

Plymouth XC Teams Make History



Plymouth's Carter Solomon (junior) and Patrick Brynes (sophomore) running at the State Meet



Plymouth's Lauren Kiley (freshman) running at the State Meet

Photos by Trip Bonds

by Cora Wallen
Editor-in-Chief

On Oct. 27, 16 boys' and girls' cross-country teams placed their top seven runners on the start line, the chilly weather freezing both athletes and spectators to the core. It was the Michigan High School Athletics Association (MH-SAA) Region 6 Regional Meet.

In this meet, the top three scoring teams get the opportunity to progress to the Division I Finals State Meet. This year, the Plymouth boys' and girls' teams both made history at Regionals and States.

As for the girls, over the past several years, the Northville and Salem girls' teams have dominated the first and second places, with teams like Berkley, Franklin and many more rotating for third spot. Plymouth was never one of those schools. Last year, Plymouth came close to third, missing it by nine

points. This year however, for the first time in Plymouth High School's existence (16 years), the Plymouth girls' team made it to states.

The Plymouth girls had some competition going into the regional race.

Plymouth sophomore Londyn Swenson said, "We wanted to be competitive with Salem but I felt like we had a strong chance at beating Berkley if we ran like we had been throughout the season. But anything can happen in a race."

The results from the race ended up with Northville in first with 41 points, Salem in second with 64 points and Plymouth in third with 91 points. Fourth place, which was Berkley, received 138 points.

The varsity team's places and times were as follows: Lauren Kiley (second, 17:59), Londyn Swenson (sixth, 18:37), Paige Cristea (17th, 19:27), Ana

White (29th, 20:13), Lindsay Ripple (37th, 20:35), Sasha Fox (45th, 21:00) and Laura Bonds (51st, 21:28) (Athletic.net).

At the state meet itself, Ana White, Plymouth senior captain, said, "We just went in with the mentality to have fun and to truly absorb the experience because it's something that's never been done for us as a team before. Some of us were nervous, but after our huddle our coach came up and cheerfully said 'I love you guys. Just go out there and embrace this experience,' and after that we went out and made history."

Girls ended in 19th at the State Meet.

The Plymouth boys' team on the other hand has been making it to states for many years. Their success was at the state meet itself. Last year at the state meet, they were three points away from being state champions and ended up in second place behind Ann

Arbor Pioneer.

With this in mind, Plymouth senior Brandon Boyd said, "Going to bed before states was like trying to sleep on Christmas Eve. We were so excited for our chance to win we were counting down the days."

The boys team did have some competition at states though.

"Our biggest competition was Clarkston, Brighton and Ann Arbor Pioneer. We knew we could win as long as we ran our race and didn't try to force anything special," Boyd stated.

The final results ended up with Dexter in third with 154 points, Walled Lake Central in second with 127 points and Plymouth in first with a five point lead at 122 points.

The varsity team's places and times were as follows: Carter Solomon (2nd, 15:18), Patrick Brynes (15th, 15:56), Brandon Boyd (33rd, 16:13), Jarrett

Warner (60th, 16:32), Tyler Mussen (63rd, 16:35), Basil Syed (181st, 17:30) and Connor Davis (218th, 18:01).

Carter Solomon, Plymouth junior, explained that, "Immediately after we found out [that we won] we started jumping up and down and hugging. I was ecstatic, and my coach started to shed tears of joy."

Some of the boys' team members moved onto the Midwest Regional meet in Wisconsin, including Solomon, who will be moving onto Nationals in San Diego.

Both the boys' and girls' teams were very content with their accomplishments at states and regionals, and their seasons overall.

Solomon said, "As a whole, I couldn't be happier with how the season went. From August until now, we've been there for each other and training everyday. That's something I'm going to miss for sure. But capping

all that off with a state title is bittersweet, and I couldn't be more proud of my team."

Coach Alice Ahearn of the girls' team had similar sentiments of the season, saying, "it was a hugely successful season. All of the girls on the team should feel pride in what they accomplished as well as the heights they elevated their teammates to and hopefully a little hungry for the seasons to come. They amaze me all the time with their determination and passion for hard work and ability to push themselves to high levels of discomfort. They are a remarkable group of young women."

Both the boys' and girls' teams speak proudly of their season and their accomplishments, and Plymouth High School will see if their cross-country teams continue this upward trend.

Salem Girls' Volleyball

by Jordyn Audi and
Laurence Yang
Staff Writers

Salem girls' volleyball recently concluded their season with a park

championship to top off their 6-5 record. "The girls really bonded this season and without any injuries, were able to reach new heights. The new coaching staff this year was a breath of fresh air, increasing intensity at practice and motivating the girls to succeed" said Bella Mazzuca, Salem senior. More prevalent than any score or win was the time spent with each other--the pasta parties, the drives to away games, and most importantly, practice.

In an interview with seniors Bella Mazzuca and Makenzie Carpenter, they mentioned a few key players, namely Mikai Quan, So-

phie Paspal and Rory McMaster. This core group of girls were able to lead the team to

the semifinals of playoffs. It was here that the Salem Rock's volleyball team played

Novi in a 3 set to 0 loss. Even though their season ended, the team still got together to paint the rock and commemorate their victories over Canton and Plymouth.

