



Tiger Tales



Seniors Win Spirit Week for Fifth Year in a Row



Seniors Karen Roca and Ben Zlatkin thank the student body at the PPHS pep rally on Friday, November 3rd, after being named Homecoming Queen and King, respectively. The dance team (pictured right) electrified those in attendance at the half-hour long pep rally. Photo courtesy of Ethan Cao.

by Geun Tae Kim and Rickey Zheng

Spirit week was underway and the seniors attempted to make history and pull off a 5-peat in their last year as spirit week winners.

Spirit Week has always been a traditional way of leading up to homecoming. This year's Spirit Week lineup included Pajama Day

on Monday, Halloween colors (and senior costumes) on Tuesday, pink for breast cancer on Wednesday, Wacky Tacky day on Thursday, and Tiger Pride on Friday. The theme days were selected with input from the senior members of the Leadership Organization.

Mr. Bott worked diligently to organize events leading up to Fri-

day's Pep Rally. He reflected that "Spirit Week is a great tradition to have. The only negative is that it's now pushed back to November."

Since their eighth grade year, the Class of 2018 has won Spirit Week each year. A win this year secured their fifth consecutive victory.

Solid shows of school spirit for all of these years is evidence that the current senior class had harnessed the essence of school spirit even before they were already

high school students, and this year was no different. "There is more responsibility for the seniors to teach the younger grades about spirit week," Mr. Bott commented. "Traditions are what make us."

"It's tradition that we all get together in this one week. I mean, we always get together. We try to cooperate with school activities and be in the Pal Pk spirit," commented blue-and-white clad senior Andrea De La Cruz.

As of late Friday, the seniors

were ahead in the Spirit Week tally with overwhelming wins on Pajama Day and Spirit Day, which signaled the coveted 5-peat.

Spirit week concluded with the Fall Sports Pep Rally during seventh period on Friday, at which the 2018 Homecoming King and Queen-- Benjamin Zlatkin and Karen Roca-- were announced. This was followed by the formal announcement that the Seniors were, in fact, 5-peat champs-- an unprecedented feat.

7th/8th Graders Adjust to High School

by Gianfelipe Marsano

The 7th and 8th graders are new to the high school, but the concept of housing middle school grades at the high school isn't a new one. When the high school was first built back in 1969, it included 7th through 12th graders. In the mid 1970s, the 7th and 8th graders were moved to Lindbergh.

A few decades later, 8th grade was switched back to the high school. Just last year, in 2016, 7th grade was moved back to the high school building as well.

For the 7th graders, this is a new experience. Here at PPHS, they have more freedom, responsibility, and a variety of classes and clubs. Lindbergh, while good with certain educational classes, simply had the same classroom all day not much of a variety of an educational experience.

However, it was a big transition. 7th grader Tori Faro puts it in simpler words-- "It was a little hard, but I adjusted to it." 7th grader Melanie Israel also said the same thing. "I like it better than Lindbergh. At first it was hard, but then it became easier." Some students were scared. Others, such as 7th grader Ethan Chen, were more prepared for the first day. "I was optimistic," stated Ethan.

Many students are content with the amount of freedom they get at the High School compared with Lindbergh. Students can roam the hallways more freely and are allowed to have their phones. 7th grader Antonio Gonzales stated that the major difference between Lindbergh and the High School is "more freedom."

Another major thing is that 7th graders love the lunch much better than the one at Lindbergh. 7th grader Louae Ismail states, "It's better to eat Lunch than to fail." Anthony Saric is also content with being in the high school, despite being the youngest, stating, "Better food and more freedom. It was hard at first, but I soon adjusted."

Since the first day, many 7th graders have adjusted to the new environment and are ready to take on the challenge. 7th grader Kai Lewis states that so far for him, "It's been pretty good, but sometimes rough."

Both Mr. Donohue and Mr. Bott believe that having the Middle Schoolers with the High School students is a great learning experience and the Middle Schoolers definitely benefit from the experience and variety.

