



Tiger Tales



PPHS Band and Chorus Students Garner All-County Recognition

Bergen County Band

by Juan Marin

The desire to excel in music has led Aaron Yoon to be selected to the All-County Bergen Band. Aaron, who plays the trombone, is honored to receive such an accolade. The audition requirements to join the Bergen County Band are very strict. This includes memorizing a specific amount of Diatonic and Chromatic scales for each instrumental audition.

Aaron has a deep passion for learning and playing music. He believes there is always more to learn, and it is important when you want to do better, and, as always, the hard work is crucial.

Mr. Arrabito, Aaron's band teacher, calls Aaron "the best kind of musician you can get." Mr. Arrabito is very proud of Aaron and he sees himself in Aaron, since he always wants to improve and achieve new limits in music.

Only a select few from the entire county earn this distinction,

Palisades Park High School is very proud of having an outstanding student represent the school in the Bergen County Band.

Bergen County Chorus Staff Article

Senior Jenna Bober describes the auditioning process for Bergen County Chorus as an extremely scary experience. "You have two judges, and they turn their back to you, and have you sing these songs. I didn't think I would make it. It was my first time trying out," remarked Bober.

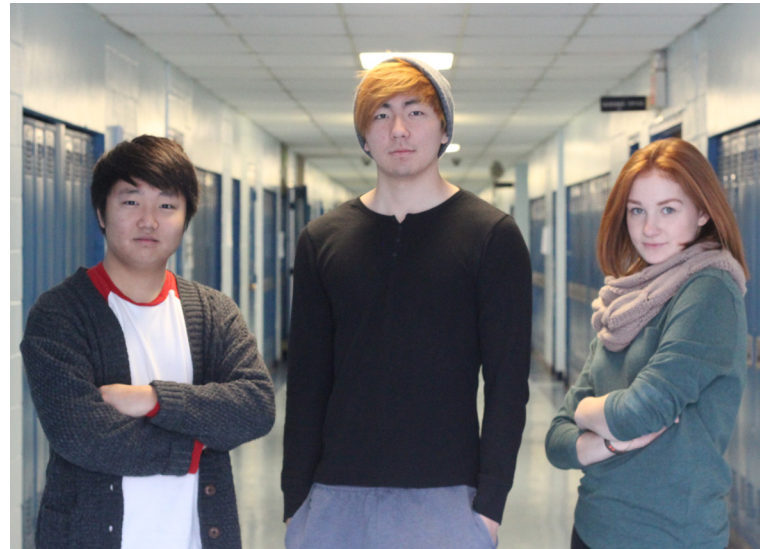
Bober and fellow senior Woo Soo Kim were both named to the county chorus, after auditioning this past fall. The duo spent a week rehearsing with other student chorale members from around the county, before performing to a packed house at Paramus High School in January.

While this was Jenna's first time singing with the group, Woo

Soo is a seasoned veteran. This is his third straight year being a member of this prestigious group. He says he had no intention of ever auditioning, but his chorus teacher, Mr. Westcott, suggested that Woo Soo give it a try back in tenth grade.

Chorus teacher, Mr. Westcott said, "You have to have a good work ethic, and be a strong performer. It takes practice and natural ability. Then you take those two and you work hard at it."

The duo of Bober and Kim both agreed that performing with the chorus was a great experience, and Bober noted that, "Everyone was so amazing. I'm really glad I had this opportunity."



Pictured left to right, All-County Bergen Band and Chorus members, Aaron Yoon (band), WooSoo Kim (chorus), and Jenna Bober (chorus). Photo courtesy of Alexander Han.

Students Spend Summer Exploring Italy

by Michael Brestin

Looking back to the first day of school this year, many students' conversations probably fell along the lines of what state we traveled to, which family members we saw, or which amusement park we most enjoyed. But for Jenna Bober and Jennifer You, their stories are a bit out of the ordinary.

It started with a simple Italian 1 assignment. Jenna and Jennifer had to create an iMovie presentation about the small Italian village of Narni. Their presentation consisted of pictures of the ancient city and information about its history and significance. The project was then submitted to The Italian American Committee on Education (I.A.C.E.). Thousands of projects are submitted from contestants within the tri-state area. Only twenty students are selected to participate in the scholarship trip. Jenna and Jennifer were two of those twenty selected.

