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Pattonville Moves to E-Learning for Remainder of Semester

by Rebecca Simpkins

Pattonville closed school as of Wednesday, March 18, due to COVID-19. All athletic, extra-curricular practices and competitions are canceled for the duration of the spring semester. Coronavirus or COVID-19 derives from bats and starts in a city in China. On March 11, the World Health Organization labeled this disease as a Pandemic; the disease is worldwide because there is not any pre-existing immunity against the new virus.

In the US there are 1.42 million confirmed cases and 84,763 deaths and rising [as of May 13]. At the beginning of the outbreak before school let out, Ms. Hayes discussed what many were initially concerned about: "We're worried about passing it off to our family members and elderly people, not so much ourselves," she said.

Pattonville not only prepared students with electronics for online learning, but also is offering free breakfast and lunches through pickup at selected buildings and schools in the Pattonville School District. Online learning will started March 30 and will extend through the spring semester. In an email from Dr. Tim Pecoraro, he said, "Although distance learning and support for our families will continue through the end of school (now set for May 29), our buildings will remain closed until further notice and all school and district events scheduled for April and May are canceled."

In Missouri, there is a stay at home order, so residents may only leave if it is necessary. This pandemic has caused many people to panic and some are worried about what the next step is.

When talking about what worried him most, Angelo Broadnax said, "Not worried so much about the disease, but more how people react because people are stocking up on toilet paper and I'm worried about what the next step is."

Currently, St. Louis City and County have banned all gatherings of more than ten people and limited the number of people allowed in essential stores, such as grocery and drug stores. Some restaurants are doing their best to stay open through curb-side pick-up and delivery.

With the stay at home orders and social distancing (maintaining a distance of at least six feet from others), Missouri hopes to flatten the curve. As of May 13, Missouri had 9,918 cases with 488 deaths.



Photo by Ella Janger

Helping the Community While Staying Safe

by Christian Movick

During this time of a global pandemic, many are being ordered to social distance themselves from others, which is why staying home is the safest way to do so. However, with the Coronavirus negatively impacting the lives of so many on a daily basis, many are wondering how they can help while at the same time staying safe.

It's no question that seniors are at high risk to contract this virus, which is why they need help. A network known as "Meals on Wheels" has over 5,000 community programs and primarily provides meals, visits, and safety checks to seniors. People are able to donate to this program to keep seniors safe, or they can become drivers. To become a member one must be 18 years or older, have a driver's license and auto insurance, be willing to use your own vehicle to deliver meals to seniors, pass a background check, and take time to chat with your client upon arrival.

In addition to Pattonville School District providing meals for students, another great organization is known as "Blessings in a Backpack." This organization helps feed school children that currently have trouble getting food because they or their families don't have the money to purchase any. They are also partnering with school districts that have summer feeding programs while schools are shut down to maintain and extend their services, and people are of course able to donate to this organization.

It is understandable that some may not be able to donate, and there are ways to help out in your community without doing so. One way you

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Dr. Joe Dobrinic,
Building Principal



Mr. Bob Hebrank,
Activities Director



Dr. Tim Pecoraro,
Superintendent



HELPING IN COMMUNITY CONT. FROM PAGE 1

can help seniors that you know is to reach out and check in on them.

Also, consider offering to help get their groceries for them and deliver them; that way they don't have to go out of their homes and be at high risk for contracting the virus.

With America facing this catastrophic event, there are still things that can be done to help the people in your community. By donating to an organization or helping people in your area with simple tasks such as getting their groceries for them, it really helps out the community. America has never faced a crisis that they haven't been able to get back up from, and we will beat this, together.

Staying Connected

by Ava Bearskin

In the midst of a global pandemic, staying connected with friends and family through social distancing can be hard. Freshman Josh Eckhardt said, "I stay connected through social media whether that's Snapchat, Instagram, or TikTok. I don't really have that many friends but the few that I have I may meet up with them through FaceTime."

TikTok, Instagram, Google Meet, FaceTime, Zoom, and Snapchat are some of many social media platforms that are being used to stay connected with friends and family.

Staying connected with family members is also a struggle. Many families had to cancel their spring break trip plans, which could include meeting up with family outside of Missouri.

Even staying connected with those in your house can be hard. Josh Eckhardt said, "To stay connected with family, every week we play a board game or two and we just chill together."

Staying connected with those in your household is important and doing fun activities with them like board games, movies, or outdoor walks is a great way to do that.

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Siblings' Relationships Evolve During Stay at Home Order

by Mackenzie Rosenthal

With the stay at home order in effect, sibling relationships are shifting, especially for those who help care for their younger siblings. With e-learning and a whole lot of togetherness, siblings are facing new challenges as well as a new appreciation for each other.

Sometimes when students are trying to do homework they may get distracted by their siblings. Destiny Wiser has two younger brothers. She complains that her siblings "are always yelling at each other on their video games." Mackenzie Rosenthal agrees that her little sister is usually yelling, but her sibling "wants her attention so she can't focus sometimes."

During times like these it is always a good idea to keep the younger siblings entertained, and it helps the older siblings channel their younger selves. Wiser says, "I went on a walk with my brothers and we rode our bikes." Rosenthal remarks, "I have been painting and playing board games with my sister."

Students tend to think they know everything about their siblings because they are around them so much, but that's not always the case. While being stuck in the house, they may get to know more. According to Rosenthal, "I have learned that my little sister is a pretty good drawer." Wiser says she learned that her younger brother Derek "listens to sad music a lot."

Having younger siblings sometimes can be a struggle when you have to stay at home with them all day long but there are ways to overcome it. According to Wiser the biggest struggle is her siblings "annoy her and comes downstairs to her room all the time." Rosenthal also has trouble with her sibling annoying her, but her biggest struggle is "keeping her calm and sometimes I just want to be alone."

For others watching their siblings, both Wiser and Rosenthal have some key ideas to success. Wiser advises that it is key to "keep them entertained" and important that students "don't let them do something your parents wouldn't let them do." Rosenthal agrees that it helps to "give them stuff to do to keep them busy," and advises, "Try to stay as calm as possible if they are misbehaving."



Sophomore Destiny Wiser and her two younger brothers.

Practicing From a Distance: PHS Musicians Stay Tuned Up

by Matthew Jacobi

As the Pattonville School District has moved to online learning due to the pandemic, students in music classes still have to find time in their day to practice, without in-person help from their teachers.

Talisa Prabhu, 9th grader in the String Orchestra, is currently practicing old pieces and working on techniques like vibrato to keep up with her skills. "It's important to continue practicing even though we are not in school because it will help us be better musicians and players when we come back. These are skills that we can use later in life, so we must always continue to polish them or they will be lost," she stated.

Talisa is also encouraging her section to continue practicing. "I haven't tried to play together with our sections online because I feel like that would be difficult to do. However, I have been encouraging other members of the cello section to continue practicing by themselves through social media."

Kenedi Jenkins, 9th grader in Symphonic Orchestra, agrees with Talisa on practicing outside of school. "The more you practice, the better you get, and you have a chance to prove to people that you are the best that you can be. It is also good to remember to practice 'quality over quantity'," Kenedi voiced.

Recently, Kenedi has been practicing in the Blue Duke Book, a cello book full of techniques, as well as working on three

octave scales with her private teacher through Zoom. Kenedi states, "To have lessons through the screen is difficult because as a cello player it is hard to really hear the certain techniques being used to play."

"There have been many challenges with music as far as online because sometimes of the connections where I am at and the sound of the apps that are used such as Google Meet and Zoom are sometimes not working well," Kenedi voiced.

