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Autism is a growing concern among many Americans. Awareness is lacking and treatment is often difficult. In response, Passaic Valley Regional High School has installed the newest addition to the school: The Autism Program.

This ambitious program has been in the works for three years. New accommodations and staff needed to be added. The classroom the school had. A space the workers could revamp for a speech room, they had. However, additional staff was needed to fill these spaces. The new staff were told they were being moved in May, since they were already in a program at a different school. Eleven staff members work together to comprise the program. They have six aids, a teacher, a behaviorist, a speech therapist, therapist, and a physical therapist (who comes in twice a week).

The students’ schedules are like our schedules, for the most part. They have math and English, but they also have practical classes to help them with speech and item identification. Throughout the day, students are taught skills to improve their daily lives.

Autism is a disorder that’s been around for a while, but has only been studied extensively in recent years. It’s a serious developmental disorder that impacts the ability to communicate and interact. The students at the Passaic Valley High School Autism Program are mostly nonverbal. In the U.S. alone in 1 in 88 children have autism. Men are more likely to suffer from it than women. They have nine students and out of that nine, five are boys and four are girls. Unlike other diseases, Autism is incurable but treatment may help. It can last years or be lifelong; someone could have it for one year or until their last breath. Autism has to be diagnosed by a medical professional. Lab tests are usually required. Autism is measured on a spectrum, that characterizes the severity of each case. Behavioral, Cognitive, Speech, Psychological, Developmental, Muscular are all categories that fall on the spectrum.

“Everyone is cooperating very well now that we are here”
-Mrs. Shannon

Fowler takes over as new Supervisor of Curriculum
Malak Moraktan ’17

Mr. Jared Fowler has been a part of the Passaic Valley family for eight years. In his time away from the school, he works on his novel, attends classes at Drew University for his doctorate, teaches nightly classes at Passaic County Community College, and plays with his son Jack. After holding the positions of English, HSPA, and Journalism teacher, he has happily accepted a promotion as the new Supervisor of Curriculum, which was previously held by Mr. O’Brien. He comments, “Even if I didn’t take the job, I would still be happily teaching.” When he accepted the new position, he was “excited to start a new part in his career but a little scared to leave the classroom”. Even though Mr. Fowler is an extremely busy man, he has not forgotten his origins as a teacher; he still helps out students when they ask. Even though he loves teaching, he has had his eyes set on this job since 2008. Although he is very excited to hold a new position, he will still miss his old job. He will really miss the interactions with students, and also “seeing a student actually learn right in front of me”.

Before he became the Supervisor of Curriculum, he previously taught HSPA classes and English III and IV. He also was the Journalism teacher for a couple of years; now Mr. Cornelius Van Ess holds that position. The current Department Head, Ms. Mary Lou Bednarski, describes Mr. Fowler as “a very creative man who is also hardworking and a good role model for the kids.” He also coached the boys’ baseball team, but, with greater responsibilities and a very tight schedule, he will no longer be coaching. Although that position will be filled, he will still volunteer and plans to be around them. What he will be doing is writing the curriculum for different subjects, evaluating teachers, and working on getting the PARCC examination ready for students. His main goals this year are to encourage teachers to collaborate and co-teach and make sure that “everyone is given the opportunity to be highly effective.”

Before he came to PV, he attended Hoboken High School in his old hometown. He then attended college at Saint Peters University where in 2005 he received his bachelor’s in English and Communications and minor in Secondary Education. He then went on to receive his masters at Saint Peters in Administration and Supervision. He is now in his third year at Drew University, studying to receive his doctorate in Humanities with a concentration in Creative Writing. Mr. Fowler also shared a room with English teacher Miss Megan Ellis. She describes him as a “funny, friendly, and a responsible roommate.” Miss Ellis has learned one lesson from Mr. Fowler, and that is to keep her room tidy. She said that his side of the room was always neat, while hers was the complete opposite. So one day, Mr. Fowler decided to tidy up the room. He took all of her books, including binders and textbooks, and made them into one big pile atop her desk. Miss Ellis strongly believes in him and she is quite excited about his new position.

Mr. Fowler stands by many values, “We, as adults and teachers, need to present ourselves as role models and “Mr. Fowler is a very creative man who is also hardworking and a good role model for the kids”
-Ms. Mary Lou Bednarski
to hold ourselves to higher ethics.” Although Mr. Fowler has a very tight schedule, he will always be willing to help out anyone in need. Whether it’s a student who is struggling with classes, particularly English, or someone who just needs to talk to an adult, Mr. Jared Fowler will always be there to help out.

If anyone would like to take Mr. Fowler to his office (which he shares with Mr. Mela- so) is located right by the main office. He can also be reached through email: fowlerj@pvhs.k12.nj.us.

All of these things can be treated in a variety of ways. The Autism Program seeks to provide their students with the individual attention the disorder requires. “The students need the school for their class,” the school psychologist Mrs. Cruz told The Valley Echo. Students are able to go on a scavenger hunt, walking through the school to find things and identify them. Most mainstream students walked through the hall but made no interactions with the autistic students as the went about their activity. However, some students choose to help out during their lunch periods. The staff at the Autism program welcome any students willing to lend a hand.