Carpenter, senior, said, "With the new coaching staff, Salem volleyball is on the come up." Bella Mazzuca added that, "The season was very fun, and hopefully, we can stay park champs. Even though a handful of seniors are graduating this year, they still identify as part of the team with a bond transcending age or grade."

Salem Girls Volleyball
Photo by Allen McMaster

PomPon Competes at Highkick

by Madeline Justice
Sports Editor

On Nov. 11, pompon teams from all over the state of Michigan competed at the Mid American Pompon Hip Hop and High Kick competition. This competition consists of themed routines with use of props and requires teams to put on a show while also kicking in the routine. Teams compete in divisions based off of the number of people able to perform.

At the competition the teams may have been competing against one another but they still cheered each other on during their performances. P-CEP teams have been attending this competition for over a decade and two out of three varsity

teams brought home a first place in their respective divisions.

Salem Varsity Pompon competed in the medium varsity division. They wowed the crowd with an extreme home make-over themed routine. They ended the day by scoring a total of 282.5 points, beating Divine Child by 22 points. They were creative with the use of their props, music and choreography. Salem pompon has only been competing at Mid American competitions for three years and have been making a name for themselves.

Plymouth and Canton went head to head competing in the small varsity division. Plymouth Varsity placed 6th, while Canton kicked their way to 1st. Canton Varsity competed with

their Pinocchio themed routine that blew the judges away scoring a total of 290 points out of 330 possible. The routine consisted of stunning kicks, amazing choreography and creative costumes. By winning this year, Canton Varsity has now won the High Kick competition three years in a row.

Overall Plymouth, Canton, and Salem brought each of their schools trophies to proudly display. Now they are all preparing for their next competition, regionals at Northville High School Jan. 12.

Teacher of the Month: Kathy Rokakis



Kathy Rokakis In The South Of France
Photo by John Rokakis

**by Fiona Hughes
Editor-in-Chief**

Kathy Rokakis has had her own French classroom for ten years, but she started off on a very different path. Rokakis went to Central Michigan University and majored in international business after being deterred from a teaching career by the declining need for educators at the time.

Once her twin girls started going to school, Rokakis said helping out in their classroom brought up the idea of teaching again. “[The teacher] kept telling me, ‘Oh, you should have been a teacher,’ and I said, ‘Yeah, I should have.’” She became a regular substitute teacher for eleven years until she went back to school to receive her teaching certificate.

Rokakis attempts to make her class interesting and modern by using effective resources. She recently came up with the idea she calls “Manie Musicale de Mercredi,” which is similar to a March Madness basketball bracket, but with French songs. Each Wednesday, the class listens to two songs, votes on their favorite, and the winner moves onto the next round.

When not teaching, Rokakis loves to garden and hang out with her cats Chester and Chaussettes. She has three turtles named Harry, Ron and Hermione.

Rokakis also spends most of her year planning for the annual school trip to France, which takes place over mid-winter break. Around 25 students board the international flight and cross the Atlantic Ocean each year for the trip. Last year’s group included Plymouth senior Sophie Undlin.

“[Mrs. Rokakis] actually cares about her students and their lives,” Undlin said. “I feel like I can talk to her about what I need help with and she listens and tries to help me.”

Something special happened these past four years of Rokakis’ teaching career. A group of incoming French II students in 2015 have been taught by Rokakis every year until the 2018-19 school year, when they took AP French. Plymouth senior, Madison McCann is one of those students.

“She genuinely cares about her students and their well being. She’s constantly looking to have her students succeed, but succeed on their own terms. Overall, she’s just a joy to have as a teacher for my four years at high school.”

Salem senior Jerry Brewer says French is more than just a class. “Mrs. Rokakis incorporates every student and welcomes them to her class to be a part of a very special family.”

MichaelAnne Monette, Salem junior says Rokakis brings a positive energy to school each day. “I knew Mrs. Rokakis was a good teacher when I saw her smiling in the hallway freshman year. I always hoped I’d get her as a teacher.”

Through the past ten years of teaching her own classroom, Rokakis says the students are what makes her job enjoyable. “I find high schoolers to be a really interesting group of people because they’re so diverse and have so many talents that you don’t see right in front of you. I love being able to get to know them, and maybe I get to have an impact on them like my French teacher did when I was in middle school.”

Winter Activities

**by Amanda Mancuso
Staff Writer**

To some people, snow and cold temperatures are an exciting and friendly way to introduce the holiday season. For others, these wintry substances are dreaded and loathed. While the spectrum of winter opinions vary drastically, here’s a list of activities that hopefully can be enjoyable for anyone who will be witnessing this year’s icy blast.

#1 Cuddling Up in a Warm Blanket

During winter, temperatures can drop to extreme lows that typically ride along with bone chilling breezes. When snow is piling up outside, leaving your home may not sound so appealing. A good way to handle such weather is to curl up in a warm blanket and sleep.

#2 Sledding

Sledding is a popular winter activity that can be enjoyed by many. For sledding, a hill and some sort of sled will be needed for this activity. Sleds are easy to find at grocery stores such as Kroger and Walmart. Places that are suitable for sledding are typically golf courses. Huron Hills Golf Course in Ann Arbor has nice hills that work well for sledding.