While there have been some challenges, Kenedi does think there are some positives to lessons online. "I think there are positives for online because at the same time you are learning in a place that is more comfortable for you and are able to concentrate without the distraction of others."

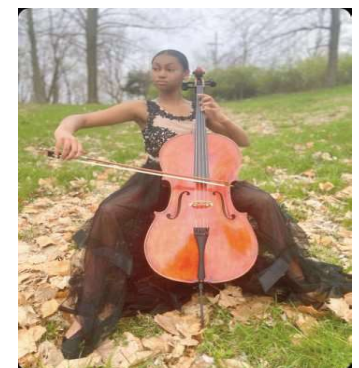


Photo courtesy of Kenedi Kenedi Jenkins practicing her cello outside during the Quarantine Break.



Schools Across Missouri Affected by New Law

by Matthew Jacobi

Starting next school year, Missouri public schools are being affected by a new law that was established during 2019. Missouri Governor Mike Parson signed a new law stating, “Public school districts cannot start school earlier than 14 calendar days prior to the first Monday in September, which is Labor Day.”

The reason why they have decided to implement this law is because, “There has been a push for many years to have schools start later. The tourism industry is the group mainly responsible for the change,” Dr. Pecoraro, Pattonville’s Superintendent stated. “They believe more families will take vacations in August since schools will start later which will help those businesses that rely on tourism dollars.” This makes this year’s summer vacation longer than normal.

As a result, school districts no longer have to abide by the 174 day format, but they have to have 1,044 instructional hours in their school year. While this is a positive, it also provides some downfalls. Pattonville published the website for the district’s school calendars for the next two years, and they had to reduce the number of early-release C-days for the high school, and add five minutes to the end of the high school day in order to achieve the 1,044 school hour requirement.

Dr. Pecoraro says, “With our new calendar, students will attend school 173 days, but will actually attend school about the same number of instructional hours they currently do under the

177 day format. We were able to accomplish this by reducing the number of half-days throughout the year and also adding five minutes to the end of the day for high school students.”

By adding five minutes to the high school day, elementary and middle school start and end times have been shifted by five minutes to allow transportation adequate time to pick up students from their bus stops.

On the calendar, the district also stated that they wanted to make sure they ended first semester and high school finals before winter break, and all grade levels would resume classes on the same day after winter break.

Some school districts are delighted about this new law, while other school districts are not so pleased. Dr. Pecoraro voices, “I personally believe local communities and school districts should decide their school calendar. It should not be dictated by the state.”



Families Create New Traditions

by Matthew Jacobi

With Pattonville families being home for the remainder of the semester, houses are filled with students, siblings, and parents, and you may be wondering what you could do during this time.

Ms. Wright, Spanish teacher at PHS, has been doing a lot of things to stay busy. “Everyone in my family chose something that they have always wanted to learn but never took the time to learn it,” Ms. Wright stated. “We have also gone on a lot of walks and bike rides, done family yoga, and we’ve set up a tent in the backyard and have had a couple of campfires in the firepit – s’mores, movies, and cards in the tent, and we have even slept out there,” Wright commented.

“We have had a couple of water fights, a family Nerf war with forts, and badminton games. We are trying to stay active and keep the spirits up.”

Ms. Wright also likes to read, talk to family, or watch a movie after the kids go to bed to give her some alone time to relax. “This situation is very similar to what we do during the summer,

except there is more school stuff now; we actually really enjoy being together and there is a good balance that we all have,” Ms. Wright expressed.

Ms. Hale, PHS Social Studies teacher, gets to spend more time with her daughter, who was just born last August.

“It’s not too bad trying to share resources,” Ms. Hale said, “I take the baby and the dogs for a walk every day, which is a good way to de-stress.”

To get some alone time, Ms. Hale likes to do some yoga, watch TV, go for some walks, and contact friends through Zoom.

“It’s not the same seeing people in Zoom as in-person meetings. I miss my cousin a lot because we usually see each other at least once per week,” Ms. Hale stated.

Do you want to share what your family has been doing to stay occupied during this time? Post your photos on Instagram with #VilleUnityProject and get featured in our Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook sites.

Maryland Heights Community Center Faces Tragic Shooting

by Matthew Jacobi, Ava Bearskin, and Lauren McDaniel

On Monday, February 24, Maryland Heights suffered from a traumatic shooting taken place at the Maryland Heights Community Center. At around 8pm, Michael Honkomp, a part-time janitor for the community center, walked in and brutally shot and killed Maria Lucas, a supervisor that was currently working at that time at the front desk.

Just after, a woman ran outside to grab a police officer who just finished his shift, and explained everything to the officer. The officer ran inside while calling for backup.

Devin Slocum was at the Maryland Heights Community Center playing volleyball the day the shooting happened. Ever since the shooting Devin has noticed that others are scared to return back to the community center. He tries not to think about what happens, Devin thinks distraction helps a lot.

To distract himself he tries to focus more on his education and friends and family. "When I'm playing volleyball with my friends, I forget about everything including the shooting, instead I focus on the ball," Devin stated.

The shooting has made Devin realize that bad things can happen at any time, anywhere, and his main goal is to live his life to the fullest from now on.

Pattonville High's student resource officer, Officer Mooney, said while nothing has substantially changed at Pattonville High School, he knows that there are lasting effects to a traumatic event like this.

While the Community Center is not doing any drastic changes in security, Aquaport will be reconstructing the entrance for added security.

Officer Mooney holds sympathy for the students and families that were affected in the shooting. "I know that several students and staff and faculty here go to that community center on a regular basis so my concern was for their safety and welfare. Some of our students and ex students did some pretty heroic things based on their active shooter training. They utilized those techniques and evacuated kids and people that were at the facility," states Officer Mooney.

This traumatizing event has left an imprint on a lot of people and affected the town greatly. Maryland Heights was voted one of the safest and best places to live in Missouri last year, and now an unfortunate event happened.

"Unfortunately we talk about this kind of thing happening but it usually doesn't. Many of our students and their families have been affected. They have seen this or know people who were involved. The reality of what we talk about with active shooter stuff has hit home," Mooney voiced.



photo by Matthew Jacobi

At the Maryland Heights Community Center entrance sign, family and friends of Maria Lucas and residents of Maryland Heights have placed flowers, and special items in front of the entrance sign in remembrance of Maria.

A big part of recovering from an event like this is to have a community and support system. It is also to make our students feel more safe in their community and at school. "Just focus on cooperating with each other and when we do active shooter drills and talk about active shooters, taking it more seriously."

It can definitely be hard trying to cope and understand what happened. Mr. Tate, counselor for Mu-Sa, gave some options to try and cope with your feelings. "Go to parents, trusted friends, doctors, counselors, just someone you can trust," he stated.

"I think one of the best things is to communicate, when you have those feelings of anxiety and uncertainty. Definitely go to a place where you can get reassured," Mr. Tate explained. "I understand that it is a process to understand that what you feel is valid. You definitely need to talk about it and after talking about it you can acknowledge it and cope with it."

"It is very acceptable that you feel that way, you just need to find a way to be able to communicate those feelings to someone you trust. "It can definitely be scary to the community. Seeing stuff like that and everyone who was involved and kids working up there that itself is scary and causes a lot of anxiety. It was a very tragic situation and also very traumatic for the community and kids that were involved," Mr. Tate voiced.



Serious Scholarships

by Ava Bearskin and Meekie Trieu



Afina Fayeز surprised in her math class that she had won UMSL's Opportunity Scholars Scholarship.