In the years to come, the program may expand in many ways. It may require more space, add resources, and hire more staff. The things they can do with the program in the upcoming years is amazing.

Thus far, the Autism Program has received a warm welcome from both the staff and students at Passaic Valley High School. It may have been a hectic transition period early on for the Autism students but as Mrs. Shannon notes, “Everyone is cooperating very well now that we are here.”
A law is not the same as equality.

Eric Garner, New York. Mike Brown, Missouri. Freddie Gray, Baltimore. These three cases got the ball rolling in what people are calling a police brutality epidemic. Though these cases may have been the tipping points, there were many, many cases that were not so prominent. The controversy has people choosing sides and is opening rifts amongst friends and family. The rise in cases and the media coverage surrounding people’s orientations is one main question: If we can’t even trust the people who are supposed to be protecting our lives, who can we trust?

Ahmad Mubarak ‘17

Police brutality is a subject argued over all over America. I strongly believe it’s not as serious as the media is making it, but rather part of the ongoing interactions between police and minority communities. I find America is going down a dangerous path because the more talk of the matter amongst my peers; yet, it was the kind of talk I expected it to come out of teachers’ mouths, referring to her as “Bruce” and “he/she”, that took me by surprise. This was done and few complained. No one seemed to care. Maybe people turned the other way because of the lack of consideration back. This world is made up of several billion people. Everyone has a right to their own opinion, but I agree with Hayashi’s remarks and find this approach thing. This is what I want you to take from this: we need to consider the actions of our words. Watch your words for they become actions.” In other words. Watch your thoughts for they become reality. Awareness is created when the people well-informed may realize that something needs to be done. As Mar-
Passaic Valley High School produces the Odd Couple Female Version as the Fall Play

Alexia Sottile ’16

Technology and entertainment are incessantly changing and adapting to present day interests and common lifestyles. Nowadays, especially in the United States of America, people are always on the move. We are bombarded with unending responsibilities and tasks. One of the major things to comprehend is that time is so substantial. If we want to spread an important message to a wide spread people, we firstly have to consider that people do not have much time on their hands and tend to lose interest fairly quickly. Most people simply skim through literature and fast-forward videos. This is why PVTV believes film shorts are a valuable form of mass media.

Ms. Carolyn Macchia and Ms. Stephanie Roberts, two PVTV teachers, deem the effectiveness of short films comes with the efficient timeframes. Short films generally aim to be less than 45 minutes, but most PVTV mainly focuses on reaching a maximum of 10 minutes. This is due to the fact that it is easier for beginners, still learning and adapting to the process. Students can make the storylines as interesting and unique as they choose. Films are a major display of artistic ability because students can be so creative with the storylines and their portrayal.

The Passaic County Film Festival is major feature here in Passaic County that many schools and students participate in. We did not enroll for two years, so those years we did not win. In 2011, Michael Palmesino, a former student, won first place in the NJ Young Film Festival. Ms. Macchia and Ms. Roberts comment that they enjoy seeing students push themselves to a limit they have never experienced.

Students are given the choice to enter any of the 24 short films they produce throughout the academic year to any number of festival throughout the area. The overall process of producing a short film takes about 6-8 weeks.

The process includes these steps: coming up with an idea, then a treatment, maneuvering the software, writing a script, learning to film, and editing. Students work all day and teachers aid them in the process by ensuring their goals are achievable considering the software and tool availability.

Teachers also work in the background, setting the scene and motivating students not to be afraid to let their ideas loose. They love seeing them proud of their hard work and effort. Over all creating something from nothing.

Michael Ruffino ’16, who has had three years of experience working with the PVTV, mentions how entertaining the process really is.

His role varies between director, producer, and editor, basically overseeing all tasks. His experience working with PVTV gave him a clear career decision: he wants to go into production.

He says “Anyone interested in film-making and the process of film-making should definitely consider taking PVTV classes because it will develop your skills and increase your knowledge of the craft.”

Alex Rosario ’16

PVTV Short Films: A new form of entertainment

Brianna Cielo and Francesca Carr as the day the 24th, each starting at 7:30 pm. The ber 22nd, Friday October 23rd, and Satur- ed the play on three dates: Thursday Octo-

The Odd Couple Female Version originates from a play by Neil Simon called The Odd Couple. The play Premiered in 1965 with the leading male roles of Oscar Madison and Felix Unger.

The Odd Couple television show aired. Following the film, in 1970 an extremely popular Odd Couple television show aired. The TV show ran from 1970-1975 and starred Tony Randall as Felix Unger and Jack Klugman as Oscar Madison. Recently, the show has been brought back for a 2015 version starring Matthew Perry and Thomas Lennon. The series has been re-

The stage was set and the Odd Couple was ready to commence. Despite the seats not all filled, the room was full with the nonstop peels of laughter. Everything was the way you would expect it. Two divorcées, one who is a slub and one who has OCD. Except one thing: Os-

The Odd Couple Female Version was now Florence. Yes, that’s right—this version of the play is the Odd Couple Female Version, a key alteration that makes this production so unique and so pivotal to current times and the struggle for female equality.