Chromebooks Come to PPHS, but with Some Problems

by Kianna Cho, Melanie Israel, Gia H. Lee, Emally Quezada

Chromebooks have been seen and used in Lindbergh by the sixth graders, but are now widely available for the first time at PPHS for the seventh graders.

According to Mr. Bott, the goal of investing in Chromebooks is to have a lot of them. He wants to spread the use of these devices to aid in different tasks such as PARCC, "that usually takes eight days to accomplish but as of late, thanks to Chromebooks, has been reduced to four days."

Ideas and viewpoints from both teachers and students vary. Most agree that the technology is great, when it works.

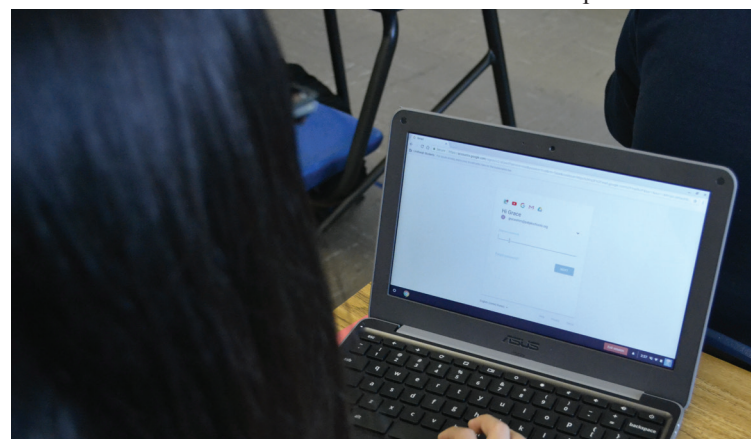
Mrs. Del Rio, a seventh grade social studies and geography teacher is one of the teachers who employs Chromebooks regularly in class. "The chromebook initiative is to make the students more independent as learners. On the days that they work it's great. They help the students learn quicker and I don't have to stand up there [the front of her classroom] and teach. On the days that they don't work it's not good because the stuff I had planned to do isn't going to work and I have to

figure out another way to do that activity."

Another teacher who uses the tech in class is Ms. Lewis, a student teacher and aid to Mrs. Conoscenti. As for her opinion about Chromebooks, she has stated: "I like them a lot, I think they really create a good opportunity for everyone to work on the same level." She appreciates the fact that all kids get to use these devices "even without phones." The downside to this though, is that: "the login screens take a very long time to load." It puts a halt to the period and draws away students' attention from the lessons that she and Mrs. Cono-

scenti scheduled to teach. However, when asked if she preferred Chromebooks or Macbooks, she has chosen Chromebooks.

Even students can give you details about this. Leah Kelley and Natalie Pena weighed in on their experiences. Leah reflected, "I remember one time in Social Studies, some students couldn't have the chromebooks for the entire period since they were so slow. They missed out on the entire lesson." Natalie added, "It usually takes a few minutes for me, and if that time passed then it doesn't work at all. [This] happens almost everyday to at least one or more computers."



Chromebooks give students a learning boost, but are sometimes unreliable. Photo courtesy of Ethan Cao.

Why we need to know about "Contemporary Issues"

by Michael Brestin

As residents of Palisades Park, we exist as a part of a very diversified community. As younger kids, and still to this day, we sit together side by side with friends of every country, race, gender, culture, and religion with not a moment of hesitation.

Our town, Palisades Park, is proof that diversity can be a functional element of a unified community. So why is this different in other places? Why is the rest of our country so engulfed in a thick fog of racism and hatred? Why has the average hate crime rate in our country risen by over 20% between 2015 and 2016? This is a fact that has been proven by all sources on every level of the political spectrum - from Fox news, to NBC, to the New York Times. It seems as though the "change for the better" that our nation has undergone over the past several

decades has simply been disregarded.

With all of this occurring over the course of a year, you may have lost interest in politics or in the many often-debated topics. You may never have followed them at all. It is for that very reason that I encourage you to stay involved and informed about the issues that we face as Americans, because the actions taken now can greatly affect our lives in the future.