When they first arrived in Italy, the group was taken to Milan,



a very popular and major city. For the two days that they were in the city, they attended the Universal Exposition, better known as the "World's Fair" here in the United States. At this year's "Milan's Expo," people from around the world came with their innovative concepts and ideas as to how to feed the growing human population of nine billion, without destroying the planet during the process.

Although the group attended the fair for two whole days, it felt as though they had not even come

close to getting the full scoop on this international convention.

After experiencing life in "the big city," the group made their way to Narni, which became their home for two weeks.

Jenna described this trip as one of the most special times in her life. Traveling overseas with teenagers she never met before was very different from her typical family vacations. Staying in the small village was truly "the icing on the cake," or, since we are talking about Italy, "the cheese on the pizza."

One of the biggest highlights the trip was the music festival that was held at the town's center. Jenna, a student who greatly appreciates the arts, and is known for her photography and involvement in dramatic arts, found the music festival to be breathtaking. The musicians who performed came from around the world to play classical music in celebration of music's beauty.

In addition to experiencing small town Italian culture, Jenna and Jennifer also developed new friendships, many of which they have remained in contact with.

When asked how this scholarship trip to Italy has impacted on her interest in the Italian culture, Jenna explained that visiting Italy allowed her to realize how much she enjoyed the language, the traditions, and customs that Italy has to offer. She is anxious to return to Italy, and is more confident than ever that she will be able to carry on conversations and continue to explore the country upon completion of AP Italian.

Class Donates Pillow Cases



Students from the clothing class show off their pillowcases ready to be donated. Photo courtesy of Juan Marin.

by Juan Marin

Students from the Clothing I class led by Ms. Planker made pillowcases using their sewing expertise and donated them to Conkerr Cancer Case for Smiles, one of the few volunteer organizations solely dedicated to helping sick children cope with the stress of life changing illness and injuries. This organization has a mission to provide sick children with pillowcases to get a smile from them which would be an emotional boost to remind them

they are not defined by their illnesses.

"It is really tough to be a kid and be sick," said Ms. Planker

Once Ms. Planker received information from her sister's contacts about this organization she told her students to manufacture pillowcases very carefully, and following instructions. The majority of the students that made pillowcases were satisfied to be part of the battle against cancer that sadly effects society's most appreciated treasure: the children.

New Sci-Fi Class Inspires Creativity

by Mary Park

There's a new option for an English elective - a half year course called Science Fiction. With talks of wizards and failed Utopian societies, the class is never boring.

Sci-Fi Teacher Mrs.LaPira states, "Science Fiction and Fantasy allows us to explore and stretch the boundaries of what it means to be "human". If the plight of a self-aware robot or an introspective dragon can move readers to tears, how then can we ignore humanity as it exists in real life?"

Science fiction allows us to embrace "humanity" in nonhuman form, which hopefully, creates a greater acceptance of the myriad forms that humanity on Earth can take." It is basically a class where one's inner nerd can happily discuss their favorite classical sci-fi books, or the upcoming Star Wars movie.

"I felt that there was a desire by the students to read sci-fi and I wanted to create something to tap the interest. If students are reading something, I wanted to give them a place in school to use that



Students from the Advanced Placement Art and Photojournalism classes visited the Museum of Modern Art this past January. Photojournalism teacher, Mrs. Perez said, "It's very important for students to experience culture, art, photography, and expression. MOMA is the perfect place to find that." Photo courtesy of Alex Han.

interest." True to her word, the class is currently in the process of reading The Hobbit, and also viewing the movie to get a visual idea of it.

With aims to open the minds of her students, Mrs.LaPira stat-

ed, "the class will be doing more independent creative writing after Lord of the Rings." in the future. "As a first year class it's going really well, right now we're reading the Hobbit," 12th grader Natasha Rodriguez stated.

Think Before You Speak

by Maria Giraldo

Everyone has a different perspective on what bullying means. This word is really talked about in society, not only in Palisades Park but also around the world.

For example, in Colombia,

In my Opinion

it is normal to tell somebody not to hang out with you just because they don't have the money or the material things that you possess.

I've lived here for four years and still don't understand the point of judging a person because of what they wear or how they talk. I still have my accent and some people make fun of it, which I don't understand people that judge you think they are perfect and they see everyone else as inferior, but what they don't know is that the comment could cause harm.