Passaic Valley High School host-

There are some jokes that you can’t really make with the male version as opposed to the female version.”

—Brianna Cielo ’17

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Tenth annual Comic-Con invades NYC

Samantha Longendyke '16

The streets around the Jacob Javits Center- 34th St., between 12th and 11th Ave- are swarmed with people in costume. These swarms of costumed people bee-line for the Jacob Javits Convention Center, all anticipating the same event. Starting on October 9th and ending on October 12th, New York Comic-Con invaded the liveliness of New York. New York Comic-Con is more than just a comic-book convention. It’s a convention with something for everybody. “Comic-con isn’t just about comic books. It’s about pop-culture,” comments Mr. Sileo, head of the Mathematics Department here in PV. “Even things you don’t think about- Kello’s, Rice Krispies, these are both icons. Those are things we know; they’re a part of pop culture.” Even current and popular television shows, movies, and books make appearances at the convention. Thusly, New York Comic-Con is, contrary to popular belief, not just a ‘geek’ or a ‘nerd’ thing. It’s for everybody.

With the internet growing each and every day, so does Comic-Con. People are more easily exposed to things and, thanks to this, they have become more mainstream and less ‘geeky’ or ‘nerdy’. This process of becoming mainstream is definitely slow, but in time it wouldn’t be surprising if the convention morphs into something more about ‘pop-culture’ than ‘geek culture’. There’s just so much to see at New York Comic-Con. Obviously, the convention is loaded with comic-book related merchandise and events. Popular movies and series such as Star Wars, Star Trek, and The Walking Dead have a heavy presence at the convention. There are also many smaller things, such as anime and cartoons. Panelists discuss all of the above and even other new and surprising topics, such as writing and creating comics. Advice on plot, overlapping fiction with reality, and more are all taught to prospective storytellers. It gives the convention a practical and educational aspect. Filmmakers and producers movies and shows benefit greatly from their presence at the convention. Newly introduced series particularly benefit as they are likely to have more views when the series premiers.

There’s lots to see in terms of gaming, too. In fact, at New York Comic-Con 2011, the Intel Extreme Masters Global Challenge New York was held, including several online competitive games such as Counter-Strike, Starcraft, and League of Legends. The tournament was played for various prizes. At every Comic-Con since there have been smaller tournaments for relatively small cash prizes. Tournaments are played for the games mentioned before, as well as Super Smash Brothers. This year, there were also several panels held and hosted by some of the most popular gaming channels on Youtube. GameStrong Foundation, a non-profit charity that raises money to give video games to children in hospitals, also made an appearance at this year’s con. New York Comic-Con isn’t just about panels and events, “New York Comic-Con is more than just a comic-book convention. It’s a convention with something for everybody.” - Mr. Sileo

though. It’s also about the community. A majority of the fans who attend all share similar interests and it’s always fun and interesting to get to meet like-minded individuals. Costumes are also a large part of the convention; a very great number of people who attend the con like to cosplay as certain characters. “I like to observe the costumes,” says Mr. Sileo, who has attended the convention twice before, including Batman’s 75th anniversary last year. “It’s really interesting to see all of the twists on certain characters that people portray in their costumes. It’s like a game of who’s who, except for your typical costumes like Batman or Superman.” A large part of the convention are the dealers’ rooms. You can find such a wide array of artwork, as well as commercial products. Artists sell their art, which comes in many arrays (there was even a Jelly Belly artist who recreated pictures of comic book panels with Jelly Belly jelly beans) and price ranges. There are graphic artists, fan artists, jewelry makers, and independent comic creators looking to sell their work. This is a very important part of the convention, as it gives struggling artists a chance to make something of themselves. They receive exposure and they get a chance to make some money. Many fans that go to the convention return home with a pocket full of business cards from various artists. There are also commercial dealers that sell old figurines from comic-books, old comic books themselves, cards from popular card games (Magic: the Gathering, Pokemon, Yu-Gi-Oh!, and several others), and vintage toys. “When you walk into the vendor rooms, ‘You can buy a piece of your youth, essentially,” Mr. Sileo announces. “We had those toys as kids and we see them now and we sort of want them back.’”

New York Comic-Con is, after its 2014 attendance of 151,000, the largest comic convention in North America. It has overtaken San Diego Comic-Con, whose attendance has only ever reached 130,000, which preceded NYCC by 36 years. New York Comic-Con was founded in 2006, as opposed to San Diego Comic-Con of which was formed as a moniker called the Golden State Comic Book Convention in 1970. Having ended on October 12th, this past Monday, the staff at New York Comic-Con has already begun its work on next year’s convention.
Mr. Francisco teaches both Human Behavior and World History. He describes that his favorite monster is Frankenstein the Monster. Francisco quotes Jerry Seinfeld, "He’s a monster, he knows he’s a monster, and he’s wearing a sport coat." He goes on, "I’m involved in many Halloween movies. Even Transylvania, [the sequel to] which is coming out this year and I can’t wait to watch it with my boys when they are a little older." Francisco is unsure of whether he compares to Frankenstein, however he explains, "My wife sometimes calls me Frank, referring to Frankenstein the Monster, because of my lack of sleep."