On March 2, Afina Fayeز found out that was awarded UMSL's Opportunity Scholars scholarship, which covers full tuition, fees, books, as well as room and board for four years. It is only given to five students per year, and is very competitive. PHS's last recipient was Brendan Hulahan in 2017.

To qualify, students must meet two of three criteria: be ranked in the top ten percent of their class, have a cumulative 3.5 GPA, have a composite score of 26 or higher on the ACT.

Those chosen have demonstrated involvement and potential for leadership through extracurricular activities or community service. They are usually studying STEM fields, the first in their family to go to college, and from underrepresented groups. Requirements for this scholarship include a certain GPA, ACT score, and an on campus interview. Representatives from UMSL, including the mascot, joined Ms. Lurashi, Afina's parents and friends to surprise her about the scholarship in her classroom.

Gavin Alicea was awarded a \$15,000 scholarship to any K2 school that he would choose to go to. A 5k tech package which included an iPad Pro, Apple Pencil, MacBook Air, LG monitor, laptop stand, Magic Apple Mouse, Magic Apple Keyboard, Beats headphones, and a brand new bookbag with a \$650 Visa gift card in it. Alicea along with 400 thousand other students signed up to take the October ACT although only 2 of them won the amazing prize. "I got entered in the contest from registering for the ACT in the month of October. I was not sure

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Acting From A Distance

by Matthew Jacobi

PHS students who enjoy participating in one acts and the musical are finding some creative ways to continue practicing their acting skills.

Dominick Austin, 9th grader, has been looking for other auditions for shows this summer and practicing those audition materials. "I've been practicing my singing a lot and with that my acting skills. Lately, I have been working on my facial emotions and expressions," Dominick stated. Dominick says it's important to continue practicing because "it helps build up your skills so you can always be a better performer for the next show you do. As an actor the best thing you can do is to keep improving." Dominick doesn't really have a schedule of when he practices; he tries to find time in his day to practice. "I work on certain skills whenever I feel like working on them, preferably singing in the shower."

Griffin Wick, 11th grader, has been practicing with his script to keep up with his skills. "Some skills I have been practicing now that One Act Plays have been canceled is memorization and being able to stay in character," Griffin commented. Griffin has also been contacting other high school actors through group chats and text messaging to stay in touch.

Ms. Corvera, Speech and Theatre teacher, said students could look at books, scripts, podcasts, videos, and social media notifications of online performances and classes to help aid in practicing.

"I've tried to share some sources through the Theatre Fun Activities and through our Twitter & Instagram," Ms. Corvera stated.

From her perspective, Ms. Corvera believes that students should continue practicing because "it's important to practice continued creativity, regardless of the content in which we choose to be creative. Creativity is an approach to thinking and producing; it's embracing opportunity despite any perceived limits. It's about not building ceilings for yourself. So practicing creativity, whether through theatre or other activities, will serve all of us well throughout our lives."

Ms. Corvera also encouraged students to experiment: "Some of my favorite thoughts about practicing come from Leslie Odom Jr.'s book, *Failing Up: How to Take Risks, Aim Higher, and Never Stop Learning*. Some of the ideas he presents are: 'In what ways did you take charge of your creative self today? The work you do when no one is watching is far more important than the work you do when the cameras are rolling. Utilize the mirror as a means to teaching you how to self correct. Your mission is the exploration, you have permission to fail.'"

"I think this is more important now than ever because we can all participate as audience members, performers, creators, etc. despite being away from school," Ms. Corvera explained.

Ms. Corvera challenges students to continue to explore their interests, to try new things or re-examine past creations, and give themselves permission to fail as they explore. "I think this mindset will help in all of our future endeavors, including the theatrical ones!"



photo courtesy of Dominick Austin

Dominick Austin researches potential auditions for shows this summer.



photo courtesy of Griffin Wick

Griffin Wick currently practices out of his script book to keep up with his skills and to work on staying in character.



Objection! Mock Trial Makes it to State

by Ava Bearskin

Pattonville High's Mock Trial team recently had their first competition of the year. The team received a case file at the beginning of the year and have been working hard to sway the jury and judge in their favor. They were given a civil case in which a devastated mother is suing the company which owns the amusement park in which her son died.

Pattonville's Mock Trial coach, Ms. Raymond, said on the topic of the case, "It's a wrongful death case, but it involves comparative fault and requires students to analyze multiple potential causes for a teenager's untimely death."

This makes for an interesting and thought provoking case for the Mock Trial students to learn about.

The first round of competitions decided if the teams go on to regionals or not. The team's defense and plaintiff sides had to compete on separate occasions to see if they could prove their side of the case to the judge and jury. Each jury member and the judge have a ballot they fill out as they listen to the case that has scores for each section of the case. The side with the higher score on a ballot wins that ballot. Pattonville has won 3 ballots on their defense side and have yet to compete on the plaintiff side.

Coach of 5 years, Ms. Raymond used to be a trial lawyer and likes to share her knowledge with her students. She describes her coaching style as, "I think I'm fairly easygoing as a coach. I hope to model my own interest for students and encourage them to take the reins and be creative in developing their own theories of the case. I try to provide constructive feedback without micromanaging."

Ms. Raymond, the coach also teaches and coaches Pattonville's debaters. She finds a lot of similarities between debate and mock trial. Both require an effective delivery, critical thinking, solid argumentation, and convincing character development. There are also many differences between the two.

"Mock trial is a team sport with a lot of moving parts. It requires getting everyone on the same page with respect to the



Photo courtesy of Ms. Raymond

Xmiena Rogers-Stamps, Bell Tucci, Alex Djetto, Momo Kikuchi, Jenna Hageman, Ava Bearskin, and Maichi Nguyen. Not pictured: Chris Dixon, Ava Reynolds, and Emma Schonhoff.

same case. There are only two opportunities to present your case and qualify for advancement. In debate, everyone is working on different performances and there are many tournaments throughout the year."

The primarily freshman mock trial team advanced to regionals on March 3rd and March 5th. They used the time in between the primary competition and regionals to prep and make their case stronger. On Tuesday, March 3rd, the mock trial's defense side went against Marquette High and won one ballot against them.

On Thursday, March 5th, the plaintiff side went against Mary Institute and Country Day School (MICDS). They didn't win any ballots at the competition but were able to score enough points in total between the two competitions to place 11th out of 16 teams, making them alternates for the Missouri State competition. Pattonville's mock trial team will continue to work on their case in hopes of going to the state level competition.

SCHOLARSHIP, CONT. FROM PAGE 6

if this was even a real contest but I can tell you it is," Alica said. Originally, Alica was to attend community college for two years "This prize has given me the chance to do something more. If I did not win I probably would have still gone to community college for two years but not a university."

Alica plans on getting a degree in design and business and being either an interior decorator or real estate agent. "I will use this money as an advantage as many kids do not have the opportunity that I was blessed with in November of last year."

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Students Recognized for Ceramic Teapots

by Joshua Engelhardt



photos courtesy of Scott Fader

Artist Lydia McCullough constructed her Indiana Jones themed teapot after being inspired by a scene in Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom. She was given some help from her teacher, but she put it together and came up with the idea.

Artist Emily Garnache constructed a teapot for a school project in Ceramics 2. The pot features elements of the ocean.

PHS Seniors Emily Gamache and Lydia McCullogh were selected to have their ceramic teapots exhibited in the High School Teapot Exhibit held in the Spiritas Gallery at Ladue Horton Watkins High School, which featured 14 schools. The exhibit was a partnership with Craft Alliance Center of Art and Design and was part of Tea and Cookies: 17th Biennial Teapot Exhibition.