#3 Hot Chocolate

Hot chocolate is a great and tasty way to get warm after being in harsh weather conditions. You can make hot chocolate at home with cocoa powder, milk and sugar, or you can purchase hot chocolate at a local coffee shop. Kicking back, relaxing and sipping hot chocolate is enjoyable in such cold weather.

#4 Build a Snow Fort

As a child, building snow forts was a tradition that made winter magical. Playing in the snow isn’t only for children; building a snow fort with friends is a great way to pass time and have fun. You could use a shovel or nothing but your hands to build yourself an epic fort. Remember to bundle up when engaging in this activity.

#5 Snowball Fight

A snowball fight is much more than just a fight. A snowball fight is an intense war where only the worthy will reign. Gather up a group of friends and separate into two different teams. Creating a snowball is simple, all you have to do is pack a handful of snow into a ball shape. Make sure that there are not any chunks of ice in your snowballs because someone could be seriously injured. Prepare to fire at your opponent and have no mercy!

#6 Watch a Movie

Sometimes getting away from the cold weather and snow is the way to go. A cheap way to do so is going to a movie theater. You can go with family, friends, or even by yourself. Pick an enjoyable movie and forget about the world for a little while. If the movie theater is not an option, staying at your home and watching a movie can have the same effect.

Ski Club



Top of ski lift hill at Brighton
Photo by Olivia Blackburn

**by Olivia Blackburn
Staff Writer**

As the cold weather of winter arrives, P-CEP’s annual Ski Club prepares to hit the hills of Mount Brighton! Don’t miss out on a great time to ski or snowboard at Mount Brighton. This is a great chance to meet new friends and do your favorite thing on a Friday night with a bus ride there and back. The Ski and Snowboard Program Identification pickup and information night was held on Tuesday, Nov. 13, from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Salem cafeteria. If you were not able to make it Nov. 13, you can go to (pcceregister.com) and click on the tab with, “Ski & Snowboard Program 2018/19,” and register online.

Ski Club is a great way to get active almost every week and learn something new

at Brighton. Brighton has a lounge where anyone can buy an assortment of foods and drinks and sit in the heated lounge while watching all of the skiers and snowboarders go down hills.

If you’re debating on joining the club because you’ve never snowboarded or skied before, you’re in luck, Brighton has lessons that you can take when you’re there. Or you and your parent can go there together and get lessons. They also let you rent ski and snowboard boots, helmets, skis and snowboards. They also have lockers where you can put your gear in, for a fee. Stay warm, and have a great snowboarding season!

A Pint Could Save a Life

**by Maria Angelsanto
and Jordyn Audi
Staff Writers**

Every two seconds, somebody in this country is in need of blood.

One donation can save up to three lives, according to the American Red Cross. Gabrielle Diamante, along with other Health Occupation students, are hosting a blood drive in Salem’s Auditorium on Dec. 12.

The drive was created after becoming an idea from Lead2Feed, a project created by Mrs. Kuzmick, Canton Health Occupations teacher, as a way to benefit the community.

“We decided the choice to run it because we want to help people and make an impact; The purpose is to get the blood to donate it to people who need it”, says Gabrielle. All blood donations will be done by professional nurses and will be used to help people in need of blood transfusions throughout the community.

Before donating, take time to eat a healthy meal, rich with Iron and Vitamin C and drink plenty of fluids. Doctors will screen donors for disease and consult parents about any health impairments beforehand.

Donors may experience slight dizziness after collection, however, after taking a multivitamin

and resting, lightheadedness will cease.

Photo courtesy: Jordyn Audi

Some donors are at risk of developing Iron deficiency and eventually anemia. These donors are recommended to take a “multivitamin with 18mg of iron for 60 days after each whole blood donation, or 120 after each power donation,” according to the American Red Cross Biomedical Services fliers found around campus.

If you or someone you know is planning to donate blood Dec. 12: stay healthy, stay safe and happy donating!

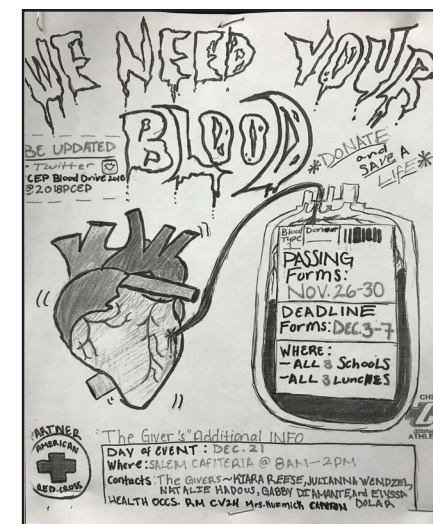


Photo by Jordyn Audi

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Humans of P-CEP

Luke Haran



Luke Haran, Salem Senior
Photo by Lindsay Leusbey

by Cameron Lindsay
Editor-in-Chief

“Every morning in Africa, a gazelle wakes up. It knows it must run faster than the fastest lion, or it will be killed. The lion knows it must outrun the slowest or it will starve to death. It doesn't matter whether you're the lion or the gazelle. When the sun comes up you better be running,” said Steve Aspinall, Salem boys Cross Country head coach, and mid-distance girls and guys coach for Track and Field. He is also a world history teacher in Salem. This quote is Luke Haran's favorite quote for the off-season training.