In fact, our school provides a class that does just that. Contemporary Issues-- a history elective offered to grades 9-12-- informs students about the many hurdles that not only the United States faces, but also the entire international community, and how we, as the future generation, can apply the same sense of acceptance, tolerance, and unity that is present in Palisades Park to the countless

scenarios around the world.

Junior Dimitri Gonzalez is currently taking the elective and when asked how this class has affected his perspective on today's issues, he commented, "Learning about what's going on in our own country and other countries, I feel pretty bad and start to think about what we can do to try to stop it all."

Contemporary Issues in Literature is yet another elective class in which students can explore and respond to social issues such as bullying, classism, and racism as they are depicted in novels, poetry, essays, and the media. She explained why it is so paramount be well informed about these topics: "I feel like we're picking up where things left off in the 60's and 70's- questioning the roles of race, gender, social status. These issues are something that students today can have an impact on, but they need to be informed and know about the issues."

More than ever before, high school students must engage with and question the world around them, and seek to have a positive impact on society. These classes are a great starting point, but students should also explore these issues on their own.

Gun Control It's Time for Change

by Clara Kim

On October 1, 2017, a gunman opened fire on a crowd enjoying a concert in Las Vegas, killing 59 people and leaving more than 500 injured. The gun control debate is once again brought up due to this tragic incident.

There are many people who want to allow the possession of guns in the U.S. to protect the Second Amendment of the Constitution. Others believe stricter gun laws should be implemented and firmly enforced. Although the Constitution is very important to our country's history and foundation of beliefs, rights, and laws, people need to realize that it was almost created two-and-a-half centuries ago, when the slave trade was in effect and women barely retained any rights. Society and the country has changed over the past centuries. Guns do not serve the same purpose they used to many years ago.

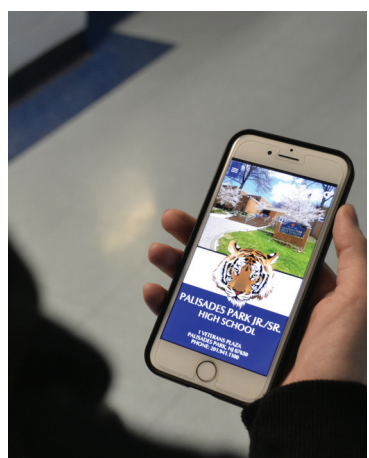
Although guns may never be completely banned in the U.S., rigorous requirements to purchase these weapons should supplant the current gun control laws because they have proved to be ineffective.

Many perpetrators in shootings were licensed to own guns but it still led to deaths of many innocent people, including children. Additionally, it is very easy to acquire a gun in the United States and there have been experiments where kids young as thirteen years old have been sent to gun shows and were able to purchase these dangerous weapons.

In stark contrast to the availability of weapons that can kill, consider some other things that have been banned in this country. Peculiarly, KinderEggs and other candies with toys inside have been banned in this country since 1938. It is preposterous to

for the club meeting, or not have enough time to warn their parents that they will be dismissed at a later time, forcing their parents to either go back home, or wait for fifteen to thirty minutes, which could waste a large amount of the

parent or guardian's time. Also, the school doesn't really seem to announce anything on the loudspeaker because they assume that the students will automatically have the app on their phone. Students could also forget about an important event and since they are not reminded by the school announcements in the morning, they are very likely to not attend it.



Ultimately, while the app is cutting edge, it is not the perfect solution for informing students of upcoming events.

Another problem that younger students such as the 7th graders face is that many of them get picked up by their parents. But because teachers are so reliant on the school app, most of the time they don't even tell us that there is an upcoming event, even if it is their own club meeting. Therefore, when students check their phones at the end of the day to see if there are any updates, they might see that there is a club meeting on that day, which could cause them to either be late

Ask Vicky: Balancing Work and Play

Dear Vicky,

There are so many demands in high school. How do I balance extracurriculars and academics?