As part of a Ceramics 2 class project, Lydia McCullogh worked on hers for over two weeks. The guidelines were to have a not normal but still functional teapot. She believed that she went a step further and made it functional with a different way of pouring. McCullogh was really happy to be selected out of other very talented students. On her teapot design, she explains, "While it is macabre, I thought it would be very unique and interesting to look at."

Another Ceramics 2 student and winner is Emily Gamache, who also worked on hers for the duration of the project. Her teapot was very unique from the others, too, and it was designed with an ocean motif.

Mr. Fader was very proud of his students whose work was recognized. He explained that his belief is that "the creation of art should be as personal of an experience as possible." He felt his job during the project was to act as an art "coach" to help with their ideas. "I am simply a resource for idea generating processes and sharing techniques or skills that may be helpful for the students to achieve their goals."

The exhibit runs through March 27 at Ladue Horton Watkins High School.

Outdoor Adventure

by Abbey Prinzi

On Wednesday, January 22, Pattonville High School seniors who took Outdoor Adventure this semester took a trip to Hidden Valley Ski Resort, located in Eureka, Missouri.

Every year, seniors only in the second semester class take this trip because unfortunately, Hidden Valley is not open during the first semester.

Coach Simpson said he chooses skiing because "most of my students haven't been exposed to it before, it's a new experience. It's also fun watching students learn to ski. I've always had students tell me it's their favorite field trip." It was said that this year, a majority of the students attempted the Black Diamond slopes.

Matthew Rush, senior, stated, "I've been looking forward to taking this class since I moved to Pattonville my junior year. I am excited to gain new experiences, like the ski trip, with my classmates as we reach the end of high school."

Even after taking some tumbles, the students seemed to enjoy this trip quite a bit and came back without any injuries.



photo courtesy of Coach Simpson

Coach Simpson's Outdoor Adventure classes gather in front of the slopes at Hidden Valley Ski Resort on January 22.



Writers' Week

by Mackenzie Rosenthal

Writers Week provides students with an opportunity to share their ideas and writing to others. This year is the fourth year of Writers Week at Pattonville High school. It is being held March 2- March 6.

Tons of professional writers attend the event every year. According to Ms. Moeller two professional writers she's excited about inviting are "Tony Messenger who won a Pulitzer award, and Ashley August who is a Slam Poet."

English teachers, and the sponsor help students prepare for writers' week so the teachers can make sure the pieces are the best they could be to present. According to Moeller, "I like to get to know everyone in my classroom and it's exciting to talk about writing with others."

Although, every year is different, Pattonville still tries to make writers' week better every year. According to Ms. Moeller, "I'm hoping to make this year better by having more student involvement, more staff involvement, and to add more writing activities."

Junior Rachel McCormick also has a love for writing. She herself presented a story last year at writer's week. "My experience was pretty good, I have a love for the stage and being able to share something that I created was a fun experience."

McCormick also loves to write stories besides being on



During Wednesday's first hour session, students from the audience created short poems/responses to artwork. Caden Parker, a sophomore, reads his.

stage and presenting. She says "I love to create worlds and stories that I can get lost in."

Writers week is one of the most popular events here at PHS for young writers who love to express themselves through writing. According to Rachel, "I wanted to be a part of writer's week because everyone has a shared love for writing and it's a loving environment overall."

International Club Shares Love to Students by Selling Flowers

by Mackenzie Rosenthal

In honor of Valentine's Day, the International Club sold cards and carnation flowers for \$2 each to students during all lunch sessions through February 5-11, and members delivered them on Valentine's Day morning.

The deliveries are one of the club's fundraisers, and, according to member Xmiena Rodger-Stamps, "I'm not sure how but I know it's been a tradition for many years."

The money that they fundraise is going to several upcoming events. According to a sponsor of the club, Ms. Korte, "For this current fundraiser we are considering setting proceeds aside to pay for flowers to send to students and staff members facing personal struggles who can use some community support and an act of kindness."

Some other events that International Club holds throughout the year include Holi, El Literacy Night, Dinner Theater, International Day Show, and World Peace Day.

Club members presented recipients with the carnations during first hour, and the students' reactions to their flowers and cards ranged from expectant to surprised. International Club brightened the day of a good portion of the school. Ms. Korte reported that the group delivered about 285 cards and 500 flowers.



A little love goes a long way. Austin Prater (10) tackles his research essay with renewed purpose after he received his carnation. Austin was one of approximately 500 students who received a carnation from the International Club's Valentine's Day fundraiser.



Orchestra

by Matthew Jacobi



String and Orchestra host a showcase concert for the upcoming Large Group Festival. Their showcase concert took place on February 27 and showed off what's to come for their highly anticipated event.

On Thursday, February 27, 2020, PHS' Orchestra performed their Showcase Concert, featuring pieces they will be playing for the Large Group Festival this month.

The String and Concert Orchestra performed pieces including 1812 Overture, Vivaldi's Four Seasons, and Finlandia.

Symphonic Orchestra performed Little Suite, featuring viola soloist Nathan Moser, Bachianas Brasileiras No. 4, featuring violin soloist Natalie Young, and Rumanian Folk Dances, featuring a solo from violinist Natalie Young.

Featured Small Ensembles also included Lily Smith and Elly Lu, Violin Duet, playing In the Style of Mozart, and the Legacy String Quartet, members Natalie Young (violin 1), Jade Boyd (violin 2), Elly Lu (viola), and Caleb Long (cello), performing No. 1 in G minor, by Franz Schubert.

Music Program Spotlight

Choir

by Ava Bearskin

Freshman treble, men's, 6th hour mixed treble, and chamber choirs all participated in this year's Large Group Choir Festival. Each choir had to perform two practiced songs and had to sight read one song. Freshman Sarah Nelson said, "My favorite part of the choir festival is seeing the hard work we put in pay off. It is important because it will help us see how far we've come and how far we can go."



6th hour Treble Choir got 2 on their sight-reading and a 1 on their performances at the large group choir festival.

The performance and the sight reading is judged by a panel with a 1-5 judging scale with 1 being the best score possible. Freshman Treble got a 1 in sight-reading and a 2 on performances. Men's Choir also got a 1 in sight-reading and a 2 on performances. 6th hour Mixed Treble got a 2 in sight-reading and a 1 on performances. Chamber got a 1 on performances and a 2 in sight-reading as well.

These scores and performance experience will help to boost the students' confidence and enhance their performance skills. This would've been practice for their spring concert, but unfortunately that was canceled. Students are looking forward to next year's choirs and to new experiences next year.

Band

by Ava Bearskin

Pattonville High School's bands put on a winter concert on Wednesday, February 26, 2020 at 7pm. First the Jazz Band performed Orange Sherbert by Sammy Nestico, Ever After by David Springfield, and Fowl Play by Kris Berg.

The Jazz Band was directed by Laura Livesay and included alto saxophone, tenor saxophone, baritone saxophone, trombone, and a rhythm section.

Next was the Jazz Ensemble, directed by Denny McFarland and Anna White. They played Foundation issues by Paul Baker, The Castle by Lars Erik Gudim, and Hit the Ground Running by Gordon Goodwin.

After this, playing A Parting Shot by James Campbell was the Percussion Ensemble, with Anna White as director. Denny

McFarland and Anna White then directed the Concert Band in Cougar Mountain March by Steve Hodges and Troy! By Michael Sweeney.