Sometimes a word or even a comparison with someone else could affect a person. Today, social media and magazines have the most influence out there, and the problem is that every kind of media will be able to show what people think or what they post. The usual issue about bullying is "being fat." Society is the one in charge to create a standard, which is out of hands with no possible solution in sight.

A few days ago I was reading an article about an eleven-

year-old boy, who committed suicide because he could not handle school anymore, due to the fact that he was getting bullied by the way he dressed and what he enjoyed and admired.

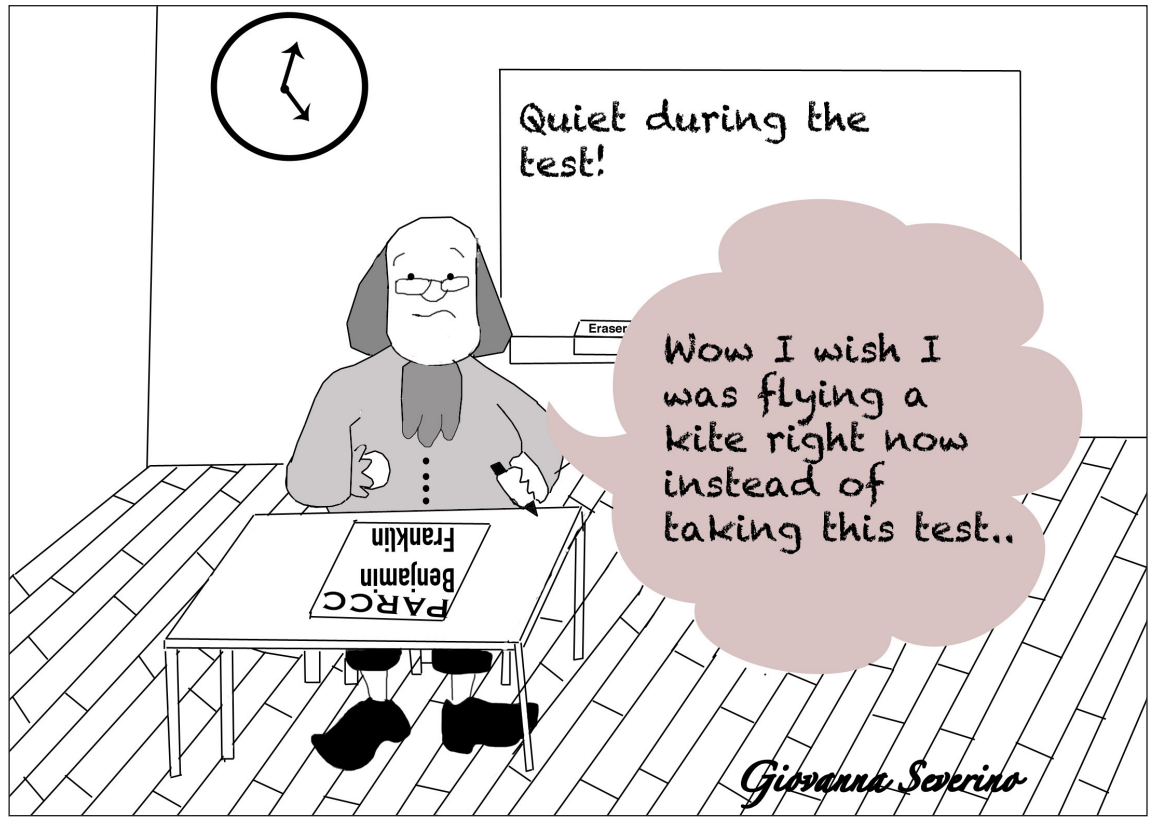
What happened to this boy was that besides all the times he told his parents that he could not handle school, that he hated it, they did not listen to him. Ultimately, he left a letter for them saying that "I am sorry for what I did, but I would rather be dead and happy than being alive..."

An offensive phrase is not a joke even though it might sound funny. Even when joking around, feelings can get hurt. Maybe not everyone will care about this, but in reality, it is important that we have the experience of this little kid as an example and make an attempt to help society repair the problem that we are allowing our children to continue experiencing.

The problem with bullying is serious because we don't believe or care about it, or we simply ignore it, assuming that one day it will go away. But bullying will not go away until parents, students, and teachers increase awareness of it.

We should realize that every word counts and if we all help each other, we will have a better society, maybe not free of bullying, but with some incentive that words as just as strong as actions.