Mr. Peters teaches English, and her favorite monster is Grendel from the epic Beowulf. "I’m an English teacher, so I have to of course choose Grendel," she says. "I like him because I feel bad for him. He’s not your typical monster. Yeah he kills people, but I just feel bad for him." Peters compares herself to Grendel stating, "I’m like Grendel because he has a heart and I think he’s a deep figure." Peters explains that Grendel is not scary, just misunderstood.

Mrs. Sisti teaches Pre-Calculus and Calculus, and her favorite monster is the Cookie Monster. She says, "I love the Cookie Monster because he reminds me of my youthful years." She used to watch Sesame Street as a child and Cookie Monster was her favorite because he ate cookies all of the time. Sisti compares herself to him saying, "I’m sort of like him sometimes when I’m really hungry."
Where did Halloween come from?

Gabriella Dragnone’17

Trick-or-Treating, Halloween parties, and Halloween? Some people may think of dressing up and carving pumpkins. Many people celebrate Halloween in different ways. Have you ever wondered where Halloween came from and when it is such a scary day? It all started in Ireland with the Druidic religion.

In the Celtic culture, where the Druidic religion is from, November first was New Year’s on their calendar. On October 31, the Druids believed the spirits would rise up and roam the earth. The Druidic religion of Celtic tribes worshipped Samhain, the Lord of Darkness, also known as the Lord of the Dead. They would also carve turnips and place coals or candles inside the turnips so they would glow. They then would place them outside to ward off the evil spirits that supposedly roamed the night. Later on, it was discovered that carving a Jack O’Lantern out of pumpkins was much simpler to carve than a turnip.

To commemorate the event of Halloween, the Druids built huge sacrificial bonfires, where the people gathered to burn crops and animals as sacrifices. They thought the presence of the otherworldly spirits made it easier for the priests to make predictions about the future. Poor citizens would wander the villages begging for food. Families would give them pastries in return for their promise to pray for the family’s dead relatives. The Irish would also visit neighbors and ask for contributions of food for a feast in town that would occur during the night.

A variation of this later became “Trick-or-Treating”. One hundred years ago, people dressing up would make them “fit in” with the other spirits. Some of the costumes worn consisted of animal heads and skins. This explains why we wear costumes every year.

As Halloween moved into the modern era, it acquired a mischievous aura but never lost its inherent mysticism. In the late 1800’s, in the U.S. and Canada, citizens would pull pranks on other people during this time of the year. Some pranks would include tipping over outhouses, opening farm gates and egging houses. However, by the 1920’s and 30’s, block parties and vandalism became unruly. Bobbing for apples became a game where if you picked an apple without using your hands, it would be used to tell you who you would marry or it would reveal your fortune. Another ritual was looking in a mirror at midnight by candlelight for your future husband’s face to appear. This is now known as the “Bloody Mary” ritual that we all know.

Today, in America, we have public events, tell stories of the dead, tell each other’s fortunes, dance and sing, tell ghost stories, watch scary movies, and we even have a day called “Goosy Night,” which is the night before Halloween. Goosy Night is usually held on October 30, where citizens throw eggs at houses. Some would even tipi houses covering them in toilet paper. Because of the many things we do to make Halloween such a success, Americans spend $6 billion annually on Halloween, making it the second largest holiday in the U.S. behind Christmas.

The way we celebrate Halloween has changed many times throughout the years. Mr. Costello, a Sophomore Chemistry teacher, stated that there are “less safety concerns now” than there were when he was a kid. Mrs. Chelie, an art teacher, said, “We made our own costumes, there was no ‘Trunk or Treating,’ and when we went Trick-or-Treating, we would get money and apples, and not as much candy like kids do now.”

Many Americans have unique personal traditions. Mr. Costello lights up a “Pauly the Pump-kin” during the month of October in his chemistry class, Mrs. Chelie carves and paints pumpkins and goes Trick-or-Treating with her kids. Nicolas Otero Lopez, a junior, goes Trick-or-Treating with his friends.

Another tradition that most people like to do is bake. Pumpkin flavored baked goods could be smelted throughout almost every body’s houses during this time of year. Here’s a pumpkin cookie recipe that you can try out for yourselves.

Who is your favorite monster?

Malinda DiPasquale’16

Most people have a favorite monster—from a movie, book, or even a common Halloween monster. However, would it not be great to know the favorite monsters of teachers in the school? A few teachers were asked who their favorite monster was and why. Their responses are quite interesting and can be compared to the monsters they chose by personality or even looks. Below are their responses and check out the teachers’ transformations into that monster of their choosing.

Mr. Donnelly teaches U.S. History II and Holocaust and Genocide, and his favorite monster is the classic old school Dracula. He says, “When I was a child, I was into horror movies and monsters, and Dracula just looked the coolest and talked the coolest.” He even explains that as a child his favorite character on the television show Sesame Street was the Count. However, unlike the Count, Dracula is not one for counting numbers but counting victims. Donnelly compares himself to Dracula noting that he usually likes to sleep all day and says, “If I had it my way, I would.”