Pattonville's Symphonic band, directed by Denny McFarland, Anna White, and Laura Livesay, performed Black Granite III by James Hosay and Critical Mass by Todd Stalter.

The concert was concluded with the Wind Ensemble, directed by Denny McFarland, Anna White, and Laura Livesay. They played Americans We by Henry Fillmore/ed. Foster and Satiric Dances by Norman Dello Joio. The bands will be performing at the District Solo/Small Ensemble Festival at Parkway Central HS on March 6, 2020. Be sure to check it out.



Seussical

photos and story by Ava Bearskin

Pattonville High School's spring musical, *Seussical*, was performed from Thursday February 13, to Sunday, February 16.

On Wednesday's matinee show during school, students from Pattonville's elementary schools and choir classes from the middle schools came to see the show.

The show starts out with Jojo (Lydia McCullough) meeting the Cat in the Hat (Michael Pirrie) who tells Jojo to keep imagining new worlds. Jojo is then thrust into the world of Dr. Seuss where he becomes Whoville's Mayor's son.

The show continues to tell the story of Horton who finds the speck that Whoville is on. His friends don't believe that he can hear the Whos and exile him, while The Whos are crying for help from Horton.

Horton continues to attempt to help The Whos, while The Whos and Jojo continue to face war in Whoville. Jojo's parents ship him off to military school to be trained for the war, but Jojo decides he doesn't want to fight and runs away. The general of the military informs Jojo's parents and they begin a hunt for Jojo.

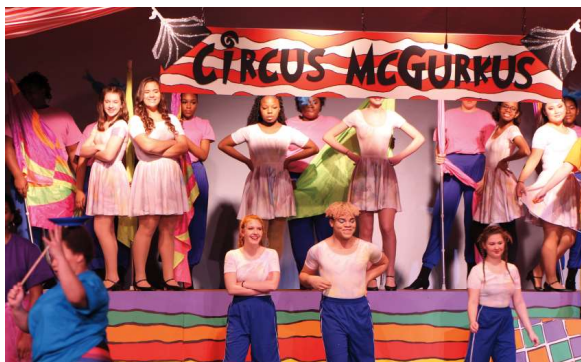
Jojo finally makes it home. Meanwhile in the Jungle of Nool, Horton takes over sitting on his friend's egg so she can take a short vacation. She decides not to come back and leaves Horton with the egg. Horton sits on the egg until it hatches, and it ends up being an elephant. He also gets put on trial for being crazy about hearing The Whos. The Whos help Horton by screaming "We are here!" which gets Horton off as innocent.



Michael Pirrie (12) stars in Pattonville High's spring musical, *Seussical*. The musical was performed February 13-16 and helped Ranken Jordan raise over \$3,000.

The story concludes with Jojo returning to his parents, Horton having his elephant child, and everyone thinking lots of things.

The Pirate Players used each show to raise money for Ranken Jordan, a pediatric hospital where Elise Tompkins volunteers. The show raised \$3,433.80 to help build a handicap accessible playground for the hospital.



All of the circus acts are ready to go and entertain the crowd during the Circus McGurkus act in *Seussical*, the spring musical.

Tony Washington (11) plays General Genghis Khan Schmitz. Tony's character led Jojo through military school and into the war in Whoville in the musical.



Lydia McCullough (12) who plays Jojo in Pattonville High Schools *Seussical* Musical is dancing around her bathtub singing about what her thoughts are and what goes on in her imagination.

Alayna Hopgood (12) who plays Mayzie La Bird in Pattonville High School's *Seussical* Musical is relaxing at "Palm Beach" enjoying her day in the sun.



Black History Month



To start off Black History Month Presentation, the Triple A Choir marched on stage and sang "Lift every Voice and Sing."



After Triple A Choir sang, Triple A Dancers danced onto stage, performing choreographic dance moves to music.



Pattonville Height's Steppers shocked the crowd as they performed their routine across the auditorium stage.



For the fourth act of the Black History Month Presentation, several Band students from Normandy performed multiple pieces.



Triple A members reenact how it was like to try and sign up for National Baseball for colored people.



Girl's from Power House, a Dance Company, perform several dance moves and acts.



For the seventh act, Triple A members along with WU-Slam performed Spoken Word Performances and "Glory," as Angel Hale creates a painting about Black History Month.



For the eighth act, steppers from YMOV perform moves as their coach talks about what their program is.

Top Right: During the presentation, Triple A members reenacted a scene of what education was like for colored people in 1965.



Middle Right: Guest speaker Marcus Robinson talks with the audience about Black History Month and his past experience with Pattonville High.



Below: Kayla Simpson performs a "Praise Dance," dedicated towards Black History Month.



Junior Jade Boyd performed several songs on her violin to impress the audience.



Tymani J, Jaída W and Zharia M performed "I Was Here," a dance routine with music and pictures in the background.



Top Left: Thomas McFarland thanks everyone who came out and cheered him on after being crowned 2020 Mr. PHS.

Top Right: Michael Pirrie serenading Tamauri Porter Accompanied by Ariana Maddex, and Jeniya Cruise, to "feeling good" by Michael Bublé

2nd Row Left: Thomas McFarland gets hoisted up by other contestants after being selected as Mr. PHS.

Middle Right: All of Mr. PHS contestants dance to "Adore You" by Harry Styles while waiting for Final Three results.

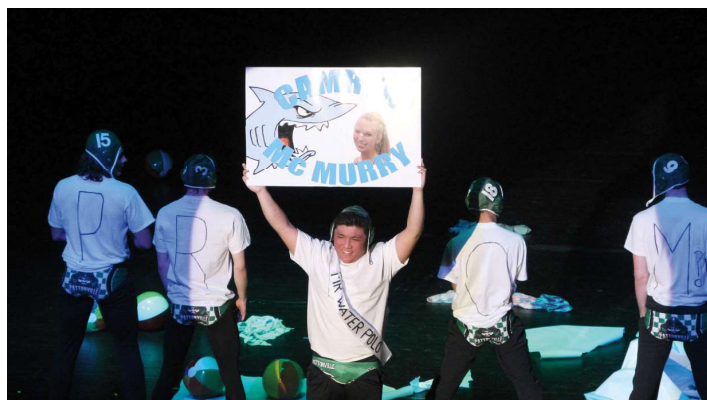
2nd Row Right: Keeley Peeters (12) and Gabrielle Shipman (12) ask Christopher Tobar (11) as Mr. Swimming questions during the Mr. PHS pageant along with Rodney Wallace (12) and Michael Pierre (12).

Bottom Left: Jayden Tran smiles while performing his talent with his ukulele to impress the audience.

Two other contestants rock out to add an effect to his unique instrument. Tran was hoping to be funny while playing.

Bottom Right: Phillip Tso (12) holds up a sign with his girl-friends name and photo on it.

Bottom Right: Accompanied by friends Kobe Allen (12), Christopher Tobar (11), Jaden Tran (12), and Austin Morrison (12) with shirts that spell out "PROM" during the talent portion.





Da Vinci Exhibit Travels to STL Science Center

by Ava Bearskin

Friends Review

by Lauren McDaniel

The hit TV show, “Friends,” has recently been taken off Netflix. Luckily, Netflix has agreed to let the show come back on in May. Loads of people are fans of the show and say “it is one of the best shows I’ve ever watched,” while others think of the show as “annoying” and “over-hyped.”