Luke Haran's stellar athleticism as a four year Cross Country athlete, three year Track runner goes beyond simple talent. He has

been three times All Conference (racing in the top 14 for the Conference), two times All Region (top 15 in the Region) for Cross Country. As for Track he received all region honors three times in the 3200 meter run. He races with passion and determination to achieve his goal.

“What motivates me to do what I do is the accomplishing feeling after reaching a goal. The whole process of goal setting, reaching your goals, and celebration is what keeps me motivated throughout the year,” said Haran. As his goal entails “work the hardest so that I can better myself each year, in every ‘off-season’ to make myself the best student-athlete I can.”

His motivation as being the best student-

athlete he can translate into his academics as well by being an AP student and maintaining a GPA of 3.8. His favorite class he's taken at the Park is AP Psychology which blossomed his love for psychology and his care for others.

At Bowling Green University he wants to study psychology so he can “learn how I can put myself in a better position to help those around me. Everyone I know is somehow affected by mental health and I want to help.”

He plans on continuing his running career in college as well as his motivation, passion and determination that has led him to success before.

How to Beat Procrastination

by Diya Banerjee
Features Department Editor

1. Recognize you have a problem.

The first step to fixing any problem is recognizing there even is one. Are you constantly staying up late every night to finish homework that you could have easily finished by 6 pm? Do you have trouble getting off of your phone when you know you have a lot of work to do? You may be an avid procrastinator. Thankfully, this is something that can be easily fixed by practicing a few good habits. To stop procrastination, you have to want to help yourself.

2. Make sure you're getting enough sleep.

We often put off tasks when we're tired because, well, we simply don't have the energy. We tell ourselves that we'll start in five minutes, then ten, and eventually give in and say “Well it's already this late,” or fall asleep. High-Schoolers often have a hard time getting to bed at a reasonable time. This can cause unhealthy habit of napping after school which prevents work from getting done as soon as possible.

3. Write down what you have to do.

It's difficult to visualize what you have to do in your head, so why not write it down? By writing down what has to be done, it is easier to comprehend what you have to do. Also,

this usually guarantees you aren't forgetting a task. Crossing off what you've finished is highly satisfying and makes the process of doing homework even more gratifying.

4. Split up your work into small, accomplishable goals.

The more work we have, the more manageable it seems. Although there is more work to be finished, it gets pushed back even more than if there was less work to do. Sometimes, all it takes is to get started. Once you create smaller more attainable goals, progress comes naturally. You even feel like there is less work to be done! You can take on each task as they come without being overwhelmed. This is a great way to change your perspective.

5. Set time increments for how long you'll do focused work for.

Instead of dreading the hours you'll have to sit and work for, setting small amounts of time to work for is very effective. When the workload seems unattainable, you can set a timer for even just five minutes. After forcing yourself to work for a manageable few minutes makes starting the task at hand easier. As I said before, once you get started, the momentum comes naturally. Between the portions of time you're working, you can take a break for two minutes and get back to work. Your goals are suddenly much more achievable!

6. Check your environment.

The bed is strictly for sleeping. Browsing on your phone and reading can be forgiven, but your mattress and homework are not a good mix. Not only are you too comfortable, but you'll want to do anything but work. By sitting in your bed, you put your motivation back significantly. Even when working at a desk, we forget to move around. Sitting in the same place can be boring and hinder progress. If you have nowhere else to work, taking a walk every thirty minutes or so is helpful.

7. Reward yourself.

Humans often require incentives to get the work done. By telling yourself that after finishing this math assignment, you'll get a slice of pie, you'll see your motivation to work increase a ton. With this said, you have to have enough self control from taking the reward before you deserve it. However, you shouldn't use phone time as an incentive, because five minutes can turn into 30 and so on. Instead, play with your dog, take a snack break, or even just sit and relax.

Happy studying!

What is it like to be Color Blind?

by Amanda Mancuso
Staff Writer

Have you ever wondered how the colorblind perceive color? Or what causes color blindness? Well, color

blindness is not as black and white as you may think. Color blindness does not have a single definition, within the diagnosis, there is a wide spectrum of how the colorblind perceives color.

What is the Cause?

You can blame color blindness on genetics. Color Blindness is sex-linked, and the colorblind gene is carried by the X chromosome. Biological males only have one X chromosome and biological females have two X chromosomes. A biological female may carry the colorblind gene on one X chromosome. Since two X chromosomes are present, females are typically not affected unless both X chromosomes carry the colorblind gene. Because males have only one X chromosome, if they receive the gene, they will be colorblind.

Sometimes colorblindness can be acquired. Exposure to chemicals such as carbon monoxide and lead can lead to color blindness. Diseases and aging are also factors that could lead to developing color blindness as well.

The Different Diagnosis'

There are multiple different types of colorblindness, which not everyone is aware of. There is Deuteranopia, Protanopia, and Tritanopia. The most common types of colorblindness are Deuteranopia and Protanopia and the most rare type of colorblindness is Tritanopia. Deuteranopia is when there is a lack of sensitivity to green light, Protanopia is when there is lack of sensitivity to red light, and

Tritanopia is when there is a lack of sensitivity to blue light.