More Than Just a Number



by Sophie Huh

"Can a single number really represent me?" is the question I always ask myself when it comes to standardized testing. After

In my Opinion

taking standardized tests like the PARCC and SAT tests, there is a growing frustration in me. Why does a packet of paper ultimately define my knowledge and determine my future?

After thinking about all of it, I have come to realize the unfairness of standardized testing for

students. It is an unreliable measure of a student's performance and is biased against students who do not perform very well on tests in general.

The narrow-minded way of trying to determine a student's level of education is both unreliable and uncreative. The government seems to have found a way to send a message to students that we have to understand things a certain way in to be successful in our future education and careers.

Young minds have been limited because there seems to be only one path of "success" for U.S students, and that is through standardized testing. An article by Oxford Learning states, "Standardized testing creates a limited scope of learning and success, only measuring specific areas like reading, writing, and math, rather than a full picture of children and how they learn, including creativity, collaboration skills, drive, and social skills."

Standardized testing is also a disadvantage to students who do not perform well on tests. Some students do not have background knowledge on the test and how to take it. For example, there are classes that provide guidance and practice for people taking the

SATS. These classes can be costly and not all students have the same opportunities or monetary resources to be able to have this guide and background information about the SAT.

So how is it fair that a student is able to receive a higher score and receive more opportunities not because they're smarter but because they had more help? Also, taking the SATS itself costs a fee of around fifty dollars. This discriminates against the students who do not have the finances to pay for the test.

Standardized testing is a topic that brings up a lot of controversy. It is not something that is going to leave our education system. The cons of these tests are alarming. Doing well in class and participating in extra-curricular activities appears to have taken a backseat to these tests.

It is disappointing to think that a student's future can be tainted because of the harshness and unfairness of these exams. This is not a subject we should just accept and move on from. Hopefully something is done in the future to make our education system more fair and creative, because a student's mind is not something to be wasted.

Student Participation Severely Lacking

by DaeHee Lee

Palisades Park High School is an institution that offers extra-curricular activities in multiple areas; including sports, academics, and volunteering. Academic activities include, but are not limited to, Model UN, Mu Alpha Theta, Environmental Club, National Honor Society, Italian Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, and Trivia Club.

In terms of sports, PPHS offers nearly every major sport, from basketball to tennis, to even bowling. These organizations, from clubs to sports, do not require any prerequisites; one can participate without any fear of being left out. In fact, one can argue that these organizations ex-

ist not to siphon efforts from the students, but to primarily support their interests.

Sadly, however, these opportunities are not utilized enough by the great majority of the students. These clubs and groups are often almost exclusively run by a select few of the student body, while the majority of students leave the school as soon as the last bell rings. In fact, when one looks at the members of the academic clubs available in this school, he or she will find that these groups are filled with the same ten people over and over again. These clubs, which lack diverse membership, may never see the other 490 students who also attend Palisades Park High

School.

Many argue that this lack of participation is because of other responsibilities, such as sports or jobs. They say that there is simply not enough time in the day for students to participate in other clubs. To a certain extent, they are right. Students have busy, exhausting days; they have to contend with classes for six hours, jobs that last almost six hours daily, and countless sports practice and matches. With all these challenges, it is a wonder how anyone can find the time to pursue other interests.

Yet, the ability to participate should not rest solely on one's availability. It comes from the actual desire to really participate. Most of these other clubs have short meetings that last only fifteen minutes per meeting. These clubs are not designed to reduce students' participation in other activities, but to expand their horizons in other areas as well. They provide a chance for students to learn skills beyond those found in a mere classroom; yet, it is up to the students to take that chance and realize all the potential they possess.

Sometimes, I imagine a future where students can take full advantage of all the opportunities available, from academics to sports, in Palisades Park High School. I do not know if this future will ever come true.

Yet, I hope that perhaps one day soon, a star basketball player no longer is only a star basketball player. Perhaps by joining other opportunities, he can also be the president of National Honor Society or captain of the Trivia Club, and become a better person overall.

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Train Your Brain to Achieve

by Juan Marin

Too often we struggle to solve problems at home, at work, or at school. One useful problem solving tool humans often neglect to utilize lies right between their ears; their brain. Rather than choosing to limit ourselves, we should look inside ourselves to accomplish the task at hand.