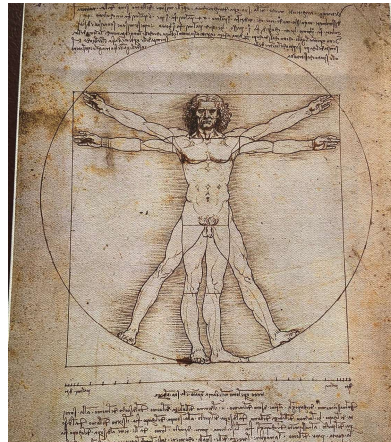
Kinzi Boyer thinks the show is really funny and captures what real friends should be like. Her favorite character is Phoebe because she’s different than everyone else and does her own thing without caring what anyone thinks, and she reminds Kinzi of herself. Kinzi thinks “Netflix is stupid for taking it off because its such a popular show that people watch on there, so that’s kinda only gonna hurt them by taking it off.” She’s been watching the show since she was a baby because of her mom. Kinzi thinks they shouldn’t have ended the show.

Although there are loads of people who don’t enjoy the show, or got bored after the first episode like Emma Rimmer did. Yet, many still believe it is an amazing show and definitely deserves the hype.

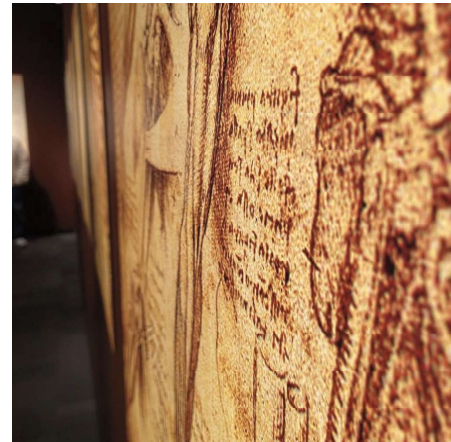
Photo Credit Correction:

In our last print edition, we incorrectly identified a photo credit that should have gone to **Lauren Banks**. The photo was one that Lauren took during the Homecoming assembly.

Sorry for our error, Lauren!



Top Row photos by Peyton Gregory;
2nd and 3rd rows by Ava Bearskin



The St. Louis Science Center recently opened a new exhibit called Da Vinci The Exhibition: Inventor, Scientist, Engineer. While the exhibit is an extra cost, it is a limited time experience, closing April 19. The exhibit highlights parts of Leonardo Da Vinci’s life that are not as well known as his paintings, such as his inventions.

“I thought the most interesting part of the exhibit was all of the inventions... I like that some were interactive and you could see how they worked,” a Pattonville parent stated.

The exhibit includes large scale prints of Da Vinci’s painting with informational plaques next to each one. Since the exhibit focuses on his other work, there are over 60 life size models of his inventions. Displayed in the exhibit is Da Vinci’s tank, room of mirrors, diving suit, steam cannon, and much more.

“I didn’t realize how many things he invented and im-

proved upon, everything from complex machines to something as simple as a weather vane. That one surprised me!”

The exhibit also highlights Da Vinci’s codes and

manuscripts. There are replicas of the documents as well as information on the journey of the documents from Da Vinci’s hands to the many libraries they’re located at now.

1. Vitruvian Man illustrates the proportions of the human body. 2. Walls with drawing of Da Vinci’s work and information line the exhibit. 3. Da Vinci used the mirror to write backwards. 4. A model of the bridge Da Vinci created to protect against earthquakes.



Fry Options in the Ville

Story by Ella Janger, Graphic by Christian Movick

In the Maryland Heights district, there are approximately nine fast-food places to obtain french fries. I have decided to test out five of these fries and determine which fry is the most delightful to consume. I will be judging each fry based on critical factors- crispness, temperature, freshness, saltiness, and overall taste.

I started my journey at my usual favorite, Hardee's. As I expected, the fries from Hardee's were delightful. They were crispy, hot, very fresh, and evenly salted. Overall, I rate them a 10/10. The next place I went to was Lion's choice. The Lion's choice fries were crispy and evenly salted, however, they were warm and did not seem very fresh. I usually love Lion's choice, so I won't let this experience hinder my opinion of them too much. After my disappointment, I traveled to the infamous Chick-fil-a. I was only met with more disappointment, the fries were too soft, unsalted, and room temperature. Honestly, they were kind of gross. I am also not a huge fan of the waffle-style fry.



It's the middle of the week, and I have two fry places left to go. The next stop on my list was Dairy Queen. The Dairy Queen fries were hot, fresh, salted well, but they weren't very crispy. They just tasted like an average fry, they weren't bad, but they weren't amazing. Finally, I went to McDonalds. The McDonalds fries tasted just as I had expected. They were room temperature, not fresh at all, way too salty, but they were crispy. I didn't have very high expectations for McDonalds, so I didn't feel too let down.

As I have concluded my trip, I have come to a decision on which fry was the best. However, In last place, I would have to put Chick-fil-a. The fries were so terrible, I was extremely let down. The runner-up is Lion's Choice. The Lion's choice fries were great, but not as good as the first place winner, Hardee's. The Hardee's fries beat all of the other fries by far, they were so hot and delicious. I am glad that I have done this experiment, so I now know where I can always go to for hot and fresh fast food.

iPhone 11 Review

Story by Ava Bearskin, Graphic by Christian Movick

The iPhone 11 is currently one of Apple's latest phones to release, and the best yet. With the iPhone 11's improvements from its predecessor and superior display, it's guaranteed to satisfy any tech consumer.

Users of the 11 are most pleased with the new camera on the phone. The camera has a new wide mode and a new dark mode. The wide view zooms out without the zoomed out look. The dark mode artificially brightens darker settings.

Freshman Lauren McDaniel says that she wants to get the new iPhone because her friends and peers have it. Peer pressure has played a role in the newest iPhone's recent success. The idea of having the newest phone is a constant pressure in everyday life.

One of the downfalls of the iPhone 11 is the lack of an aux cordport. This makes users unable to use their headphones from the previous iPhones. When buying the 11, users are given a pair of lightning cable earbuds but no adapter. If those original headphones break or get lost, the user is out of luck unless they go buy another pair. This also makes users unable to charge the phones and use headphones at the same time because the port is the same. Many users are heading towards buying AirPods (Apple's bluetooth earbuds) to avoid an issues with the ports.

The display of the iPhone 11 is stellar compared to previous phones. The entirety of the phone is made of glass and has a 6.1"



liquid retina display. This is an LCD display that has a higher quality of pixelation which creates a high definition view with no pixels seen to the naked eye.

Apple also released new colors for the iPhone 11. While keeping the black and white, the newest iPhone comes in yellow, sea green, lavender, and the special (PRODUCT) Red. Any device bought in (PRODUCT) Red has proceeds that go to the Global HIV/AIDS fund to help fight AIDS.

While the iPhone 11 doesn't seem to be much different from the X or XR, it's camera quality alone makes it so much better. It's battery life also lasts longer than the X or XR. Upgrading from anything other than the X is worth it because of the Face ID feature, the battery life, the camera, the glass encasement, and the advanced software.

The iPhone 11 also has a new price drop. It is now \$699. This makes getting the 11 worth it. The perks of the new camera and display, make the iPhone 11 worth the cost.



Foreign Exchange

by Meekie Trieu

Mia Hengartner is one of Pattonville High School's foreign exchange students from Switzerland. When in Switzerland, Hengartner lives "in a small town next to the lake." Although she is enjoying her time here in the United States with the Smith family, she prefers Switzerland. "I really like it here, but Switzerland is my home. All my family and friends are in Switzerland."