Sincerely,

Confused Athlete

Dear Confused Athlete,

Many students, including myself, are involved in various after-school activities, such as clubs, sports, volunteering-- even jobs. Almost every student has this same question. This is something that I have, and still continue to struggle with, and it's completely normal to feel a bit overwhelmed because of it! School is very stressful on its own, with trying to keep up with a heavy workload and maintaining good grades. When under so much pressure, it sometimes seems



Victoria Miskulin "Ask Vicky"

impossible to balance a club or sport. Lucky for you, you've come to the right place! I'll give you my tips and tricks to succeed academically and still participate in extracurriculars.

Time management. A common problem for almost every student is not being able to manage time wisely. When you have activities right after school and come home tired, the last thing you want to do is homework.

My tip is to access all of your activities and homework assignments and plan them out accordingly. By doing this, you're more prone to actually accomplishing your tasks. Especially after a long meeting or practice, your time is precious. You want to be able to get your homework done, eat, shower, and have some time to relax.

Take advantage of the weekend! While many people like to relax during the weekend (which is not a bad thing), it can also be used to finish longer assignments or homework in general. Two full days of no school or extracurriculars gives you enough time to work on assignments, which means you might not have to worry about those assignments during the week. This should free up space and create more time to relax.

Academics come first. Any advisor, coach, or manager knows that school comes first. It may not seem like it, but high school is so important, because you are learning valuable information. If you do not do well in high school, you have a small chance of going to a good college. So don't be afraid to talk to your advisor/coach/manager, etc. about taking time off or leaving meetings or practices early. There is no shame in valuing your education more than an after school activity. If the adult does not understand, why you would need time off, don't worry! You are the only one whose decisions impact whether you will fall behind or not.

A healthy balance between extracurriculars and academics is very important. It teaches responsibility, time management, and teamwork. However, you must find that healthy balance! Without it, you will fall behind, or worse, experience stress or anxiety that could be prevented. Don't forget that high school prepares students for college; using these tips now can also help you succeed in college!

If you have a question for Vicky, email us at tigertalespphs@gmail.com, or stop by room 110 or 212!

PPHS Too Reliant on New App

by Ellen Kang

The PPHS app was created to post school information, such as club meetings and other school news that would benefit the students. But as the school year goes on, this app seems to have become more harmful to the students than helpful. As a 7th grader, I believe that this app is, of course, very useful at times. But the reason I believe it is not beneficial is because not checking this app-- even just once-- can cause a student to miss an important meeting that they were unaware of, or even miss an essential school event. And although may seem unlikely, some students may not even have a phone, and therefore cannot check the app regularly. This can also be a problem for students in this school.

Another problem that younger students such as the 7th graders face is that many of them get picked up by their parents. But because teachers are so reliant on the school app, most of the time they don't even tell us that there is an upcoming event, even if it is their own club meeting. Therefore, when students check their phones at the end of the day to see if there are any updates, they might see that there is a club meeting on that day, which could cause them to either be late

parent or guardian's time.

Also, the school doesn't really seem to announce anything on the loudspeaker because they assume that the students will automatically have the app on their phone. Students could also forget about an important event and since they are not reminded by the school announcements in the morning, they are very likely to not attend it.

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Tiger Tales Staff

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think that kids are not allowed to enjoy a chocolate with a toy, but are given guns that are capable of taking lives. mented extremely severe and rigid registration requirements. We need to let go of our conservative views and realize that un-

SHOOTING RAMPAGE AT VIRGINIA TECH Gunman Kills 32 at Virginia Tech In Deadliest Shooting in U.S. History

Questions about after gunman slays 32 in Virginia dorm, classrooms

Thousands unite at prayer vigil Changing the conversation: How to break the cycle of gun reform failure

Can the US break its cycle of gun control failure?

senseless rampage AGAIN

Mass shootings have become seemingly commonplace, as U.S. politicians struggle to search for solutions.