Eli Hendricks, a high schooler who lives with Protanopia, described to me his perspective of color. I began my interview with asking how old he was when he first learned that he couldn't see color like the rest of us. While he didn't remember exactly how old he was, he believed he was either two or three years old. After learning his diagnosis age, I asked him the question that I was most eager to know the answer to. What does he actually see? “I cannot see the difference between red and green, blue and pink, red and orange, orange and yellow, yellow and green or orange and green, or the difference between purple and blue.”

During his interview, he also informed me that he received glasses from EnChroma. EnChroma is a brand of special glasses that are designed to help colorblind people see the colors that they cannot see. I asked him about his experience of seeing color for the first time with these glasses, he responded: “It was really cool. I used to not be able to tell the difference between colors... I can [now] distinguish colors [with the EnChroma glasses].”

In a world surrounded by vibrant colors, it seems unimaginable to live with an altered interpretation of such a prominent characteristic. Colorblindness is unique because people who are colorblind are unable to see colors of world like the majority of the population. Could you imagine not being able to tell the difference between something so simple as color?



EnChroma glasses worn by Eli Hendricks
Photo by Amanda Mancuso

Apple's New Group FaceTime

by Lilli Keehn
Copy Editor

As of Sept. 17, Apple has come out with their newest update--which also means its newest features. After years of asking, and too many tweets to count, Apple has finally come out with Group FaceTime. IOS 12 holds many new features, but as anyone with an Apple product can imagine, Group FaceTime made for the biggest excitement.

The Way It Works

Group FaceTime works just as a typical two person FaceTime call would. To initiate a group call, you can either call a pre existing group chat, or you can call one person first then choose to add members in. When you go to accept a group call, you have the option of joining in the normal FaceTime fashion with a face-to-face appearance, or you can join only as audio where it is a multi-person call. The big shock to Apple users was to hear how many people can actually join a Group FaceTime call. The answer is from 2 to 32.

How It Looks

The appearance of this new feature is a little bit different. Instead of dividing your screen into equal spaces for however

many people are present, each person active gets a “bubble” that floats around on a black screen. Depending on who is talking at the time, or how loud it is, that person's “bubble” will grow to be the biggest on the screen. A little bit strange, yes, but it is better than nothing at all.

More Fun

Apple didn't just stop at the 2 to 32 person call, they kept going when it came to the creative side of things. You can now decorate your screen with text boxes, stickers and filters during a call, all of which add a little more fun to any conversation.

What Devices Have It

According to various tech sites, including www.9to5mac.com, IOS 12 is compatible with products as old as the iPhone 5s and iPod touch 6th generation, to products as new as the iPhone X.

Reviews

It seems that people have nothing but good things to say about the new update and feature of Group FaceTime. Lexie Quinn, Plymouth senior had all great things to say about it, “I love Group FaceTime. It allows me to see all of my friends

at once. I find that Group FaceTime and the features that come with it make our conversations much more interesting. We are always using it, sometimes in place of texting, which is pretty cool.”

More of a mixed review came from Canton senior, Elisabeth Wolf, “Not having an iPhone 6s or higher is not great because you can't show up on the camera, which is disappointing, but I love the chaos of talking to so many of my friends at once.”

Another solid response to the update came from Plymouth junior, Nolan Janke, “I feel like Group FaceTime is a big step in communication. Now families that live around the country or world can all hang out in the same room. Even though group Skype has been a thing, Group FaceTime will take off since Apple products are so popular.”

Overall, Group FaceTime seems to be really taking off and receiving good reviews.

“Creed” Back for Round Two

by Brett Caldwell
Entertainment Editor

The combination of director Ryan Coogler and star actor Michael B. Jordan turned “Creed” into a great movie; possibly better than all of the Rocky movies. Unfortunately, Ryan Coogler did not return for “Creed II,” as he was replaced by Steven Caple Jr; however, Ivan Drago, played by Dolph Lundgren, returns for the first time since he was defeated by Rocky. Previous to Drago’s epic fight against Rocky he killed Apollo Creed, the father of Adonis Creed.

In the highly anticipated sequel “Creed II,” the Light Heavyweight Championship is on the line when Adonis Creed faces Viktor Drago, son of Ivan Drago. In the beginning of the movie Adonis Creed wins the championship by beating Danny “Stuntman” Wheeler. In this high stakes battle Adonis Creed had the weight of his family legacy on his shoulders boxing the son of the man who killed his father. On the other hand, Viktor Drago had the weight of a whole country on his, as he tried to bring pride and glory back to Russian boxing. As if battling Viktor Drago wasn’t going to be tough enough for Creed, Rocky was against the idea of them fighting and refused to train or be in the corner of Creed. Therefore, Tony “Little Duke” Burton trained Adonis. Burton’s father had trained Apollo Creed in “Rocky IV,” so this fight was personal for him too.

Leading up to the battle of the two Goliaths, there is a montage of training scenes going back and forth between the two fighters. Training scenes like these have been a main staple of the Rocky series. However, these training scenes weren’t that inspiring and didn’t catch your imagination like the scenes from “Rocky IV” where Rocky is running through the snow or from “Creed” where Adonis is running down the street with motorcycles following him.