Mr. Fowler is the Director of Curriculum, and says that his favorite monster is Gizmo/Spike from The Gremlins. He states, “He is my favorite monster because they go from being cute and cuddly to terrible—kind of like children.” As a child, Fowler says that The Gremlins was one of his favorite Halloween movies. He goes on to compare himself to Gizmo/Spike noting that, “I too at times can be cute and cuddly, but when I’m cranky I can be monstrous.”

Ms. Ellis teaches English, and tells the Valley Echo that her favorite monster is Freddy Kruger. “To me, he is the scariest creature of all time because he comes when you least expect it.” Ellis goes on, “besides, the song that little kids sing in the movie is absolutely horrifying.” She explains that she watches the entire Nightmare on Elm Street movie series every Halloween, but admits that the second movie is her favorite of them all. Ellis also notes that, “Since I have seen all the movies, I’ve become interested about dreams and what they mean.” Contrast to Ellis’ blissfully outgoing personality, horror films are by far her favorite because, “they are the most entertaining.”

Tips and Suggestions:
- Pre-heat oven to 375°.
- Cream shortening and sugar.
- Mix in pumpkin, egg, and sugar.
- Stir in dry ingredients, spices and raisins.
- Drop cookie batter, by the spoonful onto an ungreased baking sheet.
- Bake cookies 10-12 minutes.

Pumpkin Cookies Recipe:

Ingredients:
- 1 Cup of Shortening
- 1 Cups of sugar
- 1 Cup of cooked, strained Pumpkin (or canned)
- 1 Egg
- 1 Cups of flour
- 1 Cup of raisins
- 1 Teaspoon of baking soda
- 1 Teaspoon of cinnamon
- 1 Teaspoon of nutmeg
- 1 Teaspoon of salt

Process:
1. Pre-heat oven to 375°.
2. Cream shortening and sugar.
3. Mix in pumpkin, egg, and sugar.
4. Stir in dry ingredients, spices and raisins.
5. Drop cookie batter, by the spoonful onto an ungreased baking sheet.
6. Bake cookies 10-12 minutes.
Mr. DeLuccia commemorates a decade teaching music

Vanessa Shindle ’16

This year, Mr. DeLuccia will be celebrating his tenth year as an educator at Passaic Valley High School. He is the current marching band director and concert and jazz band teacher. DeLuccia is a graduate of the PV class of 2000. During his four years here, his time was spent dedicated to the marching band. DeLuccia met his wife, Kathy DeLuccia, in marching band. Kathy was a member of color guard while DeLuccia was in the percussion section. They started talking and getting to know each other his junior year and her sophomore year on the Canada trip.

After high school, DeLuccia attended Seton Hall as a biology major with aspirations of becoming an ophthalmologist or an eye doctor. It hit him one day that biology was not his desired field. Simply put, his heart belonged to music. He had a craving to go back to music; music was his home. His love for marching band returned as he was a member of the Caballeros, a travelling competitive drums corps marching band, in 2007. DeLuccia was a percussion instructor here for three years when the position to be a music teacher and marching band director opened up. He decided that being at Passaic Valley was a good place to be. He states that he loved the program that had been built here. DeLuccia has always had the same passion to improve upon the musical program. He wants it to be as progressive and inspirational as possible.

Kathy and DeLuccia are now happily married with two adorable children, Cameron and Ava DeLuccia. Every year they do a family costume, this Halloween they were an ensemble from Jurassic World. DeLuccia was dressed as Owen, Kathy as Claire, Cameron and Ava as dinosaurs.

Over the course of his ten years at PV, DeLuccia has been advancing and building the music and marching band department to where it is now. Each and every new marching band season he looks forward to seeing how the band develops from the beginning to the end of the season. You go from learning all of the marching basics over the course of a month, to band camp, which is twelve hours for five days and learning the show, to the season which is competing and cleaning the show. His favorite factor about band is seeing how all of the students’ hard work pays off in the end. Ultimately the show and how far they want this show to succeed is in the students’ hands.

Since DeLuccia has the title of director, he chooses the show’s theme every year and reveals it at the annual ice cream social. This year’s marching band show is called, “Earhart: Sounds of Courage”. DeLuccia stated, “This year is probably my favorite,” he loves the music and the concept. There are so many cool things can this show contains. Although he has a few shows that will always grab at his heart, he stands by this show as the best one yet. From a competitive standpoint, this show is entertaining musically and visually. He has come to the recognition that not many kids take to music anymore. He takes pride in the fact that the kids involved in the program are very passionate and love what they do.

DeLuccia said that there have been budget cuts as high as $8,000. When asked why he believes the music department should stay alive, he responded with, “Why shouldn’t it stay alive? Music is everywhere. Programs go away, music doesn’t.”

In addition to his musical passions, DeLuccia has a love for the film industry. He finds it difficult to pick a favorite movie since he is interested in a wide range of films. He commented that if things did not lay out perfectly with music the way they did, he would have definitely found a position that involves movie-making. When asked to choose a favorite memory he has gathered from his ten years here, he could not pick one. “Every season is filled with new adventures and creates new favorites every year.” He will never forget his first trip as manager to Disney and he said, “that it wasn’t the best idea to do such an ambitious trip for his first year.” Despite it being hectic, he would not change a thing.