Mia explains, "I miss my friends and my family and the food from my mom. And I miss public transportation a lot. One of the hardest things is to be that far away from my family."

Describing the differences between the US and Switzerland, Mia notes, "In Switzerland, the school days are longer, we are not allowed to ride the bus or the car to school. We go home to eat lunch. You just have to go to school until 9th grade." While Mia really misses her family in Switzerland, "I like the school system in America a lot better because you have more choices and opportunity."

Foreign exchange appealed to Mia because she "wanted to get more independent and to improve my English. I chose America because I am really interested in the American culture and I wanted to experience how it is to be in an American high school." She was glad to get involved in the girls' swim team and International Club.

Emma Scholten Garcia is one of Pattonville High School's foreign exchange students from Spain. Emma comes to the United States from "a small town in Catalonia (a region from Spain), Blanes." She enjoys both cultures. "I love how some things in America work, for example the spirit, sports from school, and how all the credits work."

In Spain, she enjoys "how easy it is to go from one place to another, the transportation is much easier and the places are more nearby." She misses "being able to walk to my friend's house and go for a walk through the town, the beach, and my friends." Emma said, "One of the hardest things about being away is not being able to share moments with my family and friends. Or the different vacations."

Describing the differences between school in the US and Spain, Emma notes, "Here, you move all around and you choose what subjects to take for a year. Also the spirit and the buildings."

Foreign exchange appealed to Emma because she wished "to become better at speaking English and have a good base for future work opportunities. But also because America is so different in many aspects, the culture, the food... I also wanted to become more outgoing and go to a whole new school, new people, country... is a great opportunity." She was glad to get involved in International Club with the other exchange students.

Isabel Leenders is from the Netherlands, specifically "Aarle-Rixtel, a small town next to a bigger city where I go to school." Although she is enjoying her time here in the United States, she prefers the Netherlands. "I love both places but I would say The Netherlands because that is where my family and most of my

friends are and I'm really proud of my country. I like the fact that my country is small and we can travel to other countries easily; we have a lot of public transportation and we bike a lot."

Isabel explains, "I miss my friends and family the most of course and besides that I also prefer the food in my country." Isabel said, "One of the hardest things about being away is when my family and friends are doing fun stuff and I can't be there with them, like on holidays. For example right now in my part of the country there is this yearly thing and four days long everyone wears crazy costumes and parties and there are parades."

Describing the differences between the US and Switzerland, Isabel notes, "So we go to high school at the age of 12-13, you take an exam, and based on that you get in a certain level and you get all the classes on that level, then graduate after four, five, or six years. Also, your schedule is different every day, and you will also be done at different times. Most of the time people get out at 4, but you will never get out later than that. We also don't have school buses but everyone bikes to school."

Foreign exchange appealed to Isabel because "I think it's a really good experience. I am improving my English, I experience the American culture and I'm making new friends. I have tried so many new things since I came here and I've met a lot of amazing people." She was glad to get involved in JV cheerleading. Aum Phakum is "from Bangkok, Thailand. Where I live is kind of a big city." She enjoys both cultures. "Here I like the weather and there are 'real' four seasons...in Thailand, it's mostly hot and rainy. My first time seeing snow was here last November. I like the sports after school. It seems like here they have a lot of choices to play sports...and I also like the classes here."

In Thailand, she enjoys "Thai food which is spicy food. Seafood and Sushi are my favorites, and we always eat spicy food."

She misses her car and family. "I miss it when I am able to drive around with my friends and hang out together, mostly at my house because I have a pool and the rooms that we can spend the night. But here I can't drive cause it's an exchange student rule... you don't have lots of public transportations so it's really hard if I want to go somewhere without asking my host family for a ride, cause sometimes I feel bad and don't want to bother while they're busy."

Describing the differences between the US and Thailand, Aum notes, "My school doesn't start that early and get early out like here. In my school we can choose just the program, not every class... We have a uniform for a normal uniform and a P.E. uniform." Foreign exchange appealed to Aum because "I think everyone always says 'To improve English' and it's right...and it's a great experience to stay in the U.S. with American families which are native speakers." She was glad to get involved in the musical and International Club: "It was my first time joining a high school musical because we don't have high school musicals in Thailand."



JV Drill Team Brings Home Trophies at Fort Zumwalt North Invitational

photos and story by Katie Ridings

Last Saturday, January 25, the Junior Varsity Drill Team competed at their last competition of the season. Head coach Lindsey Purviance and assistant coach Katie Greenwell took the girls to the Fort Zumwalt North Invitational. The team came home with a first place trophy for pom and a second place trophy for hip hop.

The 10 girls on the team had spent the last seven weeks intensely preparing for this competition, perfecting all of their tricks, skills, and performance quality. The coaches had drilled new choreography into the girls' minds. Then they went back to make sure it was perfect.

The night before, they had practice to make sure they had both of the performances down. Then, before they even knew it, competition day was here. The team was up bright and early Saturday and had to meet at Pattonville at eight in the morning. Once they all got to the competition, they went to their dressing room and immediately started preparations. The two coaches helped the girls put on their makeup and get their hair ready. Then it was time to practice.

They all went into the hallway outside of their dressing room and began to run through their dances. Once they were done practicing, it was time to put on their uniform and go perform. While JV was waiting in the tunnel to perform, Varsity Drill Team surprised them, coming up to support JV during their last competition.

Once the coaches took pictures of the two teams, it was finally time. They walked into the gym to perform their first dance. Hip Hop was the first dance that they were going to perform. All of the coaches, varsity, and the girls' parents were screaming and cheering as they took the floor. Then their music started and they began: everything went as smoothly and it could have gone.

Before anybody knew it, the dance had ended. As the girls hit their ending pose, the whole gym went wild. Everybody was

cheering for our JV Drill Team. As they walked off the floor, everyone could see the proud look on all of the girls' faces. There was no time to waste, however; they had to immediately start getting ready for pom and rushed back to change uniforms. Once they were changed, Coach Lindsey pulled their hair into a bun, and Coach Kate put their bow in.

While JV was getting ready, Varsity was getting them pumped to perform pom. Once they were all ready, they went to practice and stretch in the hallway. They could not practice for long. The girls all went back to the tunnel and waited.

Once the team was called, they walked into the gym and cheered onto the floor to their first position. The music started, and every girl that was dancing had hit every skill and trick. Once the performance was over, the girls cheered off, watched two other teams, and waited for awards. They all sat in a circle and held hands.

Once their hip hop category was called they all leaned in closer to each other, and they did the same with pom. Pattonville Junior Varsity Drill Team closed out the season with a second place trophy in hip hop and a first place trophy in pom. The two coaches could not have been more proud of the girls.





Dribble, Pass, Shoot - Boys' Basketball Focuses on Fundamentals

by Ava Bearskin



photo by Aleigha Hornaday

Alijah Carter plays shooting guard and small forward for the Varsity Boys' Basketball team.

Pattonville's Boys basketball team closed the season with an 11-15 record. The team was led by captain Levi Banks and coach Kelley Thames as they made it to district semifinals. Captain Levi Banks said that he felt that the season is "Already starting better than lasts, the chemistry on and off the court feels stronger."

Coach Kelley Thames hopes to grow as a team this season and improve each game and overall as a team. He's a very passionate coach and tries to instill that same energy and excitement into the players.

Both the players and the coach find the sport very rewarding in different ways but both appreciate the connections and friendships it can bring.

On the topic of the team's season, Thames said, "It went well. We only had one senior and everybody was sophomores and juniors so next year we're going to be very good. We knew going in that we only had 3 players with varsity experience so everyone got a lot of playing time and a lot of experience. They got better."

