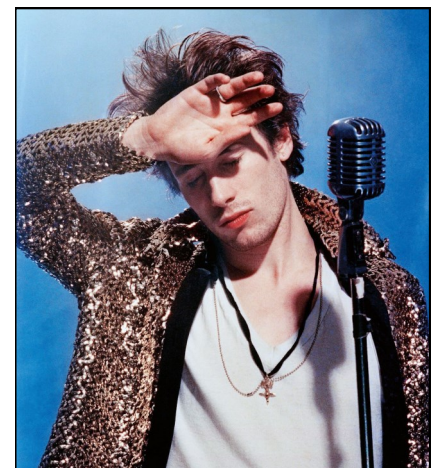
Artist #1: Jeff Buckley

The son of Tim Buckley, a singer-songwriter who released folk and jazz music in the 1960's, Jeff Buckley is most famous for his only album that was recorded and released, "Grace," before he tragically drowned at the age of 30.

Originally famous for his cover of Leonard Cohen's song, "Hallelujah," the album, and Buckley himself, have risen in regard since its release and his death respectively. With tracks such as "Lilac Wine," "So Real," "Lover, You Should've Come Over," and the title-track "Grace," the album stands the test of the time as intimate, impulsive, melodic, and most

definitely a soundtrack for the falling of leaves.

Fall is a familiar and open time of year, it feels even more earnest and when you listen to music that helps you feel tapped into your surroundings and really, truly feel them. These are all impactful artists no matter the season, but to understand them even further, try listening to them this fall!



Jeff Buckley posing along with his iconic microphone during the album shoot for his 1994 release "Grace." The album propelled **Buckley** into notoriety. Photo: RollingStone



The album cover for **Hozier's** self-titled first album "Hozier," released in 2014. This album included his breakout song, "Take Me to Church." Photo: RollingStone

Why you should go meatless this Thanksgiving



Written by:
Leah C. Garofalo

The leaves are falling, the air is crisp, and the aroma of delicious food is swirling. There is nothing quite as comforting and warm as Thanksgiving! Complete with a celebratory meal, the month of November is one often filled with joy. For other creatures, however, Thanksgiving can be a time of anxiety. This Thanksgiving, going meatless could help save the animals, the planet, and introduce you to a new world of dining.

According to the Food Empowerment Project, about 46 million turkeys are killed each year for Thanksgiving alone! When you add in other dishes such as stuffing and gravy, the harm to animals is inconceivable. By going meatless this year, you could help prevent the harm of these innocent animals.

Secondly, going meatless this holiday season, you can help to protect the environment. Between food waste, excessive water use, travel, and much more, the holiday season can create intense rises in carbon emissions. Meat production is one of these key factors. In fact, the Food and Agriculture Organization notes that almost 15% of human emissions come from livestock production. By skipping out on the turkey this year, you could help to gradually reduce these emissions and help our

planet.

With all of that science aside, the biggest reason why you should go meatless this season is to expand that palate of yours! Many of your familiar festive dishes may already be vegetarian, while others can be easily altered or replaced. Sweet potatoes (minus the marshmallows), green beans, potatoes, and cranberries are among the obvious choices for those wishing to make the switch. Never fear—you don't have to limit yourself to these simple vegetables this November! Opt for interesting new swaps such as mushroom gravy (a personal favorite), or if you are feeling a



A scrumptious-looking fully plant-based spread of roasted veggies, turkey replacement, and vegan gravy! Eating vegan can look much more diverse than just plain fruits and vegetables. Photo: Plantbasedrdblog.com



This stunning vegan pumpkin pie proves that any classic can be made animal-free! Recipes for swaps like these are readily available online, such as from websites like Forksoverknives.com or NY Times Cooking! Photo: cooking.nytimes.com

bit more adventurous, try that tofurky! You may be surprised to find how similar many meat replacements are to the real deal, without having to stress about its impact on nature.

By trying these new additions to your table, a whole world of plant-based swaps arise, waiting to greet you with exciting flavors. By sticking with this change after the holiday season, gone will be the days of boring chicken fingers! Implementing plant-based meals can provide multitudes of health benefits as well as fun flavors.

For example, a simple tofu dish can deliver complete proteins, benefits to bone health, and cholesterol regulation. Howev-

er, vegan dining can go much further than basic tofu! Using brand new spices, seasonings, and uncommon produce can help add an exciting twist to your menu. Try picking a seasonal vegetable, such as pumpkin, and making it the star of a surprising dish such as pumpkin hummus! For more easy and delicious recipes, check out websites like Vegnews.com or Forksoverknives.com.

While Thanksgiving is often a time of tradition and safety, venturing to go meatless this holiday season would help save animals, protect the environment, and introduce you to a whole new world of food. Skip the turkey this Thanksgiving; you'll be thankful you did!

NHS Induction, 2023

The Purple Press is written, edited, produced and distributed monthly by the Phoenixville Area High School Journalism class (Period 3).

Advisor: Mr. Zittel
Layout editor: Celeste Lennon

Writing Staff:
Cat Baxter, Cameron Clark, Jackson Deets, Leah Garofalo, Reed Gleba, Erik Groff, Caroline Hallman, Celeste Lennon, Elle McDonnell, Julia McNamee, Caitlin O'Meacham, Lilly Sivco, Carter Smith, Madeline Witcoski, Emma Ward

The opinions expressed in this paper are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect those of school administration and/or faculty members.

If you have a comment, question, correction, or letter to the editor, please e-mail the advisor, Mr. Zittel, at zittelj@pasd.com.

The newspaper can also be accessed online at: http://pahs.pasd.com/clubs/jiteracy_publications/purple_press

The Purple Press is affiliated with the Pennsylvania School Press Association. The paper is printed by schoolpaperexpress.com out of Wappingers Falls,

On Wednesday October 18th, the National Honors Society inducted a new class of members into the organization. These inductees are recognized for their academic achievement, involvement in the community, and leadership here at PAHS. We thank Mr. Winters and the faculty council for their dedication in leading this group and organizing the induction.

Inductees included Christine Amalraj, Christian Astill, Emily Birdsell, Michael Brignola, Zoe Cimo, Chris Clineff, Courtney Clineff, Alexander Clipper, Brenden Cunningham, Lauren Curry, Ava DeMutis, Elle Eckhardt, Danielle Eliasson, Gabriella Finger, Leah Garofalo, Bryce Graver, Audrey Guido, Eleanor Hamid, Delaney Horner, Gustav Hovey, RJ Hughes, Alexa Irons, Bridget Kelly, Madeline Kerry, Colton Kleppe, Eleanor Kocher, Molly Kotes, Jay Leinhausner, Celeste Lennon, Jay (Julia) McFalls, Subhada Mohapatra, Chloe



Current members of the National Honor Society stand as the National Anthem is sung.

Myers, Gwendolyn Natale, Claire New, Sarina Patel, Elise Pham, Ella Pietrzykowski, Talia Rosenfeld, Margaret Rost, Elizabeth Ruch, Alegria Serrano, Amelia St. Hilaire, Laura Steinmetz, Helena Stevenson, Arthur Topoulos, Peter Topoulos, Emine Ulcay, Keshav Vyas, and Lanorde Wheeler.



President **Anna Carruthers** explaining the honor of being inducted into the National Honor Society.



National Honor Society officers, **Emma Ward** (Vice President), **Maddie Witcoski** (Treasurer), **John Hamid** (Parliamentarian), **Ben Eichenwald** (Secretary), **Mika Munion** (Parliamentarian), and **Phoebe Smith-O'Donnell** (Historian) listening to President **Anna Carruthers** speak on the pillars of NHS.

Mr. Winters said, "I am so proud of our returning seniors (who have been through a lot of challenges over their high school career) and especially excited about the influx of new members. Their enthusiasm is infectious and is going to help make amazing things happen at Phoenixville and the larger community for the upcoming year."



Farewell Mr. Bankes!

PAHS is sad to see one of its most popular and dedicated teachers leave during the school year. Read on to learn more about Mr. Bankes and why he has left the building.

Q: Where did you attend high school and college?