Some may argue that allowing guns to be illegal will not be effective, but Australia has not had a mass shooting since 1996 after establishing the National Firearms Agreement which banned many types of guns and imple-

Four New Teachers Join Staff at Pal Park High School



Ms. Tina Scheitrum
Health/Driver Ed./Psych

Ms. Scheitrum is the Health, Driver's Ed, and Psychology teacher, as well as the dance team assistant coach. Prior to PPHS, she taught at the Wyckoff YMCA. She's been teaching for about 8 years, and this is her first year teaching at a public school. She has also taught dance for about 5 years and enjoys all styles of dance, but her favorites are salsa and modern dance. Ms. Scheitrum grew up in Pennsylvania and she received her undergraduate degree from Penn State in psychology with a minor in dance. When she started to pursue her masters in forensic psychology, she decided, through volunteer work, that it just wasn't the right path for her. She decided to pursue a career in teaching health and psychology. Ms. Scheitrum says "I'm excited to be teaching and I hope to bring the importance of health to the students of PPHS". It has been a great start to the year for Ms. Scheitrum; she likes all the students and thinks they are really polite. The faculty has been wonderful to her and have been super welcoming.



Ms. Pratima Roy
Science

Ms. Roy is a highly qualified science teacher that has about 20 years of experience teaching internationally and in the United States. Ms. Roy is a huge fan of science and believes science is very important because it is the age of technology. Ms. Roy will also focus on conflict resolution and peer mediation for her classes. Education is Ms. Roy's passion, and she believes everyone should be educated so everyone in the world lives peacefully. Medical Science happens to be her favorite branch of science and she believes it is important for the world because scientists continue to make scientific breakthroughs in the medical world that help people.

Outside of school, she enjoys watching tv shows like "The Last Man Standing" and "Einstein" as well as reading great works of philosophy. Ms. Roy's advice for the PPHS students is "Be curious and learn as much as you can but don't forget to have fun."



Ms. Rebecca Russo
Social Studies

Ms. Russo is a new teacher in the History department and she's totally obsessed with her dog, so much so that she includes her dog in her PowerPoint presentations. She's into the Harry Potter series and the Hunger Games series; she even taught a camp called "A Summer at Hogwarts." She hails from New Brunswick and attended Rider University. She believes history and social studies helps students to understand the world that we live in.

Ms. Russo likes PPHS a lot and says the faculty has been really helpful and the students have been helpful in helping her adjust to her first weeks here. Ms. Russo's advice for the students is "Find something you really love and enjoy doing so that it is easier to work towards what you love." She has immediately gotten involved with the school community by volunteering to become the freshman class advisor.



Ms. Michelle Rengifo
ESL

Lastly, the ESL department welcomed Ms. Rengifo, a first-year teacher. Ms. Rengifo grew up locally and graduated from Bogota High School. At first, she wanted to be an English teacher but was always interested in other languages and cultures. She graduated with a BA in Linguistics from Rutgers University with a minor in French and Korean. Ms. Rengifo currently attends graduate school at Montclair State University for her MA in applied Linguistics.

Ms. Rengifo believes that ESL is important because it helps ELLs adapt to an environment where the main language is English, as well as American culture, because language goes hand-in-hand with culture.

Ms. Rengifo is a big fan of films: foreign films, black and white, musicals, horror, and more. She believes films open doors to new perspectives and they can also be seen as a reflection of modern culture.

Students Granted Unique Opportunities

Summer is the Time for Exploring New Cultures and College Life

Exploring Italy and Korea

Staff Article

With school in full swing for months, summer seems to be a distant memory, yet several PPHS students have still not forgotten weeks of summer spent abroad.

Seniors Cielo Rivera, Carolyn Lee, and Lauren Cheng expanded their horizons and explored the culture and lifestyles of Italy and Korea this past summer.

Lauren Cheng was awarded a two-week, all-expenses paid cultural immersion trip to Incheon, Korea by the Korean Consulate. "I think I was on the flight to Korea when it hit me that I was traveling to a whole different country and I became homesick. As soon as I got there, though, I forgot all about it," she reflected.

