

Our Story, Our Fight



Sarah Helling cheers alongside her team



Jillian Baldwin doing a toe touch

Photos by Micheal Vasilinek

by Lauren Martin
Staff Writer

Plymouth High School's competitive cheer program has been creating a name for themselves over the past four years. They won't stop until the end goal of making it to states has been reached. Cheer is an opinionated sport, where teams' overall scores are based on the judge's opinion. Due to opinions, teams want to get their names known so they can get better scores. Plymouth's name is getting out there, and they are the only team at the Park that is going on to regionals for the 2018-2019 season. To continue onto regionals, a team must place top

Plymouth High School's competitive cheer program has been creating a name for themselves over the past four years. They won't stop until the end goal of making it to states has been reached. Cheer is an opinionated sport, where teams' overall scores are based on the judge's opinion. Due to opinions, teams want to get their names known so they can get better scores. Plymouth's name is getting out there, and they are the only team at the Park that is going on to regionals for the 2018-2019 season. To continue onto regionals, a team must place top

four out of twelve teams total.

The 2015-2016 season was the first time in history of Plymouth competitive cheer making it to regionals. Since then, the team has been pushing to make it to states. To make it to states, a team must once again place top four out of twelve at regionals. These competitions can either end a team's season or give them one more week to push. This season, Plymouth received second at districts fueling their fire to work even harder.

Teams from all over the state have been cheering Plymouth on from the beginning of the season hoping for them to make history

by going it to states. Even the girls on the team feel that this season's team was one of a kind.

"We have never been a closer family. I can't wait to see what amazing things we accomplish," Rachel Smith, a Plymouth senior, said.

Plymouth seems to only be improving. With every competition, they are breaking new records and even making their way up to the top ten list for their round three score. As regionals grew closer, this team practiced about fifteen hours a week to ensure they were as ready as possible. Regionals finally came and they got 8th. This means that Plymouth's season is officially over. At regionals, Plymouth

got the second highest round three score, even out-scoring last year's state champions.

Overall, Plymouth's mental and physical strength helped them have their best season ever. Their hard work was visible at every competition they attended. Plymouth cheer only gets better every year, and will continue to push for the 4th place spot to continue to states.

Park Teams Make it to Gymnastics Regionals

by Cora Wallen
Editor-in-Chief

On Mar. 2, 2019, ten gymnastics teams

competed for the title of Region 3 Regional Champion team in the Plymouth High School gym. The top three teams would be going to States. Individuals qualify for the state meet by placing top ten in individual events or top six for all-around.

The gymnastics teams around the Park all boasted seasons of growth and/or success.

Canton Assistant Coach, Rachel Socha, said, "This was definitely a building season for us, with around 20 new girls. With all these new faces comes new skills to learn, but we're definitely looking at a really strong team in the future."

Salem senior captain Riley Fisher said that the team did well this season. "We left it all out there today

[at regionals] and had a really good meet," she said.

Jaya Dhande, Plymouth senior captain, said, "we have improved so much as a team and really progressed in not only our skills and scores but also attitudes and our team bonding." Dhande also gave credit to their new coach, Alyssa Burke, for "pushing us past limits we didn't know we had."

The regional meet ended up with the following team scores: Adrian in tenth, Ann Arbor Skyline in ninth, Tecumseh in eighth with 120.10 points, Saline in seventh place with 123.75 points, Livonia Red in sixth place with 134.575 points, Canton in fifth with 135.25 points, Salem in fourth with 139.95 points, Plymouth in third with 141.925 points, Northville in second with 142.15 points and Livonia Blue in first with 143.45 points.

The Plymouth team will be mov-

ing into the Michigan High School Athletics Association state meet.

Individual qualifiers from Canton were Zoe Graves on bars, Kana Quinn on vault, Nehal Harish on beam and Lauren Hendricks on vault and floor.

Individual qualifiers from Salem were Fisher for all-around, vault and beam, Chloe Longeway for all-around, bars and beam, Chloe Wiewora for all-around, floor and bars, Cameron Moyers for all-around and floor, Kacey Jones for vault and Julia Devine for vault.

Individual qualifiers for Plymouth were Courtney Jordan, Jaya Dhande and Ava Eilola for vault, Maisie Swafford for all-around, bars and beam, Alexis Pultorak for beam and floor, Ella Seale for all-around, beam and floor, and Adrian Hartford for floor.



Plymouth gymnast Jaya Dhande

Photo by Cora Wallen

Girls Wrestling Makes History

by Madeline Justice
Sports Editor

For the first time in Michigan history the MWA, Michigan Wrestling Association, held a girls state championship on Feb. 3, 2019. In high schools all around the nation girls wrestling has been added to athletic departments in addition to the increasing number of participants. High schools in Michigan have been slow on the uptake. Most girls that want to wrestle have to join a boys

team or a coed team instead of a strictly female teams.

At the Park we have female who compete along the boys teams. When the MWA announced they were hosting a state championship competition multiple of the parks female decided to compete for the title.

At the competition Salem representative Maritza Gallegos and Plymouth representative Mallory Floreno competed and both placed within the top five in the state. Gallegos placed 5th

and Floreno placed 4th overall. Both of these places were major accomplishments for the girls and their home schools.

This state-wide competition has created opportunities for girls all over the state so they can start to compete in all girls divisions and continue the sport in college. This will help in taking strides for many high schools across the entire state.

Boys Bowling

by Brett Caldwell
Entertainment Editor

The Canton boys bowling team's season came to an end Saturday Feb. 23 as none of them were able to qualify for States. They finished the season coming second in the division to the Park rival Salem.

The Plymouth boys failed to qualify for States as a team, but they finished third in their division with a 10-4 record along with two tournament wins.

Plymouth senior co captain Alan Brown, who qualified for individual States for the second year in a row said, "It was really amazing to qualify again for States. I never thought I would qualify one time let alone back to back years. I'm very grateful that I was able to do it again."

The Salem boys finished the season as division champs and won Regionals, which was their first tournament win of the year. Additionally, they had a strong showing at States coming in third place.

Moreover, Salem junior Jonathan Hall had an amazing performance at States coming in third place saying, "It feels great, especially knowing how hard the competition is and how much hard work me and my team have put in."

P-CEP varsity boys bowling finished this season with seven all-conference members, three tournament wins and two State qualifiers.

A Slippery End to the Boys Swim Season

by Zach Antonelli
Staff Writer

It's around that time of year now where the winter sports seasons are ending, and overall this has been quite the season for the swim teams at the Park. As we wrap up this year's swim season, I decided to talk to the captains of the Canton and Plymouth teams to get their take on the season overall and their experiences being on the team for all four years.

Isaac Fong, Canton Senior Captain, is currently practicing and preparing for the Michigan High School Athletics Association Division 1 State Championship meet in Holland. He swims all four strokes and has been on the team all four years.

"The season went quite well for us," Fong stated "I think we all surprised ourselves at the end of the season by performing so well be-

cause the beginning of the season didn't seem as successful."

This year was the first year with the new KLAAs divisions. Many teams played schools that they had never swam against before. But Fong remained optimistic and faithful in his team. Looking back at the season, Fong explained "I think some standout parts of the season were beating Plymouth, having a relay team (Isaac Fong, Ethan Wayne, Michael Caruso, and Logan Stombaugh) go to the MISCA meet, having Logan Stombaugh and Isaac Fong qualify for States, and having the team place 8th in the KLAAs Conference Meet."

Isaac stated that his experience on the team has been eye-opening and positive. Even going as far as to say that it has helped him get out of his shell and become a more sociable and outgoing person. "The team is a very strong

community of guys that really care about each other and are dedicated to the sport."

Fong's advice to underclassmen is "Join the team. It's a really great experience. Even though the practices seem hard and your winners may feel miserable, it's really rewarding to see your practice and dedication pay off at the end of each season. If you do join the team be resilient and persevere, and have fun in the process."

Zach Plymale, Plymouth Senior Captain, has been on the team all four years. "The season went amazing in continuous improvement with a young team throughout the tough losses endured. A standout moment for the team would be the support and time drop in our first meet against Allen Park."

Plymale stated that his experience on the team has been "positivity, support, and fun.