The team's bond grew more as the season went on and both the players and the coach hope to have an even better season next year with more experienced players.

Girls' Basketball Strives for Victory

by Matthew Jacobi



photo by Aleigha Hornaday

Mattie Olsen plays guard for the Varsity Girls' Basketball team.

With the 2019-2020 Girls' Basketball season over, they had a close season, finishing with an overall score of 11-15. Their last game of the season was played on March 6, against Parkway Central, where they fell 45-23.

Kaeli Benedict, one of the Captains for Girls' Varsity Basketball, stated, "Two things about this season that I am proud of was the great team chemistry and growth as a team. This allowed us to not only grow as individuals but a whole as well and that led to a lot of success during the season."

Kaeli hopes that next year they will be able to win Districts and compete in State. "I think that we have a really solid foundation for this upcoming year and the freshmen that will be a part of varsity will have a tremendous impact."

Kelsey Mack, another Captain for Varsity, says that some advice her coach as given her this year is that "I am my competition on the floor." Although they have had some losses, they kept a positive attitude because it affects how they play. While playing at Pattonville, Mack feels "like I have grown over the years and have gotten more confident while playing basketball."

Coach Boyce, coach of Varsity Girls' Basketball, was very proud of how hard the girls played and their desire to never give up. "They fought hard each game. It says a lot about the character of the team. I was proud to coach them each night."

Coach Boyce also had words for students looking to join for next season. "Come in ready to work hard. We will be even better defensively next year and hopefully stronger. Work on your basketball game in the off season and you will see the results during the regular season."



Just Keep Swimming: Girls' Swim Medals at FZN invite

by Abbey Prinzi

Swimming has done it again! Only this time, the girls are taking charge.

The weekend of January 10, four members of the girls' swim and dive team medaled in their events at Fort Zumwalt North's Invite. Senior Gabi Shipman placed 4th in the 100 backstroke, in the 200 free relay Cora Hautekeete, Lucy Ridings, Gabi Shipman, and Libby Keefer placed 3rd, along with Lucy Ridings placing 2nd in the 100 breaststroke.

The team this year is smaller than the previous season, but with new members and returning members, the girls are certainly still very competitive. Coach Braswell says that the girls put in a lot of hard work every day at practice and they do a fantastic job. This season, there were six seniors honored at Senior Night. The team had two brand new divers competing.

At the end of the season, Girls' Swimming and Diving had one swimmer and all three relays earn the State Consideration Qualifying Standard.

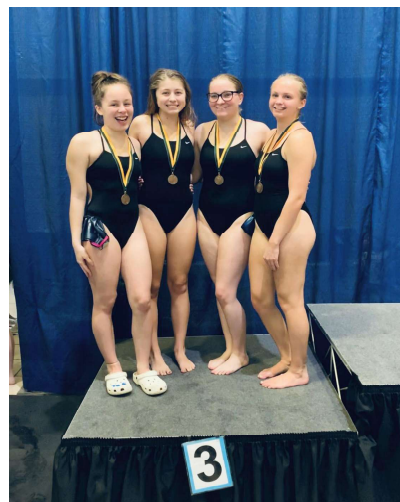


photo courtesy of Ms. Braswell

Lucy Ridings, Gabi Shipman, Elizabeth Kiefer, and Cora Hautekeete, 3rd in 200 Free Relay

Cheerleaders Head to Dallas for Nationals

By Ava Bearskin



photo by Peyton Gregory

After taking first place at Regionals this year, on January 30, 2020, Pattonville varsity cheerleaders headed to Dallas, Texas to compete in the NCA High School Nationals.

First was Regionals where they got 1st place. Next was State and they got 2nd Place. Their state competition qualified them to go onto Nationals in Dallas, Texas. They worked very hard at practices and games to prepare for Nationals. They scored 8th at nationals. Nicki McDaniel, senior, said "We were all very grateful for this past year and the new experiences we had."

The JV Cheerleaders placed first out of seven in their division at the State Championship. Congratulations on a great season!

Drill Team Places at Nationals

by Mackenzie Rosenthal



VDT traveled to Orlando, Florida to compete in Nationals, and on March 8, they earned an eighth place finish in the Hip Hop competition. The team competed against 31 other teams and hit the top ten.

The drill team also performed in a competition on December 7, 2019, at Lindbergh High School. They competed against six teams and their biggest rival was Tolton Catholic High School. They received first place in competition, 1st first in Hip Hop, and they earned a precision award for Pom. The team was extremely happy with the first place awards they got.

Their goals for future competitions are to continue improving both dances and continue building relationships amongst each other.



Breaking Barriers—Girls' Wrestling Numbers on the Rise

by Rebecca Simpkins and Meekie Trieu

Girls have been able to wrestle for some time, but just last year Pattonville got their own girls' wrestling team. Senior Camilla Wilkerson started wrestling her freshman year. She has four years of experience under her belt; sophomore year Camilla got to compete at a coed JV conference and she got third place in an all boy bracket. She loves the new team and how supportive they are.

Camilla talks about her experiences when she first joined the majority boys' wrestling team and how she had to build her confidence on her own. Now that there's a group of girls, she says it's easier for them to support and build that courage in each other. "I see that confidence growing in them, and it's really great," Camilla says.

Camilla decided to join wrestling after a friend from another school told her about how at his school they have some girl wrestlers. Most of Camilla's male teammates supported a girl wrestling, but a few of the guys didn't agree with her joining. Camilla says, "Some guys didn't agree with going outside the 'status quo.'" She chose to ignore the few that didn't support her and focus on the majority of her teammates that did support her.

Since the team was created last year, they have 25 girl wrestlers, and that number is steadily growing. Just last year, the girls' team sent Autumn Otis to state — the first girl Pattonville has ever sent to state. At tournaments girls don't face discrimination, but when some guys see they are facing a girl, Camilla says she can definitely see the shock on their faces.

When talking about her third place award at the JV conference, she said, "It proved to me that I was capable of staying up there with the boys and I wasn't lesser than them."

Pep Band

by Joshua Engelhardt

The Pattonville High School Pep Band made several appearances during the winter: a few basketball games, a wrestling meet, curriculum night for new students, and more events. Many schools are not able to the advantage of having an amazing pep band. Mr. McFarland works with this group of students and explained, "We play what we want with the exceptions of requests from coaches."

The pep band changes the atmosphere of the game for the audience and the players themselves. The goal is to create a fun and friendly time for all involved. Usually Mr. McFarland will decide what music to play at what times and sometimes the band students will pick, but coaches even will make special requests from the directors to hear.

They play mostly popular songs, ranging from "Happy," to "All I do is win," to "Uma Thurman," to name a few. The songs played are meant to hype up the crowd and players with songs that most people will recognize. Everyone has their own favorite songs, including the band themselves. Trevon Haughton knows his favorite, which is "Crazy train," by Ozzy Osbourne. "We get to have a really fun melody."



photo courtesy of Coach Mueller

After Districts with their coaches, Autumn Otis (12) and Desire' Adams (11) both celebrated making history by advancing to the final meet of the season: the State Meet.

After high school, Camilla doesn't know if she is going to continue wrestling. She would like to, but most of her top schools don't offer women's wrestling because of how few women participate in the sport. Some colleges have begun offering scholarships in hopes to increase participation. About 792 scholarships for Division 1 women's wrestling are given out per year. This trend may continue as more women will realize that wrestling isn't just for the guys.

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