Over the course of two weeks, Lauren spent time on campus, taking Korean classes, attending lectures, and practicing Samul-nori (Korean traditional drums) and taekwondo. There were also excursions that included a visit to Gyeongbokgung (a Korean traditional village), historical museums, a theme park, ferry cruise, and shopping.

Lauren added, "It was an overall incredible experience; meeting new people and learning to be independent, such as keeping up with the tight schedule, having our own dorm rooms, and doing our own laundry."

Three Italian students were also given the opportunity to immerse themselves in the language and culture of Italy.

Graduating senior Tiffany Lazam had the opportunity to live in Italy for six weeks. Tiffany studied at the American University in Rome, and earned college credits during her six-week, all expenses paid trip. She was selected by EDUITALIA as an AP scholarship recipient.

Current seniors Cielo Rivera and Carolyn Lee also toured the country during a two-week trip to the region of Umbria. They were

awarded this trip by the Italian American Committee on Education (IACE) based on a video they submitted in Italian on the Italian Cinema and the Italian language use in popular movies. During the two weeks, they visited the city of Deruta, where they visited a ceramics factory and made their own piece, stayed in the city of Narni, which was the setting for the movie Narnia, and spent a day in Rome.

Summertime Learning

by Jasleen Nanda

When summer finally comes, the first thing that comes to mind is sleep, the beach, and hanging out with friends. It's a time to get away from school and homework and all the stress. But what a lot of high school students may not know is that there are a lot of opportunities to expand their horizons and further their education in a way that is both informative and fun.

A variety of colleges offer different summer programs that are open to all students---with a wide array of GPA's (meaning students won't necessarily need straight A's to get into these programs). A lot of them are offered on a first-come-first-served basis, meaning if interested and students are proactive and apply in a timely manner, they may just get in.

Students from PPHS have taken advantage of these programs include senior Joanna Jo, who stayed at Princeton over the summer, and junior Michael Brestin, who went to Harvard.

Michael Brestin entered a program that was offered on a first come first served basis. "The summer program gave me the full college experience," he commented. In this program--where students stayed on the Harvard campus for two weeks in undergraduate dorms, "you were completely on your own, you had a curfew, and created your own schedule so you are always on time". He said

there was a good amount of work involved but in the end, he made a lot of friends, and due to his performance in class, he received a recommendation from a Harvard professor that he will be able to use when applying to college.

Other programs can be a bit more rigorous because recommendations, an essay, and an entrance test are required. An example of this would be at Columbia University in a program called the Math and Science Honors Program. In this program, you don't stay at the campus overnight; they are day classes which can be helpful for people who don't have the time to stay at a campus all summer.

Ivy League schools aren't the only options for summer enrichment. For example, Rutgers holds summer session programs for things such as leadership, engineering, and STEM. A spokesperson for Rutgers states, "these programs aren't just beneficial through an educational stance, they are also a lot of fun, and you make a lot of friends."

Programs can be costly. For example, the price of one two-week program was \$5,000-- but, there are a lot of scholarship and financial aid programs so it is easy to be a part one of these summer programs without it creating a hole in one's wallet.

There are so many reasons to join college summer programs--these opportunities are great to add onto college applications, new relationships can be forged, and there are countless ways to grow as a student. Though sometimes the processes of applying to these programs can seem tedious, "It's a great experience that I (Michael Brestin) wouldn't trade for anything".

"My favorite part of the experience was meeting new people from all over the world. These are people I otherwise would not have had the opportunity to meet," remarked Joanna Jo.

Pencils of Promise

by Emily Kim

Every child deserves to receive a quality education regardless of hardships they may be experiencing. At the Palisades Park Jr. Sr. High School, students are given countless opportunities to follow their dreams. Now, students also have the chance to help other children pursue theirs.