The team comes into practice with a positive attitude, a will to get better and fun personalities." One thing he'd like to tell underclassmen is "stay strong, improve, and remain coachable. To someone considering swim the environment is positive, a great way to make friends, work hard, and have fun."

We were unable to reach the Salem Senior Captains / swimmers for this article. But they also had a very successful season. They were Park Champs, taking the title from the winners for the past 3 years at Canton.

Salem Wrestler Rocks the District

by Zach Antonelli
Staff Writer

The Salem Wrestling team has had a victory streak over the past five years. Year after year, it seems they only get stronger as a team and this year, it truly showed. Not only did the team become District Champs for the 5th consecutive year, but one of their best wrestlers toughed it out to be the Individual District Champ. This wrestler's name? Collin Schultz.

This was Schultz' first time going into the Individual District Championship, but he can't say he wasn't driven or prepared

for what he experienced. "When I made it to my first finals match, things really started to click for me and I saw my potential." Schultz stated when asked about his motivation.

Being a senior with four years under his belt on the team, he felt driven to lead his team and leave his mark on the sport he loves. Schultz had some very touching words to say about the team, stating "I just want to say I couldn't have done it without the team. Having the team look up to me and count on me put me under a pressure that I liked. Knowing my brothers and sister are count-

ing on me." He also went on to say that he felt that the team had worked their absolute hardest during the season to make being district champions a reality once again and that he is proud of his team.

Last Hoops of the Season

by Diya Banerjee
Features Editor

As P-CEP's girls basketball season comes to a close, the players have a lot to be proud of. Plymouth basketball had an impressive win over Canton and Salem, reclaiming their spot as Park Champions from last season. Expanding on exciting victories, Plymouth Senior, Kelsey Peregord said, "My team's ability to work together has improved so much this season. We are much better at understanding the role everyone fills on our team."

The team is set to participate in the first round of playoffs on March 4th. Peregord said she hopes to win that game and play Canton again on March 6th. Canton's team had a learning

curve. Canton Senior Carly Schwinke described the win against Plymouth Christian Academy saying, "We came back from being down late in the 4th quarter and pulled out a strong victory which was super exciting for our season opener with such a young team."

The "young" basketball team is made up of only two seniors, three juniors, and six sophomores, making them pretty unique. Despite this, the team is focused on doing their best. Schwinke said, "with all of the hard work and practicing we have been able to learn how each other play and work a lot better as a team."

She sees an improvement from last year's season in terms of determination. The team

hopes to make a run into playoffs; they will play the winner of the Plymouth vs. Romulus.

Salem has had some great wins; Senior Jenna Sydlowski described the game won against Canton an important one, as they are a park rival. The girls have been focusing on strategy for their games. Sydlowski said, "In the beginning of the season we struggled to start out a game strong, but we have been focusing on that and shown a lot of improvement." The team is continuing to play in Districts and will verse Wayne in their next game.

Good luck to all of the teams for the rest of the season!

Pompon Teams Take on States

by Madeline Justice
Sports Editor

On Jan. 27, Pompon teams entered into the Breslin at Michigan State University to compete for the state championship title. Each team had prepared a routine comprised of entertaining stunts, an electrifying kickline and mesmerizing movements of poms and formations. Teams are put into divisions based off how they scored at the regionals competition. All three P-CEP teams qualified and competed in the hardest

varsity division at the competition, Class A Division 1.

All teams are scored off of their performance. The length of the routine, choreography, difficulty of routine, use of poms, kickline, showmanship and overall impression are all things the judges are looking for in the routines when scoring the performances.

Plymouth Varsity Pompon performed a tropical themed routine full of high energy choreography and a stunning kickline. They stepped out of the box and used teal and silver

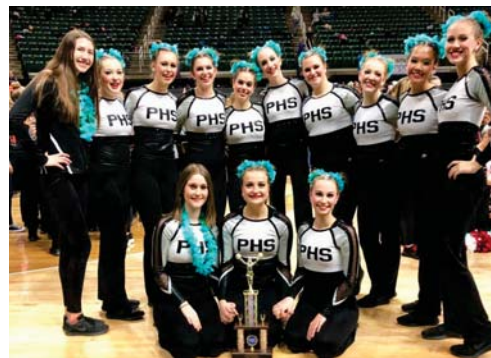
poms this year to stand out and wow the judges. Overall Plymouth placed 8 out of 11 teams in Division 1.

Canton Varsity had everyone singing along with their Elton John themed routine. They had amazing showmanship and extreme stunts that left the audience in awe. During awards they held their breath because the top two teams were them and Salem Varsity. They ended up walking away in second place losing by only 1.5 points to Salem.

Salem's routine was one for the record

books. They stood out by creating a workout themed routine complete with sweatbands and head springs. They left it all out on the floor and it paid off. Salem Varsity won the division taking home the State Champs trophy for the second year in a row.

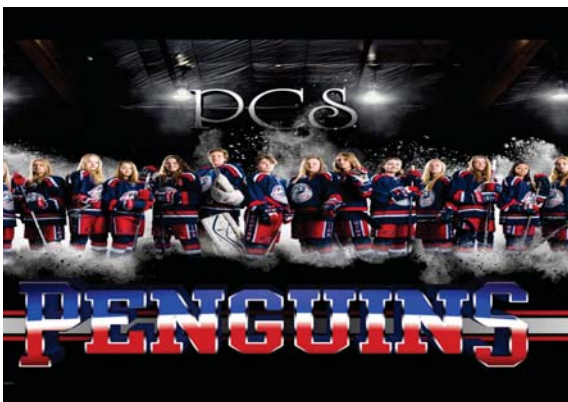
Although the teams competed head to head they cheered each other on during their performances. As their competition season comes to a close the girls are taking a well deserved break before tryouts in the spring.



Plymouth PomPom receiving their 8th place trophy

Photo by Micheal Vasilneck

Penguins for the Playoffs



PCEP Girls Hockey

Photo by Hurricane Graphics

by Diya Banerjee and Sachetan Sundar Krishnaraj
Features Editor and Design Editor

P-CEP's girls hockey team is back this season and better than ever. So far the team has had many exciting victories, including redemption over last year's opponents.

Plymouth senior, Grace Balch, said, "The most exciting game of our season so far was beating Cranbrook after they knocked us out of playoffs last year." Not only have they beaten them once, but three times this season. The Penguins, previously described as "underdogs" have been doing exceptionally well.

The team's chemistry has definitely contributed to their wins on the ice. "Our team has grown to be one big family. The way we cheer each other on while on the benches or in the locker room shows our true team atmosphere," said sophomore Brooke Kalis.

Balch described the team as "extremely close", developing on and off the ice.

After last year's disappointing loss to Mercy High School in the final round of playoffs, the team is looking forward to playing again this year. Balch expressed confidence in her team, stating, "We have learned to work together, and that has helped us improve and now we are ready for playoffs."

Kalis mentioned needing a win against Pioneer to advance to the spot the team wants. Although the players were very accomplished last season, they have had even more triumphs this year; the P-CEP girls hockey team seems to have a bright future ahead of them.

Humans of P-CEP *Marquette Winston*



Marquette Winston, Canton Senior
Photo by Erica Reyes

by Cora Wallen
Editor-in-Chief

For some, music is an outlet. For others, music is a passion. For Marquette Winston, Canton senior, music is her life. A member of In The Band, P-CCS Choirs and pursuing her own career, Winston has dedicated a large part of her life to fostering growth of her craft in music.

Winston said she is passionate about, "making music and impacting other people's lives. Music has helped me through really dark times and I want to do that for other people."

Other than music, Winston said she has a love for travel, fitness and sports. In five years, she said she sees herself traveling the world

and playing music. She plans to attend Detroit Institute of Music Education to continue her pursuit of the study of music and developing of a career.

Her favorite part of the Plymouth-Canton community is, "how much diversity is in our community. There is more support for the arts in our community than there is in most."

In the community, she often performs at benefit concerts and ITB shows. In the past six months, Winston has been working on her own Extended Play, with five songs written by herself and produced by Joseph Jankowski. The EP is titled "Cloak and Dagger," which is also the name of one of the songs on

the album.

Winston said, "It's a song that basically talks about the struggles with being who you want to be when society sets so many rules and parameters."