While Creed vs. Drago is the main event of the movie the growth in the relation-

ship between Adonis and Bianca is also very interesting. Bianca who became Creed’s girlfriend in the first movie is very supportive of Adonis. However, she also wants to further her career as a singer. One of the obstacles to doing this is Bianca’s progressive hearing loss, which is shown very well throughout the movie, as she can no longer hear without her hearing aid. While to some this may be an unimportant nuance I think this shows evolution in Bianca’s character and makes the movie even better.



Review of “A Star is Born”

by Madeline Justice
Sport Editor

The classic movie “A Star is Born” has recently been remade and it was a homerun. The movie starred the renowned singer Lady Gaga and Oscar winner Bradley Cooper. Most people remember the past renditions with stars such as Janet Gaynor (1937), Judy Garland (1954) and Barbra Streisand (1976) all portraying Esther Hoffman Howard. This iconic roll has been held by esteemed actresses and there was an extra amount of pressure upon Lady Gaga this time around.

Lady Gaga is known mainly for her extensive singing career, however, she is now being recognized as a talented actress after being the lead in the 2018 version of “A Star is Born”. She decided to step out of her comfort zone and take on the task of becoming Ally (a rendition of Esther). Lady Gaga was able to completely delve into the character and jerk at the heartstrings of the watchers.

Throughout the movie we see Ally’s rise to becoming famous. She starts out as a waitress and part time singer at a drag night club. One night while performing, a famous country singer comes in and is blown away by her talent. As the movie evolves, so does their love. The singer, known as Jackson Maine, pushes Ally to take the stage with him, and in doing so Ally starts her own singing career.

The movie constantly keeps you on your feet as the story unfolds. The love displayed between the two main characters is a modern relationship of compromise and working together. The two lovers show it takes more than just true love to make it through a struggling situation.

“A Star is Born” is getting the recognition it deserves and everyone should make time to eat some popcorn and enjoy the movie!



The Devil of Hell’s Kitchen Returns

by Fiona Hughes
Editor-In-Chief

Marvel has been pumping out movie after movie, feeding the latest superhero frenzy.

Once the credits start rolling, that similar feeling of, “How much longer until the next one?” comes back. It can feel like ages before Marvel releases the next movie in the series, but luckily, Marvel is producing more than just movies. Now, they’re making television shows.

Netflix has gained popularity over the past few years, and Marvel has taken advantage of the streaming network. From “Jessica Jones” to “Iron Fist,” “Luke Cage” to “The Punisher,” there are many shows with superheroes that haven’t made it to the big screens.

One of my favorites has to be “Daredevil.” It’s so cleverly tied together and filmed, you’ll be on the edge of your seat the whole show.

The show takes place in Hell’s Kitchen, Manhattan and follows the story of Matthew Murdock, a man who opened a law office with his best friend Foggy Nelson. They represent those in need pro bono; therefore, they do their work out of a barely functioning office space and get paid in chickens and apple pie. But there’s a twist: Matt Murdock lives a double-life. During the day, he’s an attorney. At night, he pulls on a black mask and beats up criminals as Daredevil.

Oh, did I mention that Matt Murdock is blind?

Compared to many Marvel movies, “Daredevil” is much more realistic. There aren’t any aliens out to kill humankind, just criminals with sinister mindsets. To

me, that makes it more interesting. With some of Daredevil’s enemies, you can almost see their point of view and understand their actions, as opposed to some alien overlord wishing to blow up the whole galaxy.

The third season of “Daredevil” was released to Netflix Oct. 19, and it blew away my expectations. Murdock’s old nemesis Wilson Fisk returned, along with a new enemy called Bullseye. Bullseye is a former FBI agent that never misses a shot.

Watching Murdock and his team of ragtag friends try to solve problems in Hell’s Kitchen is both intriguing and frustrating. I was on the edge of my couch the whole time. As soon as one episode ends, you’ll click that “next episode” button so fast your fingers might fall off. Happy binge watching!



“Bohemian Rhapsody” is the Champion

by Laurence Yang
Staff Writer

You might recognize the name of the film, “Bohemian

Rhapsody,” from the famous Queen song which, incidentally, shares the name. That’s right, you guessed it, this movie is a tell-all about the band Queen, starting from their rise to fame, covering all the way until the Live AID concert, one of the last performances by the band. Although the movie is about the band as a whole, the protagonist is lead singer Freddie Mercury.

With a flair for the dramatics, director Bryan Singer and lead actor Rami Malek team up to produce a masterpiece.

Malek’s portrayal of Mercury is magnificent; not only does he nail the sexuality and struggles of Freddie’s life, but he also displays raw emotion that captivates the audience and pushes for empathy. Aside from a few creative liberties, the overall accuracy of the movie and plot is stunning--all the way down to the number of coke cans on the piano during the final performance. The supporting cast includes names like Ben Hardy and Mike Myers, renowned actors who work together to create an atmosphere of extreme professionalism and stellar acting.

The plot of the movie is both engaging and suspenseful. Sitting on the edge of my seat for the entire three hour duration of the movie, I was fascinated to discover hilarious facts and trivia about Queen that always

seemed to tie back to the main story. With a flair for the dramatics, Singer’s creative touch can be felt throughout the movie. Keeping people interested and awake for so long is no easy task.

“Bohemian Rhapsody” deserves a 4.7 out of 5 stars. The only critique that is remotely valid is the length of the movie could have been shortened, some scenes cut or condensed. Otherwise, this critically acclaimed movie lived up to its hype.