This year, junior Hanna Kim initiated a new club that would benefit not only our school, but also less fortunate children seeking a valuable education. Mrs. Youmshakian added, "Hanna Kim had wanted to bring the group to our school. She was looking for a faculty advisor and I thought it was certainly a worthy cause."

Pencils of Promise, also known as PoP, is a non-profit organization that builds schools and increases educational opportunities in developing countries. Hanna has chosen to help fundraise for children in Laos. Together, the members of this club have the opportunity to make a lasting difference in the lives of children in third-world countries.

In only nine years, Pencils of Promise has built more than four hundred schools and serves over 35,000 students all around the world. Twenty-five dollars creates educational opportunities for a Pencils of Promise student, which shows that every donation really contributes towards a rewarding cause.

Since this club has recently made its debut at PPHS, the advisor, Mrs. Youmshakian, and the rest of the members are always extremely thankful to receive donations.

They would also like to welcome any other high school students to join the club and support children in their journey towards a higher level of education.

All proceeds from the donations will go toward PoP's educational programs, so this organization encourages anyone who is interested in making a significant difference to join Pencils of Promise at the Palisades Park High School.



Seniors Cielo Rivera and Carolyn Lee (back row, left), with other participants, visiting the iconic Colosseum in Rome.



Palisades Park Tiger Sports



Boys' and Girls' Varsity Soccer Earn State Bids



Coach Zegarra helped lead the Boys' Soccer Team to their second straight berth in the NJSIAA State Playoffs.

by Alexa Stark, Ivan Kuburovic & Ivan Yi

Both the boy's and girl's varsity soccer teams earned bids in the varsity state tournaments.

The girl's game was played on Monday, October 30th in Roxbury, NJ. The boys played on Halloween night in Dayton, NJ. Both teams had relatively successful seasons.

The boy's team went 5-13- 1 this season with big wins over

Emerson (where Palisades Park defeated Emerson for the first time in 8 years.) Junior Ivan Kuburovic, had nothing but good things to say. "The team had a great season. While working together as a team, we ended up as a family."

Marvin Lopez, Kevin Guglielmo, Yeison Puluc-Ruiz were the seniors who led the team in their final year.

Coach Zegarra commented by



Lesley Quirora is one of many players on the junior varsity team looking to help out the varsity team next season.

saying "Unfortunately due to injuries and players having to work, we only had a full squad during three games throughout the whole season. This did give an opportunity to the younger students to play and I hope to see them return next year."

The boys lost their state tournament game, after two starting players were injured.

Junior Nicolette Costanzo was the only representative from Pal-

isades Park on the Varsity Lady Lion's soccer Team. The team's record at the close of the season was 8-8-1. "The season was good. In certain aspects, we did better than last year. For example, this year was the first year that the Lady Lions scored in any state game, ever."

Both teams will see a number of returning underclassmen contributing to varsity efforts next year.

Boys' and Girls' Runners Improve

by Jasleen Nanda

As the 2017 Cross Country season wrapped up, there was much to be happy about. All of the team members took great leaps in improvement, and have all had a successful season.

This was the team's rebuilding year, and even so, team members earned all-league honorable mention honors and many rookie runners earned their Varsity letters. Boys co-captain, Luis Soto, managed to secure a spot for himself in BMOC after getting a personal record in the qualifying meet, and all members of the team managed to PR at one point in the season.

Mr. Ring and Mr. Hutchinson

Girls' Tennis Team Hones Their Skills

by Ellen Bang

With their hard work and dedication, the Girls' Tennis team improved drastically from last year.

All of the athletes practiced constantly to strengthen their skills, which allowed them to win more matches than last year. With the help and support of Coach Westcott and Coach Aufiero during the summer and season, the girls were able to learn many new techniques such as slices and better serves.

Ashley Park, a sophomore on the JV team, said, "Although it was stressful, it was fun, but it felt very short. The JV girls will work even harder to be able to make it to Varsity."

Coach Westcott said that he "loved it, because the team is such a great group of girls, and they came together as a team to win 6 matches. Plus, we only lose one player [to graduation], which makes us very strong contenders to win every match next year."