A: I graduated from Owen J. Roberts High School. I received my bachelors from Shippensburg University, my post-baccalaureate from Kutztown, my masters from Neumann, and my principal certification from Immaculata.

Q: Were you working anywhere prior to PAHS? How long have you been at PAHS?

A: I have taught here for eight years. Prior to teaching here, I worked at Downingtown East High School as an LTS for two years, and Norristown Area School District for three years.

Q: Describe the classes you taught here over the years.

A: I've taught so many classes here in my eight years: Earth and Space Interactions, Introduction to Oceanography and Astronomy, AP Environmental Science, Environmental Science, Analytical Science, and Biology.

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

A: One of my best memories was being a part of the coaching staff for the baseball team when they won the PAC Champion-

ship. I had the pleasure of coaching each one of the players that season when they were freshman and watching them overcome the adversity of losing their head coach early in the season and how they responded. I also really enjoyed the first few years of the Astronomy Club here; it was refreshing to see students so interested in a topic.

Q: Why have you chosen to leave PAHS?

A: I leave with a heavy heart, but am moving to a new position elsewhere that has a lot of positives for my relatively young family.

Q: What's next for you?

A: I will be moving down Route 23 to teach Earth Science at Owen J. Roberts High School.

Q: Tell us about your family.

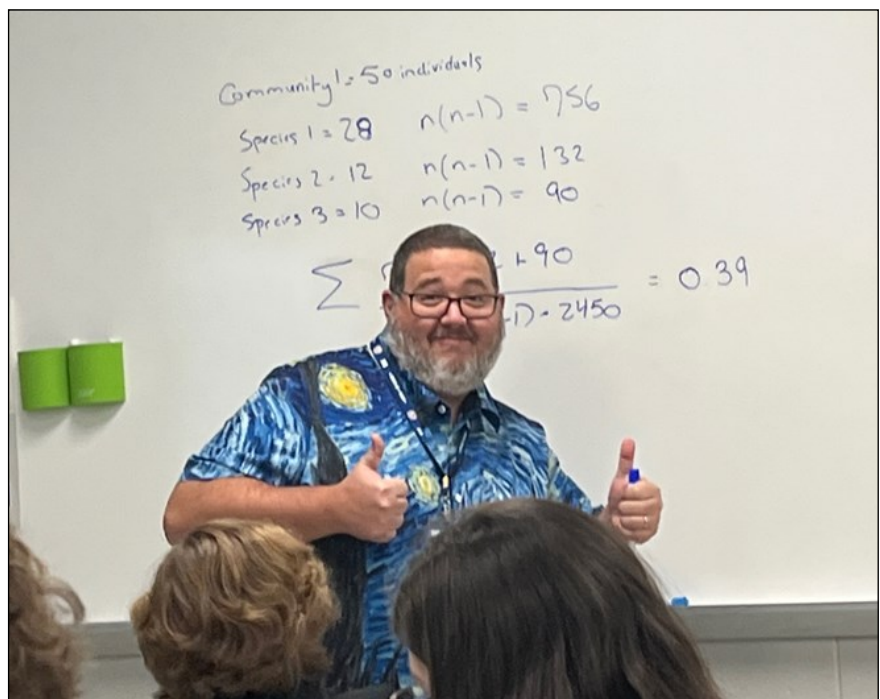
A: I have two boys, Chase (9) and Rhett (5). My oldest is very into ice hockey, dek kockey and baseball while my youngest is starting his hockey journey and is into his second dek hockey season. My wife is a special Education Supervisor at Downingtown Area School District.

Q: What will you miss most about PAHS?

A: The experience working here has been a great one. I have met a lot of amazing teachers, administrators, coaches, and students. Oh, and donut Fridays. If you know, you know.

Q: Any parting words?

A: The grass isn't always greener. It's just a different shade of green. Thank you for everything, I truly have enjoyed my time here and will miss this place. Go Phantoms!



Mr. Bankes displays his upbeat personality in his final days at PAHS. His last day was October 27.

Photo courtesy of Mr. Bankes

Mrs. McTiernan: From superstar to superintendent



Written by:
Celeste
Lennon

Often times, we as students tend to get so caught up in our day to day operations at school that we forget about the people supporting the whole structure of the school district. While the administration building is so close, what happens inside of it can feel so far. After saying goodbye to superintendent Dr. Fegley last year, many Phoenixville students and staff were both anxious and eager to see who would next come into office. Coming from a background of success, new superintendent Mrs. Missy McTiernan brings a fresh perspective and great aspirations to further improve the Phoenixville Area School District.

Mrs. McTiernan's academic career began at Scranton Prep High School, followed by attending UConn, receiving both her bachelor's and master's degrees at the university. In addition to her studies, Mrs. McTiernan was a committed basketball player and even went on to win a national championship. She stayed in Connecticut after graduating and started teaching immediately, staying in the area for several years before returning to Pennsylvania and spending time in several different schools before receiving her principal certificate; Mrs. McTiernan then ended up back in her hometown of Scranton. Mrs. McTiernan worked in the Scranton School District for the next 18 years and eventually became superintendent.

Despite enjoying the Scranton district, Mrs. McTiernan decided it was time for a change of scenery. When she initially heard about Phoenixville's superintendent opening, she didn't even know where the

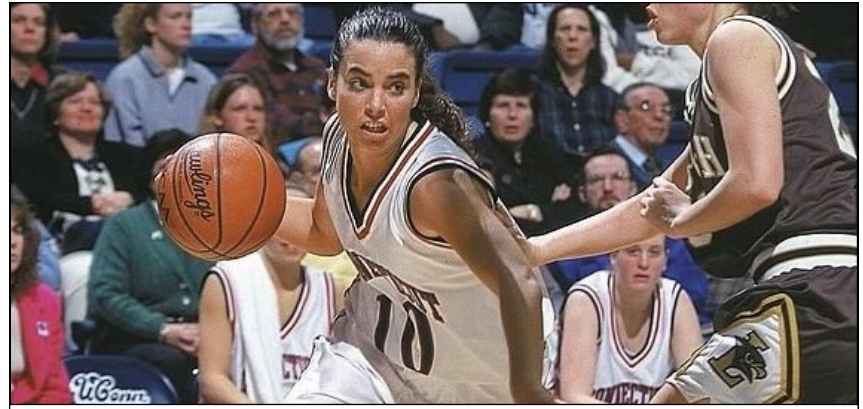
school district was. However, Mrs. McTiernan was quickly impressed by the people upon joining the district and stated, "The community here is like nothing I've ever witnessed before. There's a culture here of taking care of each other."

Students and staff should expect to see Mrs. McTiernan at various school functions throughout the year. In her own words, "I like to be out and about and I like to support. Whether it's the band concert or the sporting events, I really enjoy that." She may even reminisce on her college career days at the high school basketball games.

Working her way to the position she now holds has taken not only time and immense dedication, but admirable character. Overall, Mrs. McTiernan said that "The greatest part about being a superintendent is having the opportunity to make a positive impact on a larger scale for students." She believes that it's crucial to not only take care of academics, but to focus on each student as a whole, especially by addressing mental health needs and promoting well-rounded students.



Phoenixville welcomes **Mrs. McTiernan** to the district! Her dedication to her career and resilience promises great things for PASD's future.
Photo: Pasd.com



At the University of Connecticut, **Mrs. McTiernan** was a committed basketball player for her entire college career, accumulating a national title win.
Photo courtesy of Mrs. McTiernan

Mrs. McTiernan said, "I come to work everyday thinking, 'How can I make a really good district even better?' because it's all about the kids."

It should come as no surprise that being a superintendent is not an easy job. Mrs. McTiernan utilizes her past administrative experience to tackle challenges, but said, "There's nothing that can prepare you for being a superintendent until you're sitting in the seat." Certain struggles are the same from district to district, but unprompted issues can arise every day. Mrs. McTiernan feels incredibly lucky for her fellow staff members, saying about her team, "You're only as good as the people you surround yourself with," and, "they make me even better."

In terms of district-wide aspirations, the building of a new elementary school known as Hares Hill is on the minds of many. Mrs. McTiernan said about the project, "A lot of the hard work has been done by Dr. Fegley and the team, but now I get to come in at the fun time and see the project through." Current tasks include everything from picking out the furniture to getting the physical shovels in the ground.