DeLuccia is proud of the changes that have been made. He looks forward to improving each school year. Also, beginning each year with new inspirations and always putting the best foot forward.

“Why shouldn’t it stay alive? Music is everywhere. Programs go away, music doesn’t.”

-Mr. DeLuccia

To the left is a picture of Mr. DeLuccia from when he was born sitting with his father in 1982. This photograph is property of Mr. DeLuccia.

Here is a photo from 2007 when DeLuccia was in the Caballeros at a competition by Jolesch Photography.

This is a picture from Nationals in 1998 at Allentown. This picture is property of Mr. DeLuccia.

Mr. and Mrs. DeLuccia walking down the aisle on their wedding day in 2009. This photograph is property of Mr. DeLuccia.

Walking with his mother down the field on Senior Day at a football game in 1998 taken by Mr. Ariola.

His two adorable children taken by Photo Innovations in 2014.
Get Trump’d America
Rachel Hari ‘16

If you could run a casino, you can run our government! Trump is legitimate and cares about people who feel the system has failed and stacked the deck up against them. No matter how much money they put in the machines they will always end up losing. You can’t run a casino without having a deep emotion towards people like that. Which shows Trump having high moral dilemmas as he counts money received from geriatric Keno players.

Obviously out of the fourteen republican nominees, our best bet is Donald Trump, he’s so modern, considerate and overall just the most adequate candidate for who should fill Obama’s shoes. First, he comes off as quite the family man, he’s supportive of his children and shares a uniquely close bond, when asked if Ivanka would pose as a centerfold he responded, “I don’t think Ivanka would do that, although she does have a very nice figure. I’ve said if Ivanka weren’t my daughter perhaps, I’d be dating her,”
or how he’s a particularly complimentary husband, tabloids salivated when Trump called his wife a “monster” while pregnant. Of course, we all know he meant that in a positive way, like Cookie Monster or...

Trump is also the best nominee due to his wide range of knowledge on how to treat people and respect women. He claims that all the women want him on the Apprentice but I’m sure that has nothing to do with his money and all to do with his golden personality. Or how he called Rosie O’Donnell “a truck driver.” I’m sure he was just giving her career advice. Trucker is far superior to hosting The View. How could you resist a man as compassionate and caring as him?

We should all love Trump for how accepting he is to everyone’s races, nationalities, and religions! As when he said that we are Mexico’s “dumping ground.” "They’re sending people that have lots of problems, and they’re bringing those problems with us. They’re bringing drugs. They’re bringing crime. They’re rapists. And some, I assume, are good people.” And people says he’s ignorant… But after he spoke about how he loves Mexico, their people, and is constantly doing business with them. And ended it with stating, “You have people coming in, and I’m not just saying Mexicans, I’m talking about people that are from all over that are killers and rapists and they’re coming into this country.” He’s giving them job opportunities considering our country’s terrible gun control laws.

Not to forget how he plans to build a wall on the Mexican border, that he wants them to build. Not only is he compassionate but obviously has a very intelligent mindset and high goal values. Creating jobs, creating infrastructure. When asked about the wall he claimed that he’s a very good builder and has built buildings 94 stories, while quickly interrupted by Ramos, he changed it to saying 95 stories, his buildings get taller by him talking about them! Didn’t know he also did it by hand. I’m sure Trump’s planned on how he will have enough bedrock on the border to make a 95 foot wall/ skyscraper work. He’s most likely thought about how geographically incorrect that is and will end up doing what’s best.

All Trump has said and done really proves how he’s a threat to other candidates, he wants to get things done. I’m sure he will have the abilities to force a bunch of people who hate him to build a skyscraper that won’t be able to hold itself up and sway in the wind and then just send them on boats/planes/buses to whoever knows where. I’m sure that’s how real life works.

Donald Trump is the one nominee that’s stuck in the 1920’s and has high moral values, as everyone did back then due to how open minded they are and love people of all different origins.

I’m sure we will all see Trump riding a horse up Pennsylvania Avenue on Inauguration Day, can’t wait!
For “Worst Presidential Plan” the award goes to… well, everyone. While the two candidates that represent the areas everyone really cares about.

For “Most Awkward Introduction” the award goes to Jim Webb! When he started off his introduction, it was rather normal. He talked about himself, his loving wife, and his successful children. He then made quite the long pause before emphasizing that his third daughter is a massage therapist. While I won’t get into why this emphasis was so weird, because this is a PG paper, I will say that he may be giving the Oedipus family a run for their money.

For “Most BAMF Candidate” the award goes to Chris Christie! Chris Christie came to the rescue of the common man and shut down the billionaire battle between Donald Trump and Carly Fiorina. Trump and Fiorina argued about their candidates that represent the areas everyone really cares about.

For “Most Self-Promotion” the award goes to… surprisingly enough, Trump! Fiorina came somehow close to winning, but when your opponent starts off your introductory speech by promoting his own book, “I wrote The Art of the Deal. I say not in a bragadocious way, I’ve made billions and billions of dollars, then you are out of luck in this category. Trump also continued to bring up the fact that he is a billionaire, a businessman, owns a hotel, some towers, a car, and a hat. Basically, he has a lot of things (except a toupee) and is not shy in telling America about it (seriously, do not bring up the toupée).