She debuted her songs at the Cloak and Dagger Show Mar. 2 at In The Band Studios. Her music is available on streaming platforms including Spotify, Apple Music and SoundCloud.

Through all of these accomplishments, Winston says she values being humble, but also having self-confidence. She explained, "one of my life mottos is 'don't look up to anyone, don't look down on anyone.'"

Beloved Salem Spanish Teacher Passes Away After Battle With Cancer



Mrs. Kalish, top right, with foreign language teachers.
Photo by Brenda Belanger

Mrs. Kalish had an impact on many students, teachers and staff here at the Park.

"Mrs. Kalish was my buddy!" said Brenda Belanger, fellow second-floor Salem Spanish teacher. "Almost once a month, most of the Salem language department got together for 'jam sessions' with Ms. Aksman, the Chinese teacher. Mrs. Kalish, Ms. Aksman and I played guitar, Mrs. Rokakis played flute and Mrs. Beilman and Mrs. McNeilly sang and sometimes played the ukulele. It was so fun and lifted our spirits. Mrs. Kalish was such a beautiful singer."

Kathy Rokakis, Salem French teacher, has fond memories of Mrs. Kalish as well. She said, "I remember meeting Joan when I first started working here about 10 years ago. She immediately impressed me with her sense of humor and talent for turning that humor into songs about things going on in our lives. Over the years I got to know her better and found that she was also a very supportive, compassionate and accepting soul who could find funny ways to make my day."

Mrs. Kalish's students have also been influenced by her teaching and presence.

Davian Bennett, Salem junior, said, "My favorite memory about Mrs. Kalish was talking to her in the mornings. I would always sit by her desk as I was always one of the first kids to arrive to class and we would talk about music and how there will definitely not be another Aretha Franklin or Frank Sinatra."

Zain Amer, Salem junior, and fellow Salem junior, Jenna Dudar, both had her for two years and were impacted by her as a teacher and person.

Amer said, "She was so welcoming and never made anyone feel as if they didn't belong. This year, whenever I was feeling down and doubting myself in class, she always gave me a reason to never give up. She encouraged me to try my best in not only Spanish, but in every class. She taught me to stay strong no matter what."

Dudar also talked about Mrs. Kalish's perseverance and

encouraging attitude. "Mrs. Kalish wanted to make sure everyone succeeded in her class and would go out of her way to help her students. No matter who would walk into her class, she would act as though she has known them for years and would always make them feel welcomed in every way possible." She added, "Mrs. Kalish is one of the strongest people I have ever met."

It's clear from that Mrs. Joan Kalish's kindness, humor and strength were positively influential to the Plymouth-Canton community. While she may have passed, the memories held by students, staff and administration will live on.



Mrs. Kalish's door covered in notes and memories from her students.
Photo by Cora Wallen

by Cora Wallen
Editor-in-Chief

Joan Kalish, Spanish teacher and Salem staff member, passed away on Feb. 9, 2019

from her battle with cancer. Late Dec. 2018, Mrs. Kalish was diagnosed with ovarian cancer and had to take a leave from teaching to begin her treatments.

She went through this time surrounded by family and loved ones.

According to Kim Villarosa, Salem principal, in a letter to families of students of Mrs. Kalish, "Mrs. Kalish started her leave from teaching last month to seek treatment for cancer with a very positive attitude, a great concern for her students and the hope that she would return to school as soon as possible. Mrs. Kalish truly expected to return to school to continue sharing her love for Spanish with her students. She loved teaching and every one of her students."

Clubs of the Month: Key Club and Fellowship for Christian Athletes

by Lauren Martin and Emma Bali
Staff Writer and News Editor

With the never-ending clubs at

P-CEP, there may be quite a few you're unaware of. First off, we have a club that is known as Key Club. Key Club is part of the Kiwanis International organization, an international service club founded in 1915 in Detroit, Michigan. Key Club is also the oldest and largest student-lead service program for high school students that demonstrates leadership through serving others. In addition, Key Club members volunteer time with various organizations such as Salvation Army and Kids Against Hunger. Key Club's advisor is Leslie Orsborn, and they meet in the Salem cafeteria every other Thursday.

Julia Bhuiyan, Plymouth sophomore, said, "Key Club is basically a club that organizes volunteer events for us to help give back to the community. I like that they provide a variety of events and volunteering really provides an insightful experience."

The Fellowship for Christian Athletes is a new club

that began in 2018. It is run by Plymouth Football Coach, Matt Adams. Originally, the group was made up of Adams and six kids. Overtime, the group has grown to around 60. Every Friday on second floor Salem at 6:30 a.m., this group meets to learn and share about the Lord. The atmosphere is very welcoming and inclusive to all. Bibles are provided so everyone can participate and read God's word.

The Fellowship for Christian Athletes groups are located at many different schools across the United States. This group is a great opportunity for anyone who believes in God and wants to meet new people. Once a month, the group has time to share about ways God has showed up in their life. No one is forced to share, however, this time is great for peers to learn more about each other and see what amazing things God does in not only their life, but in others as well.

Jonah Brafford, Plymouth senior, really enjoys The Fellowship for Christian Athletes club. He said, "This group means so much to many, and hopefully the

amount of members just continues to increase. Being a part of this group helps everyone have a set time to be able to worship the Lord, which makes it a lot easier to just get into the habit."

The Fellowship for Christian Athletes helps members feel accepted for who they are. The group tries to lessen the stigmas some members may feel surrounding their religious beliefs. This group helps members see that they are not alone in their beliefs, making one more confident to speak out about it.

Coach Adams always likes to remind the group of a saying the Northville baseball team has on their shirts, "We Get To." He explains how no one has to wake up early and attend this group, but simply changing the phrase "I have to" to "I get to" can help change the outlook one has on life.

Rare, Hidden Condition: Marfan Syndrome



Photo of Grace Meyers
Photo by Emma Bali

by Emma Bali
News Editor

Marfan Syndrome is a rare genetic disorder that affects the body's connective tissue, which is the tissue that connects, supports, binds, or separates other tissues or organs. The disorder leaves up to 50 percent of people undiagnosed. In addition, 1 in 200,000 people have the condition. About 3 out of 4 people with Marfan Syndrome inherit it, meaning they get the genetic mutation from a parent who has it. Symptoms of the disorder include: long limbs, curved spine, hypermobility, nearsightedness, crowded teeth, flat feet and fallen arches. Victims of the disorder are often identified with tallness and thin bodies, although that is not always the case. Internally speaking, the disorder may include the symptoms of respiratory complications, a possible sudden lung collapse, dislocated lenses and complications that involve the aorta, also known as the main artery of the body. Individuals with Marfan Syndrome are put at risk for an aneurysm, as the aorta has a higher possibility of enlarging. This enlargement can then lead to aortic dis-

section, which individuals with Marfan Syndrome are 250 times more likely to have occur than a healthy individual. Most cases are inherited by a parent, although 25 percent of the cases are identified as a spontaneous mutation. In this case, the individual with Marfan Syndrome is the only individual in their family to have the disorder.

The disorder has some downsides to it, which includes some limitations.

Grace Meyers, Plymouth sophomore, with Marfan Syndrome said "Marfan Syndrome has made me more aware, as you need to be more aware of what you can and can't do. You cannot overexert yourself, you have to constantly watch your health and go to multiple doctors yearly. The disorder also limits your options. With Marfan, not being allowed to do competitive sports is a big disadvantage, especially in high school. The bond you get with a team is something I'll never be able to experience. When I get to be a part of something, I really do cherish it. For everyone that is able to participate, treasure that you are able to do the sports that you can do."

Alongside some limitations, the dis-

order can also cause long lasting effects.

"As I get older, it affects me mentally. It's not a Marfan symptom, it's being aware and knowing what could happen and making sure I'm in good health. If something hurts or if something were to happen, is it Marfan related? Is it normal? Is it something I have to go to the Emergency Room for?" Meyers said.

Besides the fact that there are some downsides to the disorder, there are some upsides to it as well.

Meyers said, "There's this whole community, it's sort of under the umbrella of the Marfan Foundation. Every year, if you are able to attend, the foundation puts on a conference. You're able to meet people and everyone feels welcomed and you feel that you're all the same and you belong. With this whole community, you have the support you need and you get the chance to form close friendships with adults and other kids with Marfan's."