When she's not hard at work, Mrs. McTiernan can be seen exploring downtown Phoenixville, whether that be going out to dinner with her husband Bob or walking on the Schuylkill River Trail with her Boxer dog Molly (who she says is like her child). Mrs. McTiernan enjoys working out and running in her spare time, but also simply relaxing at home to take a break from the work-induced stress superintendents inevitably face. Mrs. McTiernan's family includes two brothers that she's very close with, eight nieces and nephews, two stepchildren, and a two year old granddaughter.

And as for the future? Mrs. McTiernan said, "This is a great school district and it's my job to now get it from great to whatever that next level is," and that she is always striving for perfection. Mrs. McTiernan hopes to get out and meet as many people as she can and continue to listen and learn about PASD.

Phoenixville is incredibly grateful to welcome such a kind, professional, and overall amazing person as Mrs. McTiernan to the district! In turn, she said, "I'm very thankful and blessed to have this opportunity to be a part of this community."

PAHS's intramural programs: Get involved!



Written by:
Julia McNamee

Many of PAHS's sports play against other schools in the PAC, or sometimes against non-league schools close enough in driving distance. With the additions of many new intramural programs to PAHS, students are now able to come together before and after school to compete with or against each other in sports such as soccer, basketball, and even football.

Run by Ms. Foresta and Mr. Houck, both gym teachers here at PAHS, the intramural program, which began last year, has again brought futsal, and a new addition of basketball to the school. Futsal is like soccer, but played indoors on a harder and smaller surface. In Phoenixville, futsal is played on the basketball court in sneakers. The teams play 4v4 on either side, plus a goalkeeper.

Last year, futsal was an obvious success amongst the students. Around eighty students composed eight different teams, and met at 7:15 a.m. to play two-fifteen minute halves before school started. This year, the program is expected to expand. Mr. Houck said he would like the program to be "ten teams this year," meaning 100 students would be a part of the futsal league that begins again in the spring.

Last season, it was clear the futsal games were highly enjoyed among the students, so Ms. Foresta and Mr. Houck devised a tournament. The tournament allowed all teams to play each other at



Senior **Cesar Castellon**, a player on *The Juveniles*, scores a goal very late into the game against *FC Guatemala* on November 6th. This win pushed the *Juveniles* to the finals against *The Brazilians* on November 10th.

least once, often twice, and there was even a playoff round where teams were eliminated one-by-one until there was only one standing. To many players' enjoyment, the tournament resurfaced this fall, and the winners will receive a team trophy as well as individual medals when the season ends with the final playoff game on November 10th.

Because the intramural futsal league was so popular among the students, Ms. Foresta and Mr. Houck decided to create a similar basketball league, with three players on each team. Mr. Houck believes the basketball games will be similarly as popular among students, and expects a good outcome from the program. Signups for the team end on November 17th, and games begin on November 27th. Following basketball will be co-ed volleyball in-

tramurals in January and February.

Another intramural league that is currently in session is the Turkey Bowl. The

Turkey Bowl is a rebrand of the infamous "Powder Puff," a flag football game played between junior or senior female varsity athletes. Powder Puff has always been very popular, but Ms. Foresta, amongst other staff members, believed certain aspects of the game to be behind our time, and that female athletes should not be considered 'powder puffs.' The game is 7v7, and played on a full length flag football field. Ms. Foresta says the Turkey Bowl is going to be "more realistic and more conducive to where society is going today." Participants meet in the morning before school to practice on their assigned teams. The Turkey Bowl will be held on November 21st at 5pm, and all are welcome to watch!

Ms. Foresta and Mr. Houck are very pleased with the results of the intramural programs here at PAHS. They hope it will continue to expand and have a lasting impact on the school and its students. Ms. Foresta also said she is "open to other intramurals if students have another sport they would like to see."



The Juveniles celebrate their last minute goal against *FC Guatemala* on November 6th with only thirteen seconds left in the game.
Photos: Julia McNamee

What is one thing you should NEVER discuss at Thanksgiving dinner?



Landon Connett (12):
"My aunt's relationship."



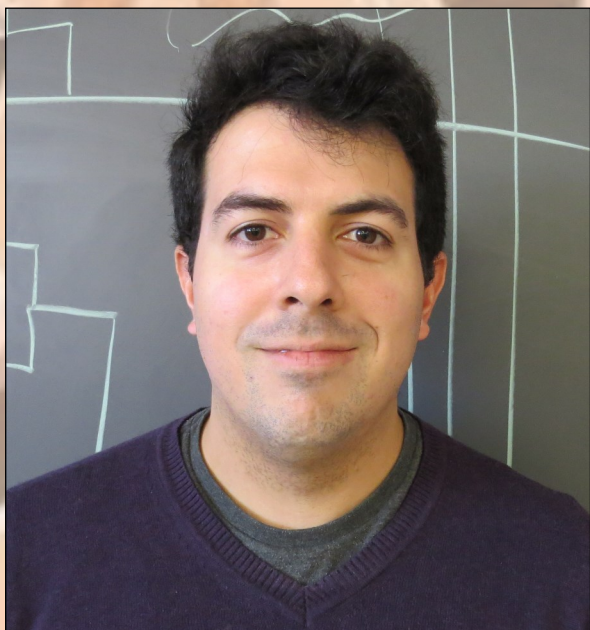
Matthew Malinowski (10):
"Bible study because my relatives argue about it."



Zion Ohlbaum (12):
"Politics because people get really mad and you should be talking about family."



Taylor Walker (9):
"Controversial sports teams."



Mr. LaLuna:
"A recently deceased pet."



Sam Faunce and Max Hauer (11):
"Your favorite grandma because we want presents from both at Christmas"



Gordon Dicandilo (10):
"A divorce in the family."



Mr. Sprenkle/Gandalf:
"How many coconuts a swallow can carry."



Sophie Puleo (11):
"How dry the turkey is."



Avery Carr and Kate Illig (9):
"Family problems, because it makes everyone uncomfortable and your food gets cold."

If you could buy anything in the world on Black Friday, what would it be?



Caroline McMullan (11)
"A lifetime supply of Diet Coke."



Audrey Tresnan (11):
"A college tuition."



Mrs. Johnson-Chilla:
"Unlimited scrubs."



Ella Brennfleck (10):
"A Bernese Mountain Dog."



Ethan Young (10):
"A lot of lottery tickets."



Sebastian Amores (12):
"A new water bottle."



Natalie Murray (11):
"A credit card with unlimited money, so I can always be buying things."



Harry Hamid (9):
"A pool, because a pool is cool"



Andrew Beecher (9):
"A house, because houses are cooler than pools"



Maria Chavis (12):
"A car, because they're expensive and Black Friday deals are the best"

Defining "Hustle" on and off the court



Written by:

Cam Clark

Do you ever find yourself wondering where professional basketball teams find talent? Your first thoughts would be the draft, or free agency. Most talent in America will be noticed if you really stand out from others. But what about in other countries? How do American-based teams find remote talent and players? "Hustle" (2022) follows a talent scout for the Philadelphia 76ers, portrayed by Adam Sandler, to show audiences the process of distant recruitment, as well as a heart-capturing story of trust, integrity, and pure grit.

At the start of the film, we are introduced to Sandler's character, Stanley Sugarman. We learn his role as a scout while he is being escorted into a talent showcase in Serbia. He wishes to recruit 7'4" Dimitri Jovanovic, but can't due to his lack of legal records. The feature then cuts to a montage of Stan in various countries, seeking potential players and failing to recruit any, as each player has a crucial flaw anywhere from lack of hustle, to anger issues.

Stanley returns to Philadelphia, having no success. At a board meeting, we meet Sixers owner Rex Merrick (Robert Duvall) and his son Vince Merrick (Ben Foster). Vince and Stan argue about whether or not to draft a certain player. After taking Stan's side, Rex rewards his years of hard work with an assistant coaching job next to actual Sixers head coach at the time, Doc Rivers. Stanley goes home to celebrate with his wife Thresa (Queen Latifah); however, within the next week, Rex passes, leaving all of Philly in shock and despair. The team then goes to Vince,

who revokes Stan's assistant coaching position and sends him back into the field to look for a star. Stan unhappily cooperates, receiving a promise that he can regain his coaching position if he finds the missing piece.