In lieu of the swimsuit competition, the next award is for “Boldest Fashion Choice”. With the sea of plain black suits, the boldest I could find was Jeb Bush’s choice of a blue tie at a Republican debate. A runner up would be Chris Christie’s Jersey shaped American flag pin. No “Lady Gaga’s” but oh well.

For “Most Uncertain Candidate” the award goes to John Chafee! It was brought up during the Democratic debate that Chafee had gone from a Republican to a Democrat to an Independent and, finally, to a Democrat. While he was explaining that he was, and I’m not making this up, a “piece of granite always being chased” I think I could hear Katy Perry’s “Hot N Cold” in the background.

Ending the ceremony, there will be two awards given out being: they will be, simply put, “Winner” and “Loser”. These awards are to those that most benefited from these debates and those who were negatively affected after them. The “Winner” award goes to… CNN’s ratings! Seeing that these past two debates were both aired on CNN, ratings were low, which translated to thirty-percent of the American people, as well as those watching from the around the world. The “Loser” award goes to all the American Government students out there that had to watch the debates for a grade. Those were six hours of their lives they will NEVER get back.

The presidential election is approaching very quickly. As we all know, the government is controlled by an elite council of elders living in the Appalachian and Rocky Mountains. Of course, this does not keep the crazies from pretending this election really matters. Being from New Jersey, one of the delusional states so we do not know what the public wants to hear to get votes. But that’s crazy talk.

“Carly, listen. You can interrupt everybody else on this stage, you’re not going to interrupt me, OK?” He then put on some black sunglasses, walked off stage with the CSI: Miami theme playing in the background.”

As governor, he has not raised taxes at all. While he didn’t raise any major taxes, he did decrease tax-break programs which caused a raise in taxes. The evidence now points to only one conclusion: Christie’s brain has been altered. Dear readers, you may be wondering, who would have the ability and the motive to do so? Well there just happens to be one person who knows: Chris Christie. As any well-informed American should know, two big presidential candidate debates were held in the past two months; the second Republican debate and the first Democratic debate. For anyone who (rightly) assumed politicians only lie and pander and, therefore, tuned out: these debates actually had many moments of awkwardness and hilarity. While I won’t get into why this is the case, let us just say that O’Reilly hasn’t scriptedit better. I have created my own categories to award these candidates in the areas everyone really cares about.

For “Best Burn” we have a tie between Donald Trump and Rand Paul! The debate started off with Trump slamming his rival right to be on that stage. In his words “He’s number 11; he’s got 1 percent in the polls, and how he got up here, there’s far too many people anyway.” After he delivered his appropriate burn ointment, he talked about drug laws and later justified his reasoning by claiming they could “find out who smoked pot in high school,” a very subtle jab at Jeb Bush.

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This summer was the 3rd hottest summer on record and the students in Foot- ball, Boys Soccer, Girls Soccer, Girls Field Hockey, and Girls Lacrosse could really feel the heat. In the months of July and August the temperature went well over 95 degrees. Along with discomfort, high temperatures bring a multitude of health threats such as heat stroke and heat ex- haustion. These illnesses can be caused by the body’s inability to cope with the heat. The next generation of younger individuals who engage in strenuous physical activity for a prolonged period of time. Performing exercise in a hot environment can cause your body to overheat; if fluids are not adequately replaced, then dehydration can also be a factor in challenging the limits of an athlete’s perfor- mance. It is estimated that more than 9,000 high school athletes are treated for external heat illnesses yearly in New Jersey alone. There is a further increase of heat related illnesses especially for sports like football in which students must practice in padding. "The hardest part of wear- ing the full pads during a practice would have to be spending approximately two hours in the heat with about fifteen pounds of gear on.” - Gianfranco Verdes

Coach Berthold had no trouble naming her assistant coaches. Mrs. Sitti previously worked with her under former head coach, Mr. Deeney. Mrs. Sitti remaining on staff with Berthold was a positive for the program; having familiar faces for the girls allowed for a smooth transition. Mrs. Hill was one of Berthold’s coaches as a high school student. She says, "I look to her as a mentor, Hill is an amaz- ing coach and she eagerly joined the staff!" Coach Berthold has the full sup- port of her players and the staff a Passaic Val- ley. "Experience helped Berthold transition, working with Deeney allowed her to relate well to female athletes," said Ms. Lynch. Ms. Berthold described her tran- sition as comfortable because Mr. Deeney build a foundation of strength on the field which she could incorporate and take in her own philosophies. Cathryn Cole, a midfielder for the Hornets, said, “Ber- thold knows the players’ strengths and weaknesses, where someone not familiar with the program would have to re- evaluate the whole team. Not having to start from scratch allowed for the team to progress into the rhythm of preseason.”

Berthold’s first season as head coach is coming to a close and her Hor- nets hold a record of 2-14. However, the coach is coming to a close and her Hor- nets head coach Mr. Deeney. Mrs. Sitti is worried because all coaches in Passaic Valley receive training and have to do an online course. This ensures that all coach- es can detect symptoms from heat illness- es such as heat stroke and heat exhaust- ion, “Mrs. Lynch, Assistant Principal/ Student Activities, assured the Valley Echo.