Despite the limitations and downsides, Meyers still remains tough.

As Meyers said, "life is tough, but you're tougher."

Advanced Placement vs. International Baccalaureate

by Diya Banerjee and
Amanda Mancuso
Features Editor and Staff
Writer

While at the Park, there are many routes you can take. STEM stands for Science Technology Engineering and Math; it is more geared towards those who want a career in medicine, healthcare, engineering, and multiple other occupations. The Arts Academy emphasizes on the creativity of a student, and often has field trips and other opportunities that help them prepare for their career. The last academy is IB, or International Baccalaureate. This includes a set of classes that are recognized worldwide that are generally more accelerated. IB has defined their goal to "develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect."

A defining feature of IB is the community that the students build. Many of the students described this as something they enjoyed.

Plymouth Senior Kaan Gunel said, "The one thing I really appreciate about IB is the community aspect. You know everyone and everyone knows you."

In addition to knowing the people in your classes, Salem Senior Ellie Repp explained, "Within our classes you can always find someone to bounce ideas off of, debate, or problem solve with." Because IB classes last two years, students often get to know their teachers better; Gunel described this as a "personal learning experience." Repp referred to the teachers as "built in mentors."

A striking difference between IB and Advanced Placement classes (AP) seems to be the workload. While it is complained about, students also feel that it is preparing them for college even better than AP classes. There are many essays and extra projects such as an IA, or internal assessment. Pranay Karnati, a Plymouth Senior, expanded on this, "The assignment changes based on the class, but the idea is that you take whatever you learned from the course and carry out your own

investigation on whatever content interested you in the course."

If you are not in IB and want to take accelerated classes, you might take AP classes. Advanced Placement classes are supposed to give a student a preview of an introductory level college course. You can also get college credit for the class if you decide to take the AP Exam.

AP courses are crafted by the College Board. These classes are made to push high school students and introduce them to college level courses. These courses are weighted on GPA differently than regular classes. At the Park, receiving an A in an AP counts as five points, as receiving an A in a normal class only counts as four points.

AP classes can be useful in the long run. Developing a solid work ethic before life outside of high school is crucial. At the Park, there are several APs offered that can be beneficial in learning skills needed for the outside world. A few AP students at the Park have indicated how they feel about their experience

with AP classes.

Lindsay Schamp, junior at Plymouth believes that AP courses have helped him become a better student. "[AP courses] have taught me how to have a good work ethic, how to study, [and] to always work hard no matter how small the assignment."

Larry Lu, junior at Canton also feels that AP courses have benefited him. He has found them useful, as they have taught him multiple skills. "[AP courses] provide a more educational experience than some classes. [AP courses] have taught me to be more independent in my class work and how I do my homework and study for tests."

AP courses are an excellent way to challenge yourself and get a feel of how work may be like in the future. Obtaining a strong work ethic is important for the future; AP classes are a good way to gain this skill. While AP classes and the IB academy are different, they are both beneficial to and challenge the students enrolled.

Vinyl Sounding Better than Ever: 88.1 The Park Annual Record Show

by Zach Antonelli
Staff Writer

With the rise of music streaming services like Apple Music, Spotify and Soundcloud, owning physical copies of music has died off quickly and drastically. Although there is still a sizable portion of the population that enjoys owning a physical copy of their favorite music. Whether that includes CDs, cassettes or vinyl records.

Vinyl records have seen a big resurgence in recent years. Many people enjoy the aesthetic of listening to their favorite music through the clarity of a record player, myself included. One thing I've always enjoyed is checking out the 88.1 The Park annual record show every year and uncovering some rare finds and lost gems. All admis-

sions proceeds from the record show went to benefit 88.1. In past years, the popularity of it has reached peak attendance with 420 people last year. While I was there this year, I interviewed a vendor to learn more about events like this and get an inside look at the vinyl craze.

Rod Branham works with his wife at the record shop he founded in 1980, "Rerun Records" in Chelsea. They specialize in records from the 50s through 80s in a multitude of genres. They have also consistently set up a stand at the record show for years now.

Rod says he started selling records 39 years ago. "When I was young, I spent every penny of my allowance on records, [I] then turned my hobby into a business." Through events like the 88.1 Record Show, people like

Mr. & Mrs. Branham have expanded their business and passion for sharing music in this form beyond just running the store. Rod elaborated, saying: "I'm not a part-time dealer, I'm full-time, I'm legal. Everything is good. I'm going to keep on [selling records] until I can't pick them up anymore."

For people like Rod and myself, collecting records is a passion as well as a hobby. There's something special in those dark plastic grooves that makes listening so much more exciting. You can find Rod and "Rerun Records" organizing massive record shows in Lansing, Ann Arbor and Kalamazoo as well as online at www.rerunrecords.com.

The Staggering Reality of Ocean Plastic Pollution

by Emma Bali
News Editor

All over the world, ocean pollution statistics are growing remarkably. According to Ocean Conservancy, every year 8 million metric tons of plastics enter our ocean on top of the estimated 150 million metric tons that currently circulate our marine environments. Studies estimate that there are 15-51 trillion pieces of plastic in the world's oceans. This includes the equators poles to the Arctic ice sheets to the sea floor. In reality, we're surrounded by plastic.

One of the many tolls ocean plastic pollution takes is on wildlife. Thousands of animals, from small finches to blue whales, die gruesome deaths eating and getting caught in plastic. Some examples include fish in the North Pacific and sea turtles. Fish in the North Pacific ingest 12,000 to 24,000 tons of plastic each year, which can result in intestinal injury, death and transfers of plastic up the food chain to bigger fish. Sea turtles can mistake floating plastic garbage for food. The aftermath can range from choking to starving to death from

thinking they are full from eating plastic.

Not only does ocean pollution hold an expense on wildlife, it also heavily affects mankind. As some may know, the ocean plays an essential role for life on earth. It provides over 70 percent of the oxygen we breathe, and over 97 percent of the world's water supply. The ocean is under attack of natural resources and manmade pollution.

Toxic chemicals are entering our oceans daily. They have either been dumped on purpose from industrial resources or naturally flow off land and directly into our rivers and streams. Eventually, the chemicals end up in our oceans.

Heavy metals and chemicals, such as oil and pesticides, can all be found within the ocean. These heavy metals and chemicals can also contaminate water supplies and our food chain by affecting the marine life involved. Granted that humans are exposed to these toxic chemicals for long periods of time, this can result in dangerous health issues. This includes reproductive issues and damage to our nervous system and kidneys.

Regarding fighting ocean plastic pollution, the Center for

Biological Diversity has petitioned the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency asking the government to regulate plastic as a pollutant under the Clean Water Act. The Center for Biological Diversity will also keep pushing for plastic pollution to be treated as the hazardous waste that it is.

Overall, plastic pollution and ocean pollution are one of the greatest threats to ocean health worldwide. Everyone can do something to reduce the amount of plastic that enters the ocean. Some ways you can make a difference include reducing your use of single-use plastics, recycling properly and spreading the word.

Jonah Hill's Skate Culture Hit

by Olivia Blackburn
Staff Writer

Major spoiler alert!!!!!! If you don't like spoilers, then this is not for you. Everyone knows Jonah Hill's acting from his humorous movies such as "SuperBad," "21 Jump Street," "22 Jump Street" and many more, but many of Hill's fans were surprised that he also had a career in directing movies. Hill is the director, producer and writer of the storyline of the 85 minute movie titled "Mid-90s," starring Sunny Suljic, Olan Prenatt, Ryder McLaughlin, Na-keel Smith and Gio Galicia. All are actors who are well known for their skateboarding. When I first saw a sneak preview for this movie on Jonah Hill's Instagram I saw my favorite skater from Illegal Civilization, Prenatt, and was mesmerized, since I have their brand's posters all over my wall.