Vvisions Review

by **Olivia Blackburn**
Copy Editor

“Promoting Creativity,” is this brand’s main slogan. If you go to P-CEP you have probably seen the brand, ‘Vvisions,’ as you walk down the halls or on the path. In 2015, Vvisions was founded by Jackson Austin, at the time, a junior at Canton and brother Bennett Austin, at the time, an 8th grader at Pioneer. As a simple design that the Austin brothers came up with, the logo surprised them by turning into something they would have never expected.

The Austin brothers wanted to put together a skate team, so they decided to hand make some shirts for it. After many hours of hard work from these two, they created an amazing brand worn by many kids at P-CEP and a fully operating website with information, videos and obviously their clothes.

Vvisions main purpose is to promote creativity through everyone who buys items from them and to promote creativity everywhere. They want everyone to feel like they are on Earth for a reason, that everyone has a purpose to help make the world a better place overall.

Jackson describes how Vvisions had started, “When we started out, we didn’t have any goals. We just wanted to make skate videos and cool clothes. We still love doing that, but now we do that while also promoting creativity; whether its collaborating with an artist on a t-shirt or putting on a local concert.”

The brothers and their team take tiny steps to make their brand bigger and bigger each day, by developing new graphic ideas and spreading their brand out on

social media.

As Vvisions started to become more developed, so did their skate team. As of now there are five skaters, including: Bennett Austin (Canton Senior), Tristan Phillips (Salem Senior), Cal O’Donnell (Canton Senior), Caleb Johnson (Canton Senior) and Sam Zorn (Canton Senior). Another five are featured in their skate videos and often skate with the team. These include: Carson Miller (Plymouth Senior), Ethan Rottell (Plymouth Junior), Reilly Bruj (Salem Senior), Justin Perry (Plymouth Senior) and Drew Kielbaso (Salem Sophomore). Drew also helps with filming the skate videos.

Vvisions is creating a very positive impact on the kids who wear their clothes, while also forming a new perspective on

skating. From watching their skate videos and wearing their clothes, it really makes me want to skate more and to promote creativity with what I wear and what I do, just like what their main purpose was for the brand.

The Vvisions team has been working hard to get their latest video up called, “SURRENDER.” Jackson describes the motive for this video, “Surrender is the name of the opening song and I was like, okay that sounds sick I’m using that as the title.”

You can check out Vvisions newest apparel and soon to come apparel on their website, vvisions.bigcartel.com/

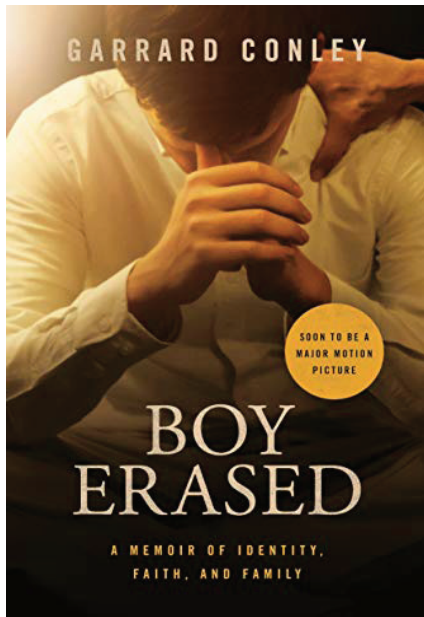


Cal O’Donnell wearing newest Vvisions merchandise
Photo by Jackson Austin

“Boy Erased” Book Review

by **Kealani Tapp**
Staff Writer

from the darkest part of his life in his touching memoir “Boy Erased.” Garrard had always struggled with his sexuality, and it was no help that he grew up in an extremely religious community in the South. When Garrard was attending college at 19-years-old, he was outed as gay to his parents. His father gave him an ultimatum, “convert” to heterosexuality immediately or he would no longer pay for his education. Garrard was placed in a conversion therapy program that intended to rid him of his homosexuality. The reader watches as the foundation Garrard was so familiar with begins to crack, as he loses his connections with faith and family. Garrard begins to discover himself and who he wants to be.



Garrard Conley reveals his memories

accounts of past experiences. Like all great writers, he evokes many emotions with his attention to the small things. He never says how the people felt, he shows it through his descriptions of their tone of voice or their facial expressions. Conley was able to make boring things, like the way a light was shining, seem important and interesting. He told his story exactly as he had experienced it.

“Boy Erased” is honest, it does not sugarcoat or avert the truth. Conley shares all his dark and embarrassing thoughts. This is how he creates a connection with the reader, he’s just like us, he isn’t perfect. Conley is a powerful writer, who can grab anyone and leave them wanting more.

Conley’s writing is relatable to those of us who have questioned the beliefs of our parents or our community. “Boy Erased” is a must-read for anyone who is struggling with their identity. Conley shows that even though at times life may be extremely tough, all things heal with time.

Conley paints a vivid picture with his detailed

A Beast of a Movie

by **Fiona Hughes**
Editor-in-Chief

was already set up for success when actors Eddie Redmayne, Jude Law, Johnny Depp and Ezra Miller were cast. When I went to watch it in the theater, I was completely blown away by the storyline.