Starting his search in Spain, Stan feels defeated after looking at various underwhelming players in the area. Feeling the sudden urge to play basketball for a bit, Stan locates a park and he is surprised at the couple hundred people watching two players compete head to head. The victorious, local construction worker Bo Cruz catches Stan's eye after dominating the match. He follows him home to try offering him a chance to play in the NBA. Initially skeptical, a financially unstable Cruz accepts, leaving his mother and daughter in Spain. The next stage of the film includes Cruz finding his motivation in America and perfecting the skills required for an NBA player.

While we watch Stan train and protect Bo, Vince ignores Stan's work, leaving him to question his place and future with the Sixers. Meanwhile, Bo has to contemplate his chance at the big leagues, what it may take to get there, and his relationship with

Stan. "Hustle" keeps viewers hooked from the start, watching Stan maintain his relationship with his family, while teaching Bo everything from handling trash talk to dealing with the media. Every time it should be smooth sailing for Bo to make the NBA, a dramatic twist tears down the dream, leaving only the possibility for a hail mary event when all hope seems lost.

"Hustle" excels at making every character relevant and integral to the story. For instance, Stan has his daughter Alex (Jordan Hull), who aspires to go to film school, shoots and edits training videos of Bo to put on the internet for exposure, hoping to catch the eyes of people connected to NBA teams. Celebrities who, in an ordinary movie would have a quick scene or two for promotion, play characters necessary on Bo and Stan's journey to the big leagues. Even Bo himself is played by NBA first round pick Juan Hermongez as his first acting role. Leon, responsible for many connections and opportunities for Bo, is portrayed by former NBA player Kenny Smith. Even NBA and 76ers legend Julius "Dr. J" Erving (playing himself), has a key role, as



Juan Hermongez and Sandler prepare to shoot one of many exciting scenes in Mallorca, Spain.



Kermit Wills (Anthony Edwards, right) attempts to throw off Bo's game by getting in his head, which leads Bo into another conflict of the film. Photos: IMDb

does Anthony Edwards (current Minnesota Timberwolves player) as Kermit Wills, Bo's main antagonist who causes many of the problems in the story. These actors, combined with the fact that Sandler is one of the most prominent figures in the basketball film industry, creates for a very unique viewing experience, even for those who don't follow basketball.

"Hustle" tells a captivating story while creating importance in familiar faces. The amount of known people makes the feature rewatchable. The film also includes many funny moments, making humor the film's chef's touch. Check out "Hustle" on Netflix.

Grade: A+
Genre: Drama
Streaming Service: Netflix
Starring: Adam Sandler, Queen Latifah, Juancho Hernangomez, Anthony Edwards, Robert Duvall

"The Legend of Zelda: Tears of the Kingdom" = Game of the Year?



Written by:

Carter Smith

After "The Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild" took the gaming world by storm in 2017, fans had high expectations when Nintendo announced it would be getting a sequel. After many years of waiting, "The Legend of Zelda: Tears of the Kingdom" finally released on May 12th, 2023, and was greeted with rave reviews. This action-packed adventure is filled with challenges, quests, and mysterious areas to explore. But is it all worth the hype? Let's find out!

TOTK is an adventure-type game which takes place in a fictional land known as Hyrule. The kingdom of Hyrule is constantly shaken by evil, and this game is no different. After an evil entity known as the Demon King is awakened, Hyrule falls into a state of anarchy. Link, the protagonist and hero from previous Zelda games, wakes up on a floating mass of islands in the sky, and the journey begins. The sky islands consist of beginner-level enemies, shrines, weapons, and terrain, which helps the player easily learn the game's mechanics and controls.

After completing the sky islands, Link is allowed to make his way to Hyrule, where he is immediately faced with adversity. After speaking with Purah, the head of Lookout Landing, Link is immediately faced with important quests, such as saving four regions from the Demon King's

power, unlocking info on Zelda's disappearance via geoglyphs, and unlocking the five different sages, who grant Link special abilities. Along with this, Link can explore and navigate through three different layers of Hyrule: the sky islands, Hyrule's main ground level, and the Depths, each of which offer different challenges and resources for Link to collect. Link also has access to a special arm provided by Rauru, the first king of Hyrule. This arm allows him to move objects, fuse items with weapons, ascend through ceilings, and reverse time on specific objects.

An abundance of side quests await Link to complete, and these side quests help Link acquire new resources and weapons.



Princess Zelda gripping the Master Sword's hilt and blade. After the Demon King's power brutally damages it, Zelda is tasked with repairing and preserving it for Link. Credit: Polygon.com



My personal favorite side quest is the Master Kohga side quest, where you navigate through many different mines throughout the depths, fighting him and the Yiga clan repeatedly. These side quests can also aid you in unlocking powerful gear, such as the Fierce Deity clothing.

One of the many complaints that surfaced when BOTW was released was that it was too barren and empty. This new installment manages to overcome that weakness in many different and unique ways, such as adding caves with new enemies, incorporating new overworld bosses, such as Gleeoks and Froxes, and developing the smaller villages around Hyrule Kingdom, which include Tarrey Town, Kakariko Village, and Lurelin Village. TOTK is much more developed, and it could possibly resemble the events that occurred in between BOTW and TOTK.

Perhaps the most iconic element of Zelda is the Master Sword quest, and is

executed masterfully. Link learns that Zelda time travels back to ancient times, and eats her secret stone to turn into a large dragon. All of this was done purely to repair and preserve the Master Sword for Link. After exploring the Korok forest, Link learns that the Master Sword is being kept by Zelda's dragon, and Link gliding to the dragon and pulling out the sword makes for one of the best scenes in all of the Zelda series.

Words cannot describe how much I enjoyed this game. The game is filled to the brim with shrines, enemy hordes, quests, and skill tests, which constantly keep the game exciting, and I never felt bored, because there is always a new place to explore. The only potential negative is that finishing the game 100% is incredibly time-consuming, and often might draw the player away from trying to fully complete it. Nintendo negates this issue by offering this challenge as an option for the player, rather than forcing them to complete it in order to progress.

You don't need to be a perfectionist in order to beat the final boss, and that's really what makes this game so great. It appeals to all audiences, both completionists and newbies alike. So is TOTK the game of the year? I'd say yes, even when many other great titles have been released. Even with the high bar set by its predecessor, "The Legend of Zelda: Tears of the Kingdom" still surpassed my expectations, and is one of the best games of all time.

Grade: A+
Publisher: Nintendo
Developer: Nintendo EPD
Platform: Nintendo Switch
Rating: E10+

PAHS Girls' Volleyball: One spike at a time



Written by:
Carter Smith

The Girls' Volleyball team has an abundance of talented players who gave it their all this 2023 season. Placing 3rd in their division with a PAC record of 7-9, the team has been improving their record and lineup each year. While these improvements may seem small, it will all culminate in success in future years.

Coach Michael Lantzy, who has been coaching the volleyball team for eight years, has been providing incredible support and wisdom for the team, even during tough times. Always telling others to 'stay positive,' Coach Lantzy isn't the only one at the helm, as Assistant Coach Cristina Raphael also contributed both on and off the court.

This team wouldn't be complete without the roster of talented and athletic players. Leading the way were varsity senior captains Mandie Horgan (middle hitter) and Noelle Hull (defensive specialist). Noelle and Mandie are determined and experienced players who helped guide the team through thick and thin.

"These captains stayed positive all season and helped the team become a cohesive group," Coach Lantzy remarked. Other varsity players include outside hitters Kristen Brown (junior), Ryleigh Galbreath (freshman), Maddie Schratz (senior), right side hitter Olivia Jacketti (senior), middle hitter Carla DeBow (senior), setter Kailey Hudy (sophomore), libero Gianna Buce (freshman), and defen-



Senior captain **Mandie Horgan** serving a ball in a home match. Her skills and guidance helped the rest of the team stay competitive throughout the season. Photo courtesy of Coach Lantzy

sive specialists Zoe Monson (junior) and Cora Perrone (senior).