"Mid-90s," shows the audience a glimpse of the life of 13 year old Stevie in the 1990s, played by Suljic. Stevie lives in his small home with his aggressive brother and his mother. One day Stevie is biking around his neighborhood plaza when he slows down to admire Motor Avenue Skateshop and the boys skating around it. This would probably be something I would do if I saw Prenatt and his friends skating. As the next day comes around, Stevie steals some of his mom's money and trades it with his brother for his old beat up skateboard. He returns back to

the shop where he is greeted by Ruben (who is played by Galicia) who then introduces Stevie to Ray (played by Smith) who's sitting next to Prenatt (whose name is explicit) on their old couch watching skate documentaries, and Fourth Grade (played by McLaughlin) looking through his camera looking at the skate videos he just recorded. As Stevie starts hanging out with the group more, he begins to want to have that "daredevil" attitude like the other boys. I can relate to Stevie at this part, not knowing how to skate and hanging out with kids who know to skate like professionals, it can be a little intimidating and you want to be like them. Ruben starts to believe that Stevie is starting to take his place as the younger kid in the group and begins to get jealous.

Stevie attempts to do an frontside ollie across an open section between two rooftops and falls down the middle since he's so inexperienced and suffers from a head injury. Stevie's mom starts to get worried about his behavior around the house and the boys he's hanging out with, but Stevie has already set in stone that he's staying with his group of skateboarders.

As the story progresses, Stevie begins to follow the path of Prenatt that is, "experimenting with drugs and alcohol." Ray starts to see the effect that the stuff Stevie has been doing isn't going to help him in the long run; Ray sees po-

tential in him. After a night of partying, Stevie is intoxicated and gets into a violent fight with his older brother, Ian, and then has a mental breakdown. The next morning Stevie's mom brings him to the skate shop where all of the guys hang out and told the guys that Stevie wouldn't be able to hangout with them, this is totally something my mom would do when I was 13. Stevie gets into the car with his mom and begins yelling and cursing at her. Refusing to follow what she said, he gets out and sits behind the skateshop. As Stevie sits alone, Ray confronts him and sits next to him and tells him even though he might think his life is bad, the other boys have it worse. Fourth Grade can't afford a pair of socks. Ruben's mom is an abusive drug addict. Prenatt's drug and alcohol usage is getting worse and Ray lost his little brother, who was struck by a car crossing the street.

Ray and Prenatt have been bestfriends since they were little and while Ray is making a career for himself in skating, Prenatt has been falling behind in school, experimenting with drugs and alcohol and has said he's not into skating as much anymore. He just thinks it's something fun to do and gets mad that Ray doesn't feel the same way.

The following day the skate shop hosts a backyard party where Ray hopes to get a career in skating by two professionals who have showed

up, but Prenatt is already drunk and high and tries to sabotage Ray's chances.

While Stevie is drinking heavily with others at the party, Ruben bumps into him and starts a brawl. When the night's over, all of the boys pick up the back of the shop and sit there in silence. Prenatt, still intoxicated, wants to drive everyone to another party. While at first the boys were hesitant, Ray agreed and the boys got into Prenatt's car with Stevie in the front passenger seat. Nobody is happy in the car except Prenatt who is majorly impaired and is driving all over the road. He then flips the car and Stevie is knocked out unconscious and is rushed to the hospital.

Stevie later wakes up to his brother sitting next to him in the hospital and sees he has broken his arm. Stevie's mom sees that the guys are all asleep in the waiting room for him and encourages them to go and see him. Fourth Grade, who has been recording the boys for longer than he can remember, plugs his camera into the hospital TV and their movie titled, "Mid 90s," shows up. This brought a small tear to my eye since Prenatt is seeing what he's been doing wrong in the whole time and it showed how many good times the guys had together, not the bad times.

By far this movie was the best, most real, movie I have seen by far. Jonah Hill has directed a masterpiece.

The Gramophone Must Be Broken: This Year's Questionable Grammy Wins

by Zach Antonelli
Staff Writer

The Grammy awards are one thing that has consistently killed my faith in the music industry year after year. I still put myself through the disappointment every year because I guess I like to suffer. Anyway, here is what I enjoyed from the awards show and what I was disappointed by.

I am going to look at the positive side first. It wasn't a complete disaster. Donald Glover, also known as Childish Gambino, won Record of the Year,

Song of the Year and Best Music Video for his explosive single "This is America." I agree with these choices since it really was the single that left the biggest dent in popular culture within the last year. I also think that this was one of the occasional years where they didn't completely butcher the Best Metal Performance category with a win for doom metal legends High On Fire. The Grammys have come a long way since giving Jethro Tull the metal Grammy over Metallica. Another thing I enjoyed was Travis Scott's performance of the

songs "Stop Trying to Play God" and "No Bystanders."

Alright, now to cook the Grammys like it's a five star meal. In general, I think that the prestigious awards ceremony only cares about giving awards to what is popular even if another nominee was more critically acclaimed for their work. For example, Pharrell beat Kanye West in the Best Producer category for what I think is some of the most basic and underwhelming songs of Pharrell's career. Meanwhile, Kanye produced Pusha T's "Daytona," Nas's "Nasir." Kanye also

had a collaboration record with Kid Cudi "Kids See Ghosts" and the solo album "Ye."

The award for Album of the Year went to Kacey Musgraves' "Golden Hour." While that is a decent pick, I personally think that Janelle Monáe's "Dirty Computer," H.E.R.'s self titled album or the Black Panther x Top Dawg Entertainment album were better records. The Best Rap Album category had so many good albums on it but they picked Cardi B's "Invasion of Privacy." Don't twist my words, Cardi has chops but she has nothing on

Pusha T and the instrumentals on "Daytona" (Pusha T) and "Astorworld" (Travis Scott) are works above the production on "Invasion of Privacy."

There was a silver lining in the rap genre at the Grammys though. Kendrick Lamar and Anderson .Paak tied for their songs "King's Dead" and "Bubblin'" respectively, in the award for Best Rap Performance. I am so happy they didn't pick the God awful "Nice For What" off of Drake's worst release yet, "Scorpion." The Best Alternative Music Album award had

the same problem as the Best Rap Album award. The Arctic Monkeys, Bjork and St. Vincent had better albums than "Colors" by Beck but they gave him his seventh award.

All in all, I'm a bit less dazed and confused by the Grammys this year compared to past award ceremonies, but it's still disappointing. I'm just a music snob with a distaste for popular music but I am always open to new ideas and perspectives on music.

Expectations for Avengers: Endgame

by Jaden Anochiam
Staff Writer

In just one month, one of the most anticipated movies of the year will come to a theater near you, "Avengers: Endgame." Now, looking beyond the Marvel Cinematic Universe, Marvel has informed that a lot of the actors contracts with the studio are coming to an end such as Robert Downey Jr., Chris Evans and Chris Hemsworth to name a few. Fans are speculating that these three actors who play the big three of the Marvel Cinematic Universe, as Ironman, Captain America and Thor, are expected to die or put away their super suits for good and retire (like that's going to happen). Most fans are obviously expecting for at least one of them to meet their fate. Now, that goes for the actors whose contracts will expire after "Avengers: Endgame," but what about the others? Fans are expecting most or all of them to come out of this fourth Avengers film alive knowing some of them have tv shows movies on their contracts left. Mark Ruffalo (Hulk) along with Scarlett Johansson (Black Widow) are confirmed to be a part of the next phase of the Marvel Cinematic Universe.

A lot of fans are led to believe that this movie is mainly based on time travel. As seen in the "Avengers: Endgame" trailer #1, Antman, played by Paul Rudd, is somehow out the quantum realm after being trapped there at the end of "Antman and the Wasp." This has fans expecting Antman to possibly

provide important information of the quantum realm to help the Avengers formulate a plan to possibly undo "the snap." The Quantum Realm is a realm that is only accessed by being at a atomic, microscopic level. In this realm, time is irrelevant, so the time travel theory is possible and expected. There have been recent leaks of toys of the Avengers in their quantum realm suits that could be a factor in the movie in helping them go back in time to undo the snap. There has also been a leak of official Marvel merchandise of the hoodie version of the quantum suits that are coming out sometime in May which are expected to retail at around \$65.

Kevin Feige, the director for the Avengers movies and most of the Marvel films, has confirmed that the people who died, but not from the snap, are officially dead. This includes Loki and Gamora. So therefore, those two are expected to stay dead until further notice.