That is to say, being positive is crucial to placing oneself in the right state of mind to find solutions to any problem, regardless of how big or difficult it seems. The great Albert Einstein once said, "you never fail until you stop trying." Positivism is what can help everyone succeed and find happiness. Human beings are more complex than one might think. We are just like computers, or, let's say supercomputers. Supercomputers can reason, save, receive, send, and modify information via our most precious treasury - our brains.

Our own supercomputers are not just a lot of gray matter inside our head; It is something we must take care of, appreciate, and control. Computer programmers develop both simple and complex programs. In the same way, if we know our brain is more powerful than a MacBook pro or any computer, we can take steps to maximize what we get out of our brains. By doing so, we can be our own computer programmers.

We use common sense, our own experiences, and knowledge to make decisions. These decisions can be made for both the short term or long term, and these decisions can have either good or bad outcomes. What people often neglect is that you can program your mind to be always positive and be full of happiness and positivity. We ultimately have control over how much we get out of ourselves. Using our brains inspires us to stretch our limits and creativity. It makes us realize how much we really are capable of.

Mrs. LaPira Engages Students While Molding Young Minds

by Nia Zlatkin

Amid the hustle and bustle of the crowded hallways, there's always a smiling, copper-haired English teacher ready to greet students as they go about their day. This friendly and caring woman, called this by those who know her, is Mrs. LaPira.

Born and raised in Upstate New York, Mrs. LaPira always had a strong passion for English literature and the English language. She went on to receive an English degree from Boston College. After graduating from college, she realized that teaching was the perfect career for her.

Prior to teaching at Palisades Park Jr./Sr. High School, Mrs. LaPira taught seventh and eighth grade English at a middle school. In 2012, she began teaching high school level English classes.

"I was actually really nervous about teaching high schoolers," she began. "But within the first two weeks, I realized that high school students were so much more ready to engage and to have conversations like actual adults. I would be hard-pressed

to go back to teaching younger kids. You guys are real people!" She currently teaches ninth grade English and two elective courses. The elective courses include Oral and Written Communications and the newly introduced course, Science Fiction.

"I should say that Science Fiction is my favorite elective to teach, but I truly enjoy teaching Oral and Written Communications. It's a class I've been teaching since I got here and I've really made it my own. It's no longer a burden, I look forward to it."

Mrs. LaPira firmly believes that everything a person does stems from their ability to read, write, and communicate with others. To her, English classes are extremely important because that is where people learn these skills. "If you can't read and

write competently, it's very difficult to do anything career-wise. In almost every career, you have to be able to communicate with others," she added.

Making literature understandable, relevant, and fun are

think it takes a lot of effort to get teenagers to realize that themes from a novel written a century ago are applicable to their lives as well," she explained.

By adding enthusiasm and enjoyment to literary works, such as Romeo and Juliet, Mrs. LaPira is able to draw students in and really get them to understand the messages the works are trying to convey. She has inspired and touched the lives of many of her students.

"She really kept me interested," said Pamela Gomez, a former student of LaPira's. "I always looked forward to English class because Mrs. LaPira made reading novels and learning new vocabulary words fun."

Not only has Mrs. LaPira touched the lives of her students, but she has also touched the lives

of her co-workers. "She's a really caring teacher and friend," said Mrs. Hali, a close friend and fellow English teacher. "She's aware of what is going on with her students and always makes herself available when they need her."

Another colleague, Mrs. Vivanco added, "It's her kindness, great sense of humor, and genuine love for what she is teaching that really engages students."

Many agree that Mrs. LaPira is an outstanding member of the Palisades Park Jr./Sr. High School teaching staff. They believe she brings something new and exciting to her English classes. She dedicates her time and effort to helping students develop and perfect skills they will need in order to succeed beyond high school. Mrs. LaPira loves teaching young minds, but also loves what these young minds teach her.

Summing up what makes her job enjoyable, Mrs. LaPira said, "The kids give me a new perspective on novels every single time we read them, stuff I've never even thought of before; that's what I love most about teaching."



Mrs. LaPira assists students working on auto-biographies in Oral and Written class. Photo courtesy of Alex Han.

Students Visit Science Center

by Emily Kim

After learning about outer space and the universe, eighth graders from Ms. Bickford's Challenger class took a field trip to Buehler Challenger & Science Center in Paramus, NJ. This excursion provided