Entering the 2023 season, the expectations were set higher than what they were before. "I thought that this year was going to be a lot better than what it was previously, and we had a lot of incoming freshmen that were super good, and I thought that they were going to help the team," senior captain Mandie Horgan said. Those expectations were certainly met, as the two new varsity freshmen (Ryleigh Galbreath and Gianna Buce) helped the team improve their overall record.

The team had many ups and downs throughout the season. After starting the season at 0-2, they won three straight against Pottstown, Upper Perkiomen, and Norristown. After this three-game winning streak, they would lose three straight, followed by another three-game winning streak against Pottsgrove, Potts-

town, and Upper Perkiomen. Another three-game losing streak would follow, but another hard-fought win against Pottsgrove and a loss to Spring-Ford would conclude the season. Coach Lantzy noted that the two wins against Pottsgrove were some of their most crucial and hard-fought wins of the season.

Setting, hitting, and serving were among the Phantoms' many strengths this year. These strengths were vital to the team's improvement and greatly helped their chances against their opponents. Coach Lantzy said, "We still need to improve on our serve receive and blocking." As the team improves on these skills, they will become a much more threatening presence in the future.

Another major strength is the team's chemistry. "We're all really close friends off the court," varsity captains (Noelle and Mandie) both shared. Good team chemistry can greatly increase a team's chances of succeeding, and it certainly paid off for the Phantoms this year.

Even with the seniors leaving this year, the team has much to look forward to in the following seasons. 2023 will be viewed as a positive season for the girls, and with the varsity freshmen coming in to bolster the team's lineup, 2024 will be even better. The girls' volleyball team was relentless, determined, and hard-working, and they will continue to improve, one spike at a time.



Kristen Brown (junior), one of the high scoring hitters on the team, confidently spiking the volleyball over the net in a home match. Photo: LifeTouch

Girls' Field Hockey: Good decisions, good results



Written by:
Elle
McDonnell

Much like the season last year, the PAHS Girls' Field Hockey team had a great couple months of development and camaraderie. The season started off roughly when they competed against teams outside of their division. However, these teams provided great challenges to the start of their season, and made them stronger for the remainder of the season. When starting to play teams in the Frontier division, the girls persevered to a record of 7-6 in the PAC. At season's end, the Field Hockey team's overall record was 8-11 and they qualified for Districts.

The head coach, Claire Emplit, led the girls through her eighth season coaching at Phoenixville. Her assistant coaches were Brianna Chapa, Alex Strausser, and Kate McNally. The team captains also included Gabby Cappelli (senior), Natalia Thomas (senior), Abby Dahms (senior), Kylie Moore (junior), and Megan Cahill (sophomore). Emplit said that the girls' weaknesses got the best of them in the beginning of the season, but they greatly improved as the season progressed. She explained that she coached a team full of teachers that helped underclassmen develop their skills and bond as a team.

The Field Hockey team's coaches worked together to teach and advise the players how to act in tricky situations on and off the field. With their varied coaching experiences, they came together to build a team of hard work and flexibility.



The Phoenixville Field Hockey team's captains posing for a photo on their senior night, which ended in a loss against Upper Perk. Left to Right: **Natalia Thomas** (senior), **Kylie Moore** (junior), **Gabby Cappelli** (senior), **Megan Cahill** (sophomore), and **Abbie Dahms** (senior).

"Just make a decision," coach Kate McNally, who mainly worked with the goalies, once said to Abbie Dahms (senior). Dahms explained that through her underclassmen years, she was hesitant with making quick decisions on her own. Dahms stated, "Once Kate came, she helped me make those decisions that I can also apply to real life." As they forged into the new season, the mixture between the old and new players advanced and their game plans and decisions improved too.

Varsity starters included Maggie Daley (sophomore) and Gabby Cappelli (senior) as forwards. Then came Bridget Kelly (junior), Natalia Thomas (senior), and Corinne Henry (sophomore) at the mid-field positions. Stella Khazen (junior), Kylie Moore (junior), Elle Eckhardt (junior), Audrey Guido (junior), Megan Cahill (sophomore), and Mika Munion (senior) all played steady at defensive line. Sophomore Corinne Bull blocked

many shots as goalie. Other varsity players included Elle McDonnell (senior), Rachel Fink (junior), Sarina Patel (junior), Lila Cooke (sophomore), and Jade Lear (sophomore).

Head Coach Emplit stated, "They are a very close group of girls who play for each other and not as individuals."

"[We] did well in the Frontier division," Emplit stated as she explained the season's momentum shift while playing their rival, Pope John Paul. The girls brought home a win from this game with a score of 1-0. After this game, the winning streak increased as the Lady Phantoms defeated Upper Merion, Pottsgrove, Pottstown, and others. However, the struggle came when the team competed in non-league games. The girls persevered through these obstacles and made adjustments to be successful throughout the season. The girls qualified for Districts, but lost the first round to Radnor 4-0.

"We made the best of our season this year," said Cappelli. "It started off rough, but then as we progressed, we gained confidence and started connecting well with each other."

In addition to playing field hockey, the girls hosted many fundraisers throughout the season. One fundraiser included their annual car wash that was supported by the community. They also organized many team bonding activities including team dinners and bingo.

With the field hockey season at an end, the underclassmen are sad to see their seniors go. On the brighter side, next year's team will have various opportunities for change, development, and making more good decisions.



Stella Khazen (junior) ready to make a pass after she beat the opponent up the sideline. Photos: Phoenixvilleathletics.com

Girls' Soccer: The power of a positive mindset



Written by:

Julia
McNamee

Coming out of a winning 2022 season in which they went all the way to Districts, the Lady Phantoms had a big season to follow this year. With the loss of many goal-scoring seniors, people began to question if a dominating season was achievable. Despite these losses, the addition of new varsity players, a new playing formation, terrific goalkeeping, and an all around positive mindset allowed the Lady Phantoms to achieve success and build experience, ending the season with a record of 7-9-2.

Entering his second year as the girls' head coach, Trevor Adams worked with assistant coaches Kylie Cahill and Carly Henry, and JV head coach Kennedy Cofelt. All the coaches contributed to the team's 6-5-2 PAC record, and 7-9-2 overall record, placing second in their side of the Frontier division.

"For most of the season, we were a frustrating team to play against. We do not concede a lot of high percentage chances and our goalkeeping is consistently strong," Coach Adams said of the team.

Besides key players and captains Kylie Joyce (senior), Ella Ballow (senior), Emma Ward (senior), Kelsey Kring (senior) and Emine Ulcay (junior), other rostered varsity players who contributed to the team's success this season were Brooke Rosenbaum (senior), Kameryn Weindorfer (senior), Madelyn Zink (senior), Jhulia Oliveira (senior), Emily Birdsell (junior), Reese Thompson (junior), Alegra Serrano (junior), Amelia St. Hilaire



Goalkeeper **Emine Ulcay** (junior) punting the ball out of the box on September 8th against Spring-Ford High School. **Emine's** terrific goalkeeping and the team's defenders only let in 1.2 goals per game.

Photo: phoenixvilleathletics.com

(junior), Laiana Carvalho (junior), Maria Pinto (junior), Grace Polak (junior), Carolyn Purtell (junior), Erin Reedy (junior), Aubrey Bruno (sophomore), Taylor Schneider (sophomore), Gabriella Goudie (sophomore), Molly Cirone (sophomore), Julia Chain (sophomore), Julia McNamee (sophomore), Lauren Flick (sophomore), Lindsay Maurer (sophomore), and freshmen Avary Carr and Mackenzie Parise.

Although the Lady Phantoms faced many difficult opponents throughout the season, key games included knocking Pottsgrove and Springfield from Districts and PAC playoffs, as well as beating Upper Merion, a difficult opponent whom they have consistently tied in previous years. Methacton was also a difficult opponent the Lady Phantoms were able to

beat, 1-0.

In describing the game, Senior Captain Kelcey Kring said, "We played really well as a team and players that normally don't get to shine, got to shine."

With the loss of graduated goal-scoring seniors, such as Caroline Flick and Jamie Michuad, the team struggled to create goal scoring opportunities in the start of the year. However, with many seniors playing steady defense, the back line was as strong as ever.