Most fans are expecting the Avengers to actually win in endgame. Most people think this because of the "Spiderman: Far From Home" trailer that is coming to theaters three months after "Avengers: Endgame." In the trailer, there's no emotion regarding the possible death of Tony Stark or Captain America. They supposedly could've left that part out to avoid spoilers, but when one of Peters classmates makes an Ironman joke, Peter (Spiderman) didn't show signs of sadness. He just laughed a little and

that was that. This had fans leaning towards Ironman actually surviving the fourth Avengers movie. These types of fans; the ones who believe that Ironman comes out of Endgame alive, are expecting him to win in Endgame and actually retire for good. We know that his suits have been a long lasting issue with him and his fiancée Pepper Potts. Fans expect a big final battle and expect for Tony to finally be tired of all the drama.

We know that in "Infinity War," Hulk got a bad beating from Thanos in the first five minutes of the film. After that, we went a whole 2 hours and 35 minutes without the green guy. There have been some leaked photos that have fans expecting to see new super hero armour, but most importantly, Professor Hulk. Professor Hulk, in the comics, is the Hulk's body with Bruce Banner's personality and intelligence. I for one expect to see Hulk not only smashing things, but also being smart for once at the same time. Based on the previous 20 movies leading up to this big, nail biting and possible finale for the Avengers, this could in fact be the endgame. Lots of expectations for this film, but nothing is certain. Only time will tell what the outcome of Avengers: Endgame will be.



Hozier Returns

by Fiona Hughes
Editor-In-Chief

After releasing his EP "Nina Cried Power" Sept. 7, 2018, Hozier has been pumping out new music like a madman. "Nina Cried Power" provided fans with four new songs and a taste of what Hozier had been up to for five years. Hozier continued to tease new songs and a new album on his social media accounts, until a new album titled "Wasteland Baby!" was confirmed to be released Mar. 1, 2019.

It's been less than a week since the album's release and I've listened to the full tracklist at least ten times through. Compared to Hozier's first album released in 2014, this new set of songs has some experimental sounds that we haven't heard from Hozier yet.

The songs from "Nina Cried Power" are also included in "Wasteland, Baby!" including one of my favorites "Movement." Luckily, Hozier blessed fans with ten new songs.

"Almost (Sweet Music)" is one of Hozier's new songs that I play on repeat. It has a classical Hozier feel to it, with gorgeous guitar and a catchy chorus

that reminds me of those summer days with your car windows rolled down and music blasting. The song could easily catch the attention of radio stations, so keep an eye out for it!

Another song that stuck out to me was "No Plan." Hozier is known to talk about difficult subjects in his music, like abusive relationships, charged political ideas and religion. The song starts off with an innocent bout of guitar, and then an electric beat that directly contradicts that. Hozier has mentioned



not wanting to talk about the meaning behind his lyrics too often since he enjoys seeing how others interpret his music. In my opinion, I think the song is about taking control of your life instead of sitting back and pretending things will unravel for you. "No Plan" also hints at the collision of science and religion, which I found interesting.

"Be" is a little hidden gem in the middle of "Wasteland, Baby!" and it deserves more recognition. I've missed Hozier's gritty side since 2014, and "Be" definitely brought it back. Hozier

released a song on his first album called "From Eden," and "Be" has a very similar message. If you truly listen to the lyrics, you come to realize how talented Hozier is at creating a full picture in your head. I haven't found an artist quite like him, yet.

Finally, the song the new album was named after: "Wasteland, Baby!" As one of his slower songs, "Wasteland, Baby!" ties up the album perfectly. Of course, we may never know the true meaning behind the lyrics, but from my own interpretation, it depicts two people in love when the apocalypse happens. I think one of them passes away and the other survives, where the survivor will either constantly love the other that died, or let go of the love they once had. It has an eerie calm to it that mimics the loneliness of surviving such a catastrophic event.

Overall, Hozier is a genius lyricist, but what else is new? "Wasteland, Baby!" fulfilled everything and more that I wanted from Hozier's new music. The only downside is that we might have to wait a few more years until he releases another album.

Perfection or Death

by Fiona Hughes
Editor-in-Chief

We all have interesting hobbies. Some people are into collecting seashells, knitting or baking, but only a small percentage of the population has a hobby that could easily lead to their death. Meet Alex Honnold, a free-solo rock climber. Free-solo climbing is a lot like regular rock climbing, just without a single piece of equipment that could prevent you from falling thousands of feet to your death. No ropes, no harnesses, nothing.

National Geographic released a documentary called "Free Solo," Sept. 28, 2018 featuring Alex Honnold's historic free-solo climb up Yosemite National Park's massive rock formation, El Capitan. The rock is 2,900 feet tall, and Honnold climbed it in just under four hours.

It was interesting to watch Honnold through his climbing journey, leading up to the free-solo climb of El Cap. He started climbing when he was only five years old in

a climbing gym. His father introduced him to free-solo climbing when he was older, and Honnold often skipped college classes to free-solo rocks in California. After missing a few too many lectures, he dropped out of college after his first year and began to live in a van, driving place to place to climb by himself or with his friends.

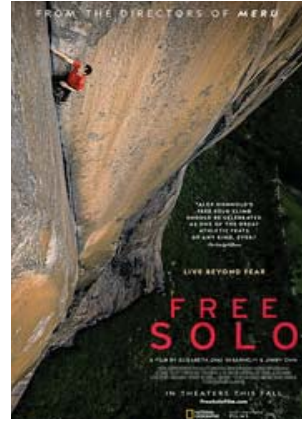
Honnold is unlike anyone I have ever seen. His view on life is purely based on being a better person. He donates most of his money to people that need it more than he does, and started a charity that brings solar power to people in African countries. Honnold is an avid reader, a vegetarian, and he has a girlfriend. He also risks his life every time he forgoes the harness and ropes to climb up big rocks.

A question bouncing around in my head during the whole documentary was, "How does he not get scared?" I mean, Honnold is climbing thousands of feet, at some points only using the very edges of his fingertips and

toes to keep his body up. "Free Solo" explored this when Honnold was sent to get an MRI that would measure his amygdala's reactions, the part of the brain that triggers fear. When Honnold came out, his amygdala showed no activation after being showed gruesome or frightening pictures.

Honnold may not have been scared, but "Free Solo" had me sweating on the edge of my seat the whole time. Honnold's friend, Jimmy Chin, was a part of the film crew. Chin really summed up the entire documentary when he said the scariest part of filming was the possibility of seeing a longtime friend slip and fall out of the camera's frame.

Overall, "Free Solo" was worth the watch. It's amazing to see how other people spend their lives, and how different it can be from your own. It recently won multiple awards, including an Oscar for Best Documentary Feature.



Thank U, Next Album Please

by Lilli Keehn
Staff Writer

Ariana Grande dropped her fifth studio album, "Thank U, Next," on Feb. 8, 2019. With only a six month break between this album release and her previous album "Sweetener," fans were very excited to see more new music out.

The entire theme of this album is finding who you are after going through a great deal of hurt. For Ariana, she took from her experiences of her previous boyfriend Mac Miller dying and also her breakup with her former fiancé Pete Davidson. The album consists of 12 songs and is 41 minutes long. The album starts off with "imagine," not quite a ballad, but also not an incredibly upbeat song either. The album ends with "break up with your girlfriend, i'm bored." The order of songs takes you through Grande's relationship challenges she has faced and how she has

overcome them and how she is still working to overcome them.

My personal favorite song on the album is "fake smile," which is track number five. The song starts with an intro from Wendy Rene's 1964 song "After Laughter," which I think adds a nice touch. The lyrics of the pre-chorus are what spoke to me the most. "I can't fake another smile, I can't fake like I'm alright," and "I won't say I'm feeling fine, after what I been through I can't lie," I think are very powerful. For me, it's saying that you refuse to go on in life pretending like everything's okay when in fact it is not. It says that when you've been through a lot, you can't just shrug it off like nothing happened. That's something that I can really relate to in my personal life and it is why I like it a lot.

A song that I think gets a lot of hate from this album is "7 rings," but it's actually another one of my favorites. While the lyrics may not

be the most well written on the album, they still hold some value of meaning. The beat of the song is good and it's definitely a "hype song." Grande took melodies from "My Favorite Things," sung by Julie Andrews in "The Sound of Music" as a base for the verses and added her own rap at the end of the song. All together, I think this song is a good one and very fun to listen to.