The wizarding world is complex, as fans of Harry Potter would most likely agree. “The Crimes of Grindelwald” took this complexity a step further and delved into the troubling question of bloodlines, since the movie is set in 1927. Albus Dumbledore has always been a character shrouded in mystery, someone you want to trust so badly, yet there was so much you didn’t understand about his past, until now. Young Dumbledore was fantastically played by Jude Law, capturing the professor’s flamboyant and nonchalant personality, along with his undeniable brilliance.

Another storyline that peaked my interest was the story of Nagini, who was Voldemort’s snake in the Harry Potter movies. In “The Crimes of Grin-

“Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald”

delwald,” Nagini is not yet a snake, but a human. Her transformation from human to animal was explained in the movie, which I loved as a dedicated fan.

I might be a bit biased, but finally seeing the main character as a Hufflepuff sold the whole movie for me. Newt Scamander isn’t the hero that you would expect. He’s socially awkward, weird and quirky, not the usual arrogant “chosen one” that we normally see. Scamander shows people that it’s okay to sit back and not be the center of attention, or throw yourself into a dangerous situation just because that’s what heroes do. He perfectly showcases the personality traits of an introvert, which is refreshing after seeing so many movies featuring cocky, headstrong characters.

“The Crimes of Grindelwald” was overall an amazing movie, but only if you’re a fan of Harry Potter. If you haven’t previously read the books or seen the movies, you’d be completely lost. On the other hand, if you’re a Potter fan, you’ll be excited to hear that “Fantastic Beasts” has been renewed for three more movies!



You Will Have a Bad Time When You See “Bad Times at the El Royale”



by **Morgan McCotter**
Promotion Manager

Everyone loves a good mystery. It doesn’t have to be a film noir or a novel. It could be you trying to figure out if your dramatic friend is subtweeting about you or about someone else? No matter what, everyone loves some mystery. “Bad times at the El Royale” will leave you at least a little disappointed, because of a lack of interest.

“Bad Times at the El Royale” is about the hotel, the “El Royale,” that sits on the border of California and Nevada. Guests can choose which side they stay on, on either side of the border, but it is an extra dollar for the California side. Both sides had great theming in its hay day, yet those days are over. The El Royale is old now and looks like the somewhat cleaner version of “The Bates Motel.” The place is old, and looks a little unkempt and needs to be redone, but I digress.

Next you meet our vic- I mean characters for this story. The story brings six people in to the hotel and then just lets the story unfold.

I personally love this style of storytelling. If you have strong characters that feel real it could be amazing, but if the characters aren’t strong and they’re boring, the story falls apart. I will give “Bad times at the El Royale” this: it did have a pretty decent mystery, but the mystery went on forever without anything to love. Most of the time I was just grossed out by some of the characters’ actions, but again, I digress. If you loved this movie, I would only be a bit surprised, but just as the “El Royale” is cut down the middle, you would have to cut through a lot of trash to enjoy this movie.

If you loved this movie, I would only be a bit surprised, but just as the “El Royale” is cut down the middle, you would have to cut through a lot of trash to enjoy this movie.

“Agnes and the Hitman” Book Review



by **Emily Gilbertson**
Staff Writer

“Agnes and the Hitman” is what happens when you take crime, mystery and wit and add a splash of romance. Jennifer Crusie and Bob Mayer team up to create a unique story of how one cranky, short-tempered food columnist and her lazy dog become the center of havoc in Keyes, South Carolina. The fresh, natural dialogue mixed with the vivid, slightly dark turn of events and suspense make the reader not want to put the book down. Crusie and Mayer, while being polar opposites in their genre of writing, prove to be a winning pair.

Throughout the novel, the main character, Agnes Crandall, struggles with her temper and keeping her “cool” when faced with adversity. The reader is met with multiple sections of italicized text, representing Agnes’ psychiatrist, Dr. Garvin, who is always reminding her to “handle her anger.” Maybe it’s her column deadline. Maybe it’s the big wedding she has to put on in a week. Or maybe it begins when an armed teenage boy bursts into her apartment, threatening to steal her dog. Through a fury of pots, spoons and a sizzling pan of raspberry sauce, Agnes’ life turns completely on its head.

There are so many layers and subplots to the novel, but that’s what keeps it so interesting. Agnes’ relationship with her fiancé is seriously crumbling,

along with her friendship with an older woman named Brenda, who was basically like a mother to her after her parents abandoned her. But she has some people on her side. Upon hearing of the dognapping, her “Uncle” Joey sends some help her way, but in the form of what appears to be another break-in. Enter a mysterious man named Shane (“no last name”), who Agnes slowly begins to learn isn’t exactly the way he appears.

The way Mayer writes the myriad of action scenes is seriously like watching a James Bond film in your head. The fast-paced moves and sequences make the reader really feel like they’re witnessing the situation first-hand. These whirlwind scenes combined with Crusie’s sarcastic, quick-witted dialogue contrast so well and further demonstrate how well the two writers work together.

Although reading this book requires quite a bit of concentration and might even prompt the reader to construct a family tree since there are so many different family issues wrapped up in it. It’s truly a phenomenally written story of how one food writer gets wrapped up in a fiasco full of shady mobsters, a professional hitman, countless rowdy intruders, a greedy widow and a southern flamingo-themed wedding.

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