Senior captain Kelcey Kring stated, "Going into the season, I knew that we weren't going to be as strong on the offense as last year, but we would still have strength up there. I knew our defensive line would be set and ready to go." As the season progressed, the girls were able to

create more scoring opportunities as a team.

The beginning of the Lady Phantom's schedule consisted of many tough opponents, like Owen J Roberts, Spring-Ford, and Radnor. Senior captain Ella Ballow said the team found the most success in difficult games like these by out-working their opponent. She said, "It's just about work ethic. I know we saw the most success when our work rate was high." This work ethic continued to reap benefits in games and practices.

Coach Adams praised the girls' determination, saying, "They are a great group of girls and despite struggling to get the 'right' results through stretches of the season, they consistently came to practice with the right attitude and continued to fight in games."

Not only do they work well together on the field, but the Lady Phantoms were successful in raising money for their booster club throughout the season. The team ran a car wash, and raised money through California Tortilla, Rush Bowls, and Pertuccis.

With the season now over, Captain Emma Ward said, "I've been playing with the same girls since 4th grade, so I grew up playing soccer with them. I'm definitely going to miss playing the sport with them and seeing them everyday".

While the whole team will miss the seniors' assistance and leadership on the field, their fun personalities and the friendships will be missed even more. Coach Adams wishes the seniors good luck in whatever comes next.

The future of the Lady Phantoms is unknown, but what consistently proves to be true is that the girls will work hard during the most challenging games. No matter the difficulty of next year's season, the girls can be relied upon to leave their 'all' on the field.

PAHS Boys' Soccer: Overcoming adversity



Written by:

Cam Clark

Coming off of an outstanding 2022 season in which the team went deep into the State tournament, the Phoenixville Boys' Soccer program had lost 15 players to graduation and transfer (Jack Illig, Pat McNamara). With a team of mostly new players, the 2023 team was certainly in for a challenge.

After a 10-7-1 record, finishing third in the Frontier league and qualifying for Districts, 16 year Phoenixville Head Coach Mike Cesarski remarked, "It's never easy to replace 15 good players all at once, especially when you are losing over 70 goals of production." That number doesn't even count the amount of injuries the team experienced during the early season. However, Coach Cesarski spun a positive, saying "The positive of that setback was many young players were forced to step up and they really met the challenge head on. Game in and game out, they competed, worked hard, and we were in every game despite the challenges we faced. So many players exceeded my expectations considering the bind we were in."

Cesarski credits much of the team's success to his assistant and JV coaches, Martini, Stokes, and Ibarra. He also praises the senior captains, Sandro Vennera, Connor Northcott, Tyler Creech, Kieran Lange, and junior captain Mateo Rodriguez, for their leadership in all aspects.

Coach Cesarski said, "On the field and off, Sandro and Kieran showed immense leadership and set high standards among the group."

Varsity starters included junior Ryan Lang at goalkeeper. On defense, sophomore Ryan Jacobson at right back, seniors Sandro Vennera and Gabe Zambrano at center mid, and senior Christian Astill on the left. In the mid field, junior John Manyeka played left mid, senior Caesar Castanon on the right, senior Kieran Lange and freshman Jackson Armstrong at center mid. On the attack, sophomore Ryan O'Neill and junior Brody White performed at the striker position.

Coach Cesarski reflected on the team's strengths and weaknesses "Defensively, we were solid this year and didn't let any game get away from us. On offense, we struggled some." However, he added, "I would say that [struggle] was most likely due to our lack of experience at the varsity level in attacking positions. I'm very confident the experience this year will make those players really strong performers next season now that they know what to expect."

Starting the season, a big win came in their season opener against Great Valley. Coach Cesarski described the premiere: "Beating Great Valley to start the season was probably our best performance. We were missing five players and we went down a goal. We were able to keep fighting through adversity and score two in the second half to win on the road."

Another valuable win came in the mid-season against Upper Merion. The Phantoms picked up the win, 1-0, against a team that would eventually win the Frontier Division.

Captain Kieran Lange reflected on the completed year, saying "Going into the

season, we weren't expected to be as good as last year but we still had high hopes. Unfortunately, we lost a bunch of people early on in the season."

Captain Connor Northcott agreed and added: "I didn't play much [because] I broke my toe, but I think we made a good run at the end of the season."

The team's chemistry and comradery improved greatly towards the end of the season, contributing to the run they made to make Districts. The team ended up falling short 4-0 in the first round to the very talented Springfield Township team, who only lost one game all season and have qualified for States.

The Phantom captains reflected on their season memories. Northcott recalls his favorite moments this year as, "winning games and away bus rides." Senior Kieran Lange mentioned, "Just the constant banter and conversations," while Vennera added, "talking to teammates and listening

to music." Coach Cesarski sums it up "There are some seniors I will really miss next year for all they have contributed. They have made this season special."

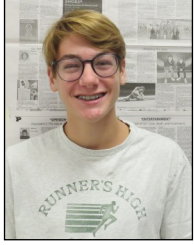
Although Phoenixville loses many players of value to graduation next year, many young players saw the field a fair amount this season. This team can definitely make an impact in the next couple of years. Coach Cesarski said, "If we were fully healthy the entire season I'm sure there would have been a few more wins on the board, but I'm extremely proud of the fight we showed this year."

At season's end, Coach Cesarski stated: "I enjoyed the team's attitude and spirit. In a lot of ways this has been one of my favorite seasons as a coach. There are a few results that could have gone differently just like any year, but I'm very proud of some of the leadership I've seen and the team first attitude many of the players have had."



Connor Northcott finds an open man while taking the ball up field against Upper Merion. Photo: Phoenixvilleathletics.com

Boys' Cross Country: Exalted suffering



Written by:
Reed Gleba

"Exalted suffering" was the theme for the Boys' Cross Country season, and it directly translates to suffering through hardships for a greater purpose. In the case of the cross country squad, it refers to coming out every day to practice and running hard, all for the victory and long-term success of the team. This mantra definitely applied over the course of the season, as the team ended with a 3-2 record for the season. The team definitely peaked at the end of the season with amazing results at both PAC's and Districts, at which senior Will Brennfleck qualified for States.

The head coach of the team is Mr. Winters; he has been coaching for 13 years and not only loves coaching, but running as well. This season the team also saw the return of assistant coach Matt Chiappetta, and he offered much encouragement and advice to this year's runners to help them be at their best.

Head Coach Winters said this about the season as a whole: "It was real. I've had seasons where everything went perfect - and in some ways, it was a little boring. This year just had a great story arc to it. We had to fight and claw back from the edge to accomplish our goals. That's a character test. This team had tremendous character. And peaked at just the right moment. So it was awesome."

The Phantoms had a very strong varsity group who put in the work every race. This group included Will Brennfleck

(senior), John Hamid (senior), Hayden Bray (sophomore), Kyle Padilla (sophomore), Colton Kleppe (junior), Ben Imburgia (junior), Brendan Cunningham (junior), Ben Eichenwald (senior), and Ryan Pratte (senior).

Leading varsity with the fastest 5k time of 15:47 (the second fastest time in PHX history), which he ran at Districts, senior Will Brennfleck said this about the varsity squad: "We had a really close group this year, and although we didn't start off the season the way we would have liked, we were able to regroup and finish 4th in the conference...which is the best finish we've had in awhile."

Part of what led to this win was the talk the captains decided to have with the team, free of any coaches. There, team captains Will Brennfleck, John Hamid, Hayden Bray, and Pranav Shrirang offered some much needed encouragement and

advice to the team. It impacted the guys so much in fact that when PACS came around the team did amazing, placing 4th in varsity and 3rd in JV.

Earlier in the season, the team had lost to PJP on their Senior Night and at their course. Despite their advantages, Coach Winters saw this as "no excuse, and gave the team the fire it took to outrun them at PACS."

Over the course of the season, the team held many fundraisers and events, yet one of the biggest for the team this year was the Six Hour Relay held on August 12th, in which the team did 5Ks in teams of four, and the most 5Ks done by the end wins. As the team did their own interpersonal challenge, Ultra-Marathoners from all around the area came to do the entire six hours straight.