Berthold Taking Over
Alexa Fitzgerald ’17

The Hornets closed out their sea- son in DePaul Catholic underneath the brilliant lights and the cold air. Both teams kept the other off the scoreboard until late in the first half, when DePaul took the lead with about eight minutes before halftime. Senior captain Ashley Pabon re- turned from injury for her final game and pumped up her teammates to pressure the DePaul defense before half. Cathryn Cole played a give and go with Alexa Fitzgerald who scored, tying the game at halftime. The Hornets started the second half off just as they ended the first half, pressuring the goal the best they had all season. As the minute ticked off the clock, the DePaul attack started to wear down, forcing the Hornets to keep up the pressure as they advanced their lead. “Coaching on the same side- lines means so much more because PV is where I grew up and now I get to instill in my players that same Horn- net Pride that I experienced and what it means to wear a green and white uniform.” -Coach Berthold

 novice goalies Britt Bove continued to turn back shots. In the end, DePaul would out score the Hornets by three goals in the second half, capping the final score at 4-1. “I am confident that I will have the same success next year,” said Coach Berthold.

Coach Berthold reminded the girls that when key players are lost, oth- ers need to step up and show why they are on the team. By the end of the game, the Hornets rallied behind the strength and encouragement of their injured teammates, netting two goals in the loss.

Ms. Berthold, a longtime assistant coach to the girls’ soccer program, took over as the new head coach this summer in preparation for the Hornets’ fall season. Berthold is no stranger to the fields and classrooms of Passaic Val- ley. She previously played for the Hor- nets in her high school years and is cur- rently an English teacher in the very same classrooms in which she learned. Adding to her incredible jour- ney, Ms. Berthold speaks highly of her new opportunity: “Coaching on the same sidelines means so much more because PV is where I grew up and now I get to instill in my players that same Horn- net Pride that I experienced and what it means to wear a green and white uniform.”

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Ms. Berthold took on league leader Wayne Hills at home. The challenge for the Hornets was to not concede goals to the technically sound team. At the start of the game, the Hor- nets kept the Patriots away from the goal and attacked the backline continuously.

Nearing the end of the first half, Hills be- gan to gain momentum and scored two late goals going into halftime. The girls were executing the defensive plan well, the inten- sity just had to be pushed to the attack. As the Hornets aggressively attacked the Patriots’ goal, they were caught on count- er attacks. The team lost by a score of 7-0.

However, the girls were not discouraged by the loss, because, when the plan changes, there will be lapses in communication and mistakes hap- pen. All a player can do is not let it hap- pen again and play harder than before. Although the girls did not win the game, they accomplished what they set out to do. Coach Berthold noted at the end of the game it had been years since the Hornets scored on the Wayne Hills Patriots.

Later in the season, senior cap- tains Ashley Pabon and Rachel Ward were lost to injury a few weeks apart, ending their high school soccer careers. Days after Ward’s injury, the team was scheduled to play on the road against a comparable West Milford team without their work, pounding reac- tions regardless of the record, and a great group of girls who work as a cohesive unit and a family to make improvements. Two games for the Hornets have come to define the 2015-16 season. Early in the season the Hornets took on league leader Wayne Hills at home. The challenge for the Hornets was to not concede goals to the technically sound team. At the start of the game, the Hor- nets kept the Patriots away from the goal and attacked the backline continuously.
PV Student Athlete Spotlight: Steve Luisa

Robert Cullen '16

Steve Luisa is a 2-year varsity starter. As a junior, Luisa has thrown 3 touchdown passes and rushed for 1. Luisa started his pee wee football career when he was just 5 years old. “I remember the first time I played like it was yesterday,” Luisa reminisced. As a young junior Hornet, Luisa excelled on the field, winning two Super Bowl championships with his Pop Warner team.

Throughout middle school, Luisa was a four sport athlete. Playing a sport for every season. He was an All-Star MVP in baseball. He was a key member of the championship basketball team. Additionally, he was a two-time champion in soccer.

“It is safe to say Luisa is a well-rounded athlete. However, when Steve reached high school, he realized that it would be nearly impossible to continue his careers in all four sports. In his freshman year, he cut his playing time down to three sports: Football, Basketball, and Lacrosse. As a newbie to the game of lacrosse, Luisa picked up the game with tremendous speed. The fact that Luisa was able to take to lacrosse so easily is rather remarkable. Lacrosse is not a core four sport (football, basketball, baseball, hockey); therefor, its rules are not well known to average Americans. Additionally, the physicality and finesse of the game separates it drastically from the previous sports Luisa played.

Luisa gives much of the credit to his brother, Charlie. “My brother was the one who introduced me to the game of Lacrosse, I’ve always tried to keep up with him growing up, and because he was graduating, I tried playing one last season alongside my brother.”

“Each of us still go into practice every day learning new stuff,” says Luisa. “The atmosphere in the locker room is still as exciting as it was from day 1.”

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Photo Credit: PassaicValley Athletics.com

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Photo Caption: Luisa throws a ball to his receiver, Shaun Benford.