My least favorite song on the album would be "in my head." The song is about wanting the perfect relationship and picturing it, but in reality it's just something that isn't going to work out. I just don't find the melody very catchy and the lyrics are not my favorite.

Overall, I would give "Thank U, Next" a 7 out of 10 rating. I think Grande did a good job on the majority of her songs, lyric and beat wise, and I can't wait to see what she comes up with next.

Everything is Not Awesome

by Brett Caldwell
Entertainment Editor

"Lego Movie 2: The Second Part," was like most

sequels. It wasn't as good as the original and failed to live up to the hype. "Lego Movie" set a very high bar with its humor and catchy song. This movie didn't meet that bar, but I was thoroughly entertained and think it's a really good movie.

Five years ago everything was awesome and it seemed like Emmet was on top of the world. Now, things are not looking so well as all the nice buildings have been destroyed by Duplo aliens. These aliens come back every time something nice is built so they can destroy it. Furthermore, Emmet seems to be the only one who still thinks everything is awesome.

During the movie an invader named Sweet Mayhem takes Lucy (Wyldestyle), Batman and a few other friends to outer space. A marital ceremony is planned as Batman is going to marry Queen Whateva Wa'Nabi. Batman and all of Emmet's friends are having a blast, except for Lucy. Lucy believes that her friends are brainwashed and Queen Whateva Wa'Nabi has evil intentions. Meanwhile, Emmet is trying to save his friends and has made a new friend named Rex along the way. Will Emmet, Lucy and Rex be able to save Legoland from Queen Whateva Wa'Nabi and her evil intentions?



"Glass" Shatters Box Office

by Brett Caldwell
Entertainment Editor

We were first introduced to Elijah Price in the 2000 film "Unbreakable."

Price has an amazing mind, but his bones are very fragile and therefore break easily, thus he became known as Mr. Glass. In the film we also met introduced to David Dunn who in a way is the opposite of Mr. Glass. Dunn's bones seem to be unbreakable. Dunn was in a train accident where he escaped unscathed being the only survivor.

James McAvoy's character was first seen in the 2016 movie "Split." McAvoy's character is named Kevin Wendell Crumb, but he has Dissociative Identity Disorder so he has multiple personalities. Some of these personalities are nice while others are cruel and abusive. One of these personalities is "The Beast," which seems to be an unnatural being, capable of things no other human is capable of.

"Glass," named after Mr. Glass, features all three of these characters. In this movie David Dunn tracks down Kevin. After Kevin is tracked down a fight ensues. Later these two are locked in a mental institution along with Dunn's archenemy Mr. Glass. While at the institution these three are questioned by Dr. Ellie Staple who's a psychiatrist who is out to prove that all three are not superhumans.

The movie started out slow, but the anticipation surged leading up to a thrilling climax. I strongly recommend seeing this movie if you are into Marvel or superheroes in general. Overall, I give this movie an eight out of ten.



When everyone forgets how to drive.

Jared Chapman, Agent
15401 Farmington Road
Livonia, MI 48154
Bus: 734-427-2300
www.gotostatefarm.com

I'm your agent for that.

On those crazy days, just know that I have your back. With my help and the backing of my great team, I'll have you back on the road and driving happy in no time. **Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.** CALL FOR A QUOTE 24/7.

State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company
State Farm Indemnity Company
Bloomington, IL

1001195.1

CRISIS PREGNANCY HELP

1-800-57-WOMAN

ALLIED

Jim Stafford
Business Manager

Call 734.634.7352
Email jim@rosemoving.com

Rose Moving & Storage
41775 Ecorse Road, Suite 190
Belleville, MI 48111

www.rosemoving.com

AXA ADVISORS

redefining / standards[®]

Travel Destinations

FRANCE

by Fiona Hughes
Editor-in-Chief

On Valentine's Day, 20 French students boarded an international flight from Detroit Metro Airport to Charles De Gaulle Airport in France. Fortunately, I was one of those students.

When we landed, everyone looked like the walking dead. Horribly jetlagged and dragging our feet, we pushed through the exhaustion and had the chance to see some popular landmarks around Paris, including Sacré Cœur, the Champs Élysées and the Arc de Triomphe. At the end of the night, as soon as my head hit those uncomfortable hotel pillows, I was out like a light.

The second day in Paris felt much less like death. After a solid eight hours of sleep, we juiced up on chocolate croissants and ham and headed out for the day. My legs were burning from climbing nearly 1,000 steps the day before, but when you're in France, you don't complain about that kind of thing. We went on a bus tour where we stopped and took pictures in front of the Eiffel Tower and learned more of the city's history. Our guide dropped us off at the Notre Dame cathedral, and we popped over to Sainte-Chapelle. Sainte-Chapelle has two levels: the lower level is darker with beautiful painted walls, and the upper level has huge stained glass windows stretching all the way to the ceiling that make the place light up like a jewelry

box. The upper level of Sainte-Chapelle was a perfect segway to our next destination, the Louvre. I'm sure it's common knowledge by now, but the Mona Lisa is much smaller than you would think. We saw a few famous works besides the Mona Lisa, like Venus de Milo, Liberty Leading the People and the Great Sphinx of Tanis. We topped off the day with a Seine river cruise.

When I woke up on the third day, life felt like a dream. It still hadn't sunk in that I was in France, and just like many of my peers, I had never been out of the country until that trip. We started the day at Versailles, visiting the palace and Marie-Antoinette's domain, where we promptly got lost. Shout out to the French guy that helped us find where we were on our maps.

After spending a long while in Versailles, we took a bus ride to Chartres to visit a cathedral, and rode to Tours. In Tours, we went to a movie at 10 p.m., which definitely elicited many groans of disapproval. "How to Train Your Dragon" ended up being really fun to watch, even though I fell asleep for a solid 30 minutes. On the walk back to the hotel at midnight, we all pretended to imitate our trip's tour guide, Yasmina, who had an awesome British



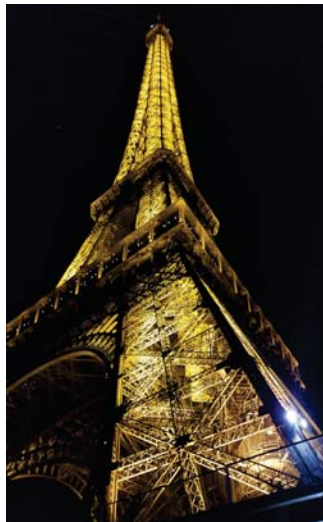
Notre Dame

accent.

By day four, we mostly learned each other's names. We drove to Chenonceau, Chinon and Azay-le-Rideau to visit castles and

fortresses. By the end of the day, the group was sore and dragging their feet in Tours to our final activity of the night: a cooking class. Our instructor was named Fred, and she split us up into two groups. One group was in charge of making a chicken stew, rice and salad, while the other group focused on making sweet samosas and chocolate lava cake. When both groups finished their dishes, they presented it to everyone and we all ate together. It was a nice way to end an exhausting day filled with hills and stairs.

Leaving Tours was worse than leaving Paris since we knew we were going back to the City of Lights on the last day of our trip. With Tours in the rearview mirror, we headed to Carnac, home to what I liked to call "Stonehenge 2.0." With nearly four kilometers of large monoliths set in perfect lines, it truly was a sight to see. Local legend says that the stones are actually the



The Eiffel Tower
Photos by Fiona Hughes

result of Roman legions being turned to stone right where they once stood. After looking at most of the monoliths, we went to Vannes and then drove to the city that stole my heart, Saint-Malo. Saint-Malo used to be a huge hub for pirates, and it has medieval walls surrounding the inner city. We went on the ramparts of the walls along the Atlantic Ocean and watched the sunset. That was definitely one of the best moments of the whole trip. We went out to dinner at a restaurant across from our hotel and we had the option to choose some of our courses. Some people ordered oysters and some ordered things they didn't even know how to pronounce. I ended up eating half of a chicken. Literally, I had half of a chicken on my plate and the restaurant gave me a butcher's knife to cut it with. It was a good way to end a fantastic day.