Will said, "We made our own teams and we raced each other in a relay race.



Aspiring Freshman **Jack Pozun** ran a strong race against Upper Merion. His race was a strong contributor to the win against Upper Merion, one of the team's hardest matchups of the season.

The event itself ended up raising thousands of dollars. And we got cool merch!"

Additionally, for team bonding the team went on a three day camping trip to Gettysburg, PA over the summer. Here, the team had their longest run of the season and built many amazing memories.

With Will Brennfleck placing 114th at States on November 4th, 2023, the season came to an end. He said this about his race: "I was hoping to place a bit higher, but I think I started the race a little too fast and fell apart in the second half, but bad races happen and I'm just looking forward to track now."

Sadly, this was the last year of PAHS Cross Country for this year's seniors, but the good thing is a lot of aspiring freshmen have joined the team. And with this new group of runners the team can build up a whole new level of greatness for next year, ready once again for exalted suffering.



Will Brennfleck walking with his parents before his race on Senior day. Will would go on to qualify for States later in the season, placing 114th. Photos: PhoenixvilleAthletics.com

Girls' Golf: Thriving once again



Written by:
Caroline Hallman

vania Girls' Golf Coach of the year. Coach Jennifer Foresta also has coached alongside her, as well as Coach Kenny Roberts. Practicing at Turtle Creek and Waltz Golf Farm, the girls advanced their skills in driving, chipping and putting.

Girls' Golf's biggest rival, Spring-Ford, lost to Phoenixville, with the Phantoms taking home the win 183-192. In the following match against Methacton, Phoenixville pulled through yet again with the win 183-188.

In the postseason, Girls' Golf went into PACs and Districts, with Kate Roberts taking home the title of both PAC and PIAA District-1 Girls' Golf champion. PACs was a huge accomplishment for the team in beating both Spring-Ford and Perkiomen Valley. Kate and Kayley Roberts went as individuals to States at Penn

Following last year's success of winning the state championship, PAHS Girls' Golf continued to thrive. With a record of 7-3, the team found themselves proud of accomplishments in the PAC, beating Spring-Ford, and Perkiomen Valley this year, then moving on to post-season success at Districts, and States.

Formerly an English teacher at PAHS, Head Coach Sandy Waltz has led the team for 10 years now, and won Pennsyl-



Seniors **Kate Roberts, Mackenzie Hickey, and Bessie Rosone** on Senior Night. They took home the win against Methacton. Photos: Phoenixvilleathletics.com



Senior **Kate Roberts**, known for her exceptional driving skills, driving on hole one at Turtle Creek on Senior Night.

State. Both did incredible, with Kate winning second place, and Kayley fourth overall.

At this year's senior night, Girls' Golf celebrated their seniors Kate Roberts, Mackenzie Hickey, and Bessie Rosone. Each of the seniors contributed to the team and all grew in their golf game.

Kate Roberts, two-time PAC champion, first place District winner, as well as second place finisher at States, was the team's captain. She said, "I wanted to have a good season, see how low I can go and make senior year my best year."

Coach Waltz commented, "The season was so amazing with Kate Roberts coming oh so close to winning all three championships. I am super proud of her."

Overall, Girls' Golf had a tremendous

year, and coach Waltz said, "It was a season of opportunity and resilience. I'm most proud of Kate and her determination to always improve her game. I look forward to watching her play in college and eventually on the tour."

Kate Roberts said, "I will miss the jokes and talking with the team about our rounds, and it is so fun because it creates a team atmosphere."

As for next year's season, Girls' Golf is always looking for new players! It is always a great time getting to play as a team, and even getting ice cream at Waltz Golf Farm sometimes after practice.

Coach Waltz said, "There's no experience needed, just come ready to work and have a great time."



Horoscopes

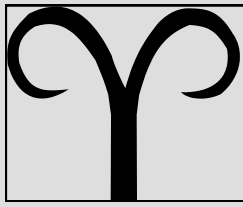


Written by: Cat Baxter and Lilly Sivco

ARIES: (March 21 - April 19)

Oh brother, this month is not looking too bright for you, Aries! Mars has left your star chart and left you with terrible luck. You'll finally get your hands on a pumpkin spice latte but the milk will be curdled, and you'll burn your lip drinking it, leading to everyone in the store pointing and laughing at you. You'll get a 60 on a math quiz and cry in front of everyone, but cheer up! Your crush will compliment your shirt, and you'll have three good hair days in a row!

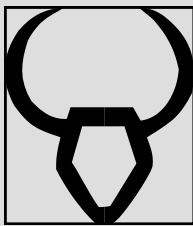
This Month: Show up to school in Patrick Bateman cosplay once a week.



TAURUS: (April 20 - May 20)

Well, it's certainly coming up Taurus with Neptune back in your star chart! Your crush will almost move away, but end up staying in the district, saving you despair and anguish. You'll write an essay for English without reading the book and get one of the best grades in the class. Although you're on a lucky streak, there'll still be struggles. You'll see your favorite movie at the Colonial, but the person next to you will sob loudly on the phone the entire time. Fall break will be full of good food and relaxation, but winter is looking tough, so watch out!

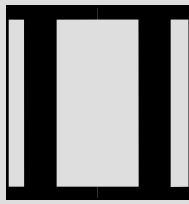
This Month: Listen to nothing but Brass Monkey for a whole month.



GEMINI: (May 21 - June 20)

In all honesty Gemini, with Uranus passing through your star chart, you might as well be cursed. You'll forget to brush your teeth every morning and no one will have any gum for you, leaving you to stink up the halls. Your shoelaces will spontaneously untie themselves and you'll fall on your face in front of the whole class. Your love life will be in shambles too after you carve pumpkins and scare your crush away with your ugly pumpkin-y monstrosity. Good luck this month! You'll be needing it.

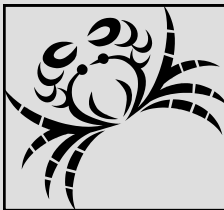
This Month: Convert to Pastafarianism, Church of the Flying Spaghetti Monster.



CANCER: (June 21 - July 22)

Cancer, this might be the most boring and monotonous month of your life. Days will pass by, classes will blur together, and not a single thing will happen. You'll have the same breakfast every morning and your grades will all be average. The only vaguely interesting thing may be the random G-Eazy phase you'll enter. This month may seem tiring, but considering you'll have Saturn leaving your star chart at the end of the month, you'll soon be missing the simplicity of life.

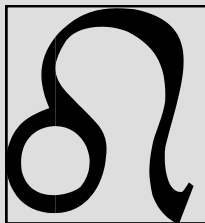
This Month: Spend a full day DMing Rihanna and begging for a SoundCloud collab.



LEO: (July 23 - August 22)

Holy Hannah! After a special appearance from Jupiter in your star chart, you'll be at the top of your game! You'll have your identity stolen, only to have your faker invest in successful stocks and make you millions, bringing up your credit score! Your favorite band will go on tour, and you'll get front row seats for dirt cheap! In all honesty, you could gamble for a week straight and come out unscathed. This is most definitely your month to raise your grades and shine!

This Month: Drink Pepto-Bismol instead of coffee for a quick pick-me-up.



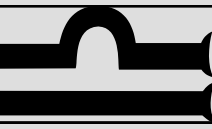
VIRGO: (August 23 - September 22)

Wowzah, Virgo, this is about to be the silliest, goofiest, most wack-a-doodle month possible for you. You'll find yourself in outlandish situations with the most confusing mood swings. Dancing for a day straight in the woods, learning a whole language in three hours, recording an entire indie alt-rock album on a whim, and much more! Stay cautious and courteous though, since with Pluto entering your star chart, you'll need to remain quick on your feet to avoid embarrassment.

This Month: Write your social security number on the walls of the F-wing bathroom.



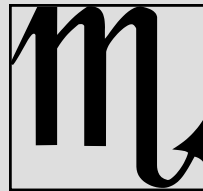
LIBRA: (September 23 - October 22)



With Venus entering your star chart, this month will be full of surprises! Watch out for an angry history teacher who will throw tons of extra homework assignments your way. Your luck with assignments will be running out this month, so make sure to beg for extra points on the top of each test. Be prepared for your friendships to shift this month, since a two-faced Gemini will try to sneak her way into your life!