Overall, the girls had an impressive fall campaign, making it to the state tournament, before bowing out in a hard fought match at Cedar Grove, 3-2, this past October. The team says goodbye to its lone graduating senior, Ruiyan Jin.

With juniors stepping into senior roles next year, the team looks to play with more experience. With their progress this year and continuing to work hard, the girls look to be able to top this year's performance.

are happy with the season and are sure the team will be even more prosperous next season. Mr. Ring states, "We had more highs than lows, and in the end, the efforts to run better did not go unnoticed by Coach Hutchinson and me." Hopefully, with hard work and dedication the team will do even better in the 2018 season.

Volleyball Team Shows Resiliency

by Christine Gim

The Girls' Volleyball team spent the season improving upon their skills, and perhaps most importantly, bonding as a team.

A large senior core led the team, including captains Lani Watt, Marisa Sforza, and Emily Kim. Karen Roca, Reyna Soto and Yera Brache were other senior contributors. The three captains, as well as numerous underclassmen, were among the stronger players when the team fell into a good rhythm during games.

As underclassmen, sophomore Ariadnalie Torres and junior Rachel Yoo were integral parts of the varsity and J.V. teams. "They have definitely proven this year that they can be trusted to lead the team in coming years," commented Coach Rovetto.

Despite a winless season, Coach Rovetto was pleased with how the team performed when they played together. She was also happy with the emergence of a strong sophomore group. "Linda Calise, Ashley Gonzalez, Victoria Miskulin, and Hannah Zhang, along with Ariadnalie re-



Senior captains, Lani Watt, Emily Kim, and sophomore Hannah Zhang anticipate a serve during a match.

ally show a great hope for the future of this team."

Off the court, the team worked to develop chemistry with both team bonding activities and the third annual Puruses with Purpose effort, for which players volunteered time outside of practice and game time to collect and organize donated purses and personal toiletries which will be donated just before Christmas.

Young Football Team Gains Valuable Experience

by Jeffrey Kuhl

The Tigers underwent a "rebuilding" year. Despite being 0-9, the team has taken big steps since the beginning of the season as the freshman and sophomores got more playing time in varsity games and gained much needed experience heading into the 2018 season.

First year Palisades Park/Leonia head football coach Joe Mattessich stated "The Tigers struggled through the season but many young players gained experience through their varsity play". He believes the future looks bright for the program as long as the players give a full commitment and show up to all games and practices.

Freshman players Gael Alvarez and Stephano Hadoulis who stepped up toward the end of the year as some starters were injured stated, "The playing time was great as it helped us develop our game, learn the new systems, and bond together as a team".

The Tigers are going to have a new quarterback come next season as senior John Weber is set to graduate following the 2017-18 school year. The team can turn to its JV quarterback Leo Driottez or go with another option under center.

Starting varsity center Julio Mancilla stated "John never gives

up and I trust him and he trusts me". He also stated that although losing John he is excited to have a new QB with a running style for his senior year.

The Tigers are looking forward to competing in 2018 and are excited to move forward together as a team, as they have many returning players for next fall.



The youthful football squad hopes to build upon this year for a successful 2018 campaign. Photo courtesy of Ethan Cao.

Upcoming Winter Sports Schedule

Monday, December 18th

Bowling, @ Parkway Lanes, vs. Bogota, 4 PM

Tuesday, December 19th

Bowling, @ Parkway Lanes, vs. Leonia, 4 PM
Boys' Basketball, vs. Midland Park, 7 PM
Girls' Basketball, @ Midland Park, 5:30 PM
Winter Track, @ FDU, 4:30 PM

Wednesday, December 20th

Co-Ed Swimming, @Garfield, 4:15P M
Wrestling, @Emerson, 7 PM

Thursday, December 21st

Boys' Basketball, @Hawthorne Christian, 7 PM
Girls' Basketball, vs. Hawthorne Christian, 4 PM