Our alarms didn't annoy us when they started going off in the morning, because we knew we were going to have a fun day. On the sixth day in France, we visited Mont-Saint-Michel. The abbey was built after Archangel Michael visited a bishop in his dreams and told him to build it in his honor. The bishop shrugged off the dream, and the next night Archangel Michael



Castle in Chenonceau

came back and smacked him upside the head for not following his directions. Rumor has it, the bishop woke up with a bump on his head and that was enough motivation to start on the construction. We traveled back to Saint-Malo for a Celtic dance lesson and I had the chance to dip my feet in the freezing cold ocean.

The second to last

day in France was emotional. We visited Pointe du Hoc, where Germans built bunkers along the cliffs looking out over the English Channel. Hundreds of craters from bombs littered the coast as far as the eye could see. It was bittersweet, considering how violent the war was and how beautiful the flowering bushes growing from the craters were. We went to Omaha Beach, which also gave me an experience I could have never gotten from reading a history book or watching a movie. When you're standing on land that saw so much bloodshed from World War II, you can't help but compare what you're presently looking at to how it must have looked on D-Day when the Allies stormed the beaches 75 years ago. I also had the opportunity to see the American cemetery in Normandy, which was beautiful and sad. Out of every day of the trip, this one was the most impactful to me.

The last day of the trip arrived too quickly. We visited Bayeux and Rouen, and saw cathedrals in both cities. Rouen has the square where Joan of Arc was burned at the stake after being accused of being a witch. Then, we made the journey back to the city where we started: Paris. I started to get excited when I saw felt coats and boots again; Parisian fashion is so different from our own. We had a bit of time to check into our hotel and get dressed up before heading out to our last activity in France: going up in the Eiffel Tower. I'm not going to lie, I'm glad that I had the experience of visiting the third floor, but I would never do it again. It was incredibly claustrophobic, it was so squished. We ate dinner at 58, the fancy restaurant on the first floor of the Eiffel Tower, which had the absolute best food of the trip.

All in all, this trip was a once in a lifetime experience. I would have never been able to fit as many places into an eight day trip if I didn't go through the school trip. After flying across the world and experiencing a new culture, it really opened my eyes to a world I had been blind to before.



Saint-Malo

by Olivia Blackburn
Staff Writer

Punta Cana is located on the eastern tip of the Dominican Republic which is surrounded by the crystal clear water of the Caribbean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean. Many tourists come in at every time of the month to escape from their weather to hot humid weather.

I recently took a trip to Punta Cana. I was greeted by very helpful workers who spoke mostly Spanish, so it was a little hard for me to understand them since I haven't taken Spanish for a year and didn't polish up on it before I went. We stayed at the "Iberostar," which is on the coast of the North Atlantic Ocean with a view of beautiful clear water. "Iberostar"



offers many things to do for all different ages, such as large dining rooms with buffets of very beautiful assortments of foods, an amazing Italian restaurant right by the beach, a casino for the parents and many other activities. They had activities every day by the pool including Zumba in the water and a "pillow fight," which was on a surfboard in the water. I almost won it, but sadly my championship mentality didn't go very far.

There are many excursions that workers and non-workers at the hotel try to sell to you, non-workers meaning people who don't work at the hotel, but work for other places that try to sell the same things. We ended up doing two. First we agreed to go to "Dolphin Explorer," which started off by us taking a bus to the park and later getting greeted by a huge seahorse who we got to sit next to and have him kiss our cheeks. After, we made our way down a long dock leading to dolphins on one side, swimming with sea lions on the other and the scariest one of them all was swimming with sharks. We hopped into

the water with the dolphins so they could jump over us and swim with us. This was an overall great experience and something I'd love to do again in the future.

A day later we went on an excursion on our own private boat, taking us into the Atlantic Ocean to snorkel. I was skeptical at first, because usually oceans aren't my thing, but I did it anyway. I didn't want to step on coral since I could



Photos by Olivia Blackburn

see there was a lot by where the boat was anchored. I ended up barely missing the coral when I jumped which was scary. However, as we swam further from the boat, we could see the sea life under us and it was absolutely breathtaking. We swam for an hour or two then went back on the boat where we were greeted with food, drinks and loud music. Then they took us over to the more shallow part of the ocean by the shoreline

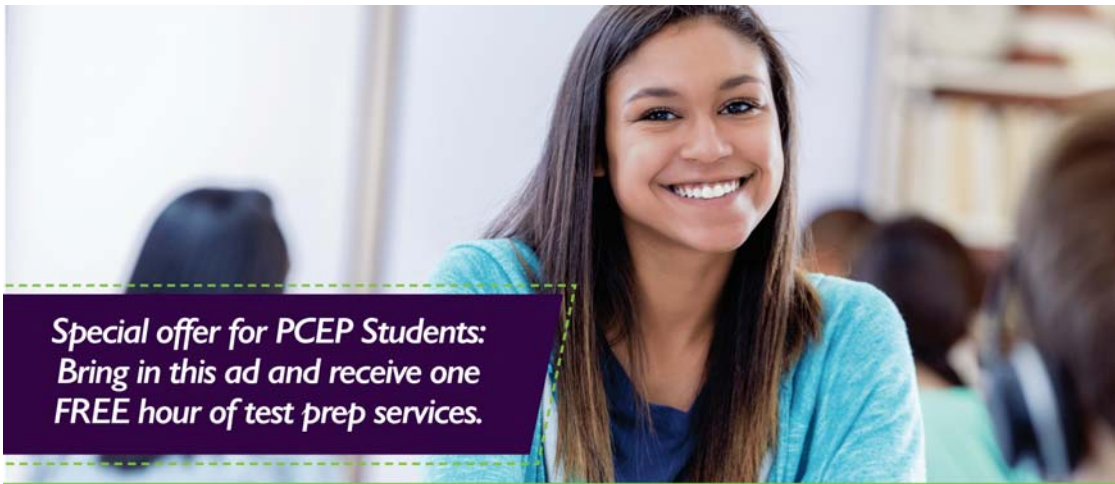
where we were surrounded by other boats blasting music and having fun. The water in the shallow part was so clear it looked like glass; that's something you don't see in Michigan.

As my time in Punta Cana slowly dimmed to an end, the sun did not seem



to fade as slow. My five days had been full of hot, humid sunny skies. Being who I am and wanting to come back to Michigan with a tan, I tried tanning oil. Let me tell you... not a good idea! For the rest of the trip I put loads of sunscreen on, but tragically the sun was way too hot for my fair skin and I ended up getting sun poisoning. The morning before I left I woke up with my face puffed up like a marshmallow which alarmed me. Being that we were leaving to take a nine hour flight back to Michigan, I knew I had a long trip ahead of me. Luckily now I know that sunscreen is a friend to me. Tip of the day, if you think it's hot, maybe put some sunscreen on. Overall Punta Cana will see me again soon, getting strawberry smoothies all day from the lounges by the beach.

PUNTA CANA



**Special offer for PCEP Students:
Bring in this ad and receive one
FREE hour of test prep services.**

Because practice makes (closer to) perfect.

From college acceptance to career choices, so much rides on this one number. The stakes are high, and so is the stress. With a College Tutor, your student will be ready to aim high on test day, and make that number a personal best. **Schedule your free practice test today.**

734.761.8393
collegetutors.com/cantonmi
42180 Ford Rd. Suite 302
Canton, MI 48187



LEAVE A POSITIVE IMPRESSION WITH



Printing On Demand
Order what you need when you need it.

**WHERE INDUSTRY LEADERS GO
FOR THEIR PRINTING**

PROUD PARTNERS WITH:

Official Printer of





metro by T-Mobile

Official Printer of **CRAIN'S** DETROIT BUSINESS EVENTS

734.453.0341 • 260 W. Ann Arbor Rd., Plymouth, MI • www.grekoprinting.com



**"BECOME A GLOBAL CITIZEN
WITHOUT LEAVING HOME"**
PLYMOUTH ROTARY CLUB

LEARN THE VARIATIONS OF LIFE!

SHARE COUNTLESS STORIES

BECOME A HOST FAMILY TODAY!

Email Penny Joy at pennyjoy663@gmail.com for more information.