This Month: Stuff a pile of leaves under your parents' pillow for good luck.

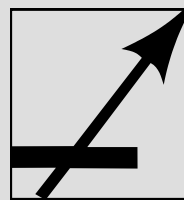
SCORPIO: (October 23 - November 21)



Oh, boy. The pull of Neptune is shaping this month into a wild ride for you, Scorpio. Your parents will surprise you this month by renting a limousine and driving you to Chick-fil-A. Make sure to attend every marching band performance this month, as a trumpet player will try to make advances towards you. When your science teacher mentions a field trip, tear up the paper before it gets into your parents' hands. With your bad luck this month, you don't want to risk breaking any exhibits at the museum.

This Month: Host a hearty Thanksgiving dinner in a tree house.

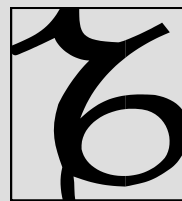
SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 - December 21)



Your star chart is lining up with tons of good luck this month, Sagittarius. With Mercury in retrograde, a surge of money will be coming your way. Keep an eye out for a 50 dollar bill outside your house and a hefty pay increase at work. Your crush will avoid eye contact with you at school, but don't worry, because they will text you within the next week. Make sure to go shopping on Bridge Street, since all your favorite clothing items will be on sale.

This Month: Wear five scarves at once to make a fashion statement.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 - January 19)



This month is going to begin as a trainwreck for Capricorns, unfortunately. This week, the pull of Jupiter will force you to trip and fall over a group of freshmen on your way to science class. They will continue to make eye contact with you in the hallways, laughing and mocking your pain. Don't forget to visit Planet Fitness to capture the attention of your hallway crush. For an extra

boost of enthusiasm this month, chug a Redbull before first period.
This Month: Jump on a Starbucks table and perform an interpretive dance.

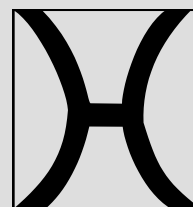
AQUARIUS: (January 20 - February 18)



With Saturn leaving your star chart, last month's bad vibes will also be exiting your life. Your enemy will apologize for treating you terribly in the past, and your least favorite teacher will give you 10 extra credit points for no reason. Relationships will also allow you to move up in the world, with a sly Libra making romantic advances next weekend.

Don't be afraid to step out of your comfort zone this month, as your confidence will be shooting through the roof!
This Month: Tie your friend's shoelaces to a desk in math class when they aren't looking.

PISCES: (February 19 - March 20)



As Mercury enters retrograde this month, the pull of Venus will have an extra strong hold on your love life. Keep an eye out for a box of chocolates or a dozen roses on your doorstep, since a certain Gemini may have eyes for you. For good luck this month, don't forget to comment on Taylor Swift and Rihanna's latest Instagram posts. As fall comes to an end, hang holiday lights from your ceiling fan for extra festivity.

This Month: Bid on a dozen couches from Facebook Marketplace.

For entertainment purposes only

WHICH THANKSGIVING FOOD ARE YOU?

It's the holiday season once again! With the best meal of the year around the corner, you may find yourself pondering which delicious item best represents you and your personality. Learning which food you are may reveal details about your interactions with others, creativity, and how to make the most of your November! Take this quiz to reveal which Thanksgiving food most aligns with your unique and festive self!

1. Your family gets into a heated debate over which color screams fall the most. Which side do you take?

- A) Brown, because fall is the least interesting season.
- B) Yellow, because it is much more rare than the others!
- C) Orange, because it is the quintessential theme of autumn.
- D) Red, because it is bold and beautiful!
- E) Each color has its own important place in making the perfect season!



2. As the second marking period begins, you find your science grade slipping. What do you do?

- A) Let it resolve itself as the quarter goes on.
- B) Choreograph and perform an interpretive dance for extra credit.
- C) Lock in and study hard for your next test so that you can relax again.
- D) Quarrel with your teacher over why your lab report deserved a higher score.
- E) Goodness! Make sure to get back on track studying extra hard each night!

3. Your family tasks you with judging their annual pie eating contest! A tie emerges between your great uncle and favorite cousin. What do you do? Let it resolve itself as the quarter goes on.

- A) Ask your brother to resolve the issue for you.
- B) Come up with an elaborate rock paper scissors contest to break the tie.
- C) Simply divvy up the prize to make everyone happy!
- D) Hold a vote among the whole family and see how controversial things can get!
- E) Oh no! A second round is in order to keep the activity from going astray.

4. What is your favorite autumn activity?

- A) I just love watching the leaves as they turn color!
- B) I love using the extra time indoors to perfect my newest hobby- crocheting!
- C) I love to cozy up with a nice blanket and watch a fall-themed film!
- D) I like to spend the colder months going on skiing adventures!
- E) I love cooking up a storm in the comfort of my home!



5. You still have left over Halloween candy from last month. What do you do with it all?

- A) Allow yourself to continue having a couple pieces a day.
- B) Use the extra candy to try a fun new recipe you found online!
- C) Give it away to your best buds!
- D) Show off your epic candy collection to everyone you know!
- E) Create a beautiful display in your home for guests to enjoy.



6. What is your favorite cold weather clothing?

- A) A simple coat can never go wrong!
- B) I love colorful mittens!
- C) A big, warm scarf can also double as a blanket!
- D) A bold hat is always a great way to make a statement!
- E) I'm always in such a hurry that I have no need for excessive gear!



7. What is your favorite sport to watch at this time of year?

- A) I'm still not over the baseball season...
- B) My favorite sport to watch has to be pickleball, all year round!
- C) It doesn't get better than watching hockey with hot cocoa in hand!
- D) I love watching some football!
- E) I simply don't have the time to watch silly sports!

8. Is Thanksgiving your favorite holiday?

- A) It's okay but not my favorite.
- B) I prefer to celebrate daily holidays. Everything is worth celebrating!
- C) Nothing can beat yuletide cheer... Christmas is the best!
- D) THANKSGIVING IS THE BEST!
- E) If a party is in order, you can count me in!

Scoring: Add up the number of times you chose each letter, then check your results below.

If you got...

Mostly A's: You are cranberry sauce! You tend to be a bit more on the timid side, often being picked last in gym class. That is not to say that you cannot pack a punch, however! Both sweet and tart, you bring a much needed harmony to the Thanksgiving table! Try not to slide under the radar this holiday season- try to engage (and even lead) some of the autumn festivities!

Mostly B's: You are stuffing! You are a quirky addition to everyone's plate because you bring quite the unique flavor to life! You are unapologetically yourself: a person who contains a multitude of different ingredients. Keep allowing your interests and creativity to shine through this autumnal season in order to continue connecting with others.

Mostly C's: You are mashed potatoes! Beloved by many, you are a fun-loving, cozy presence in the lives of your friends. Your ability to make others feel comforted and warm reign superior. You are always willing to snuggle up with a good read and a nice warm cup of tea. This winter, make sure to watch plenty of festive movies and bake lots of treats for your friends!

Mostly D's: You are Grandma's famous pumpkin pie! Often regarded as the star of the show, your large personality can be seen by everyone the second you walk into a room. You naturally turn heads! You are constantly bustling around and love meeting new people. Your outfits are always on point and you are not afraid to be the loudest voice in the room!

Mostly E's: Always the host of the party, you are truly the strong backbone (not to be mistaken with wishbone) of this holiday. Why, you are turkey of course! You are always striving to be your best by working hard to outdo each year's table setting. While you may stress out when things don't go your way, your hard work and determination pay off in the long run.

Written by: Leah C. Garofalo

Art Department Feature

Art II Honors students rendered a pumpkin using the art medium of charcoal.



Willa Narke (junior)



AJ Muth (senior)



Jabriyah Logan (junior)



Alana Edney (senior)



Alexa Cataldi (sophomore)



Lila Cooke (sophomore)



Katherine Barrios (junior)



Lanna Tavenner (senior)



Aiden Jones (sophomore)



Lilah Smith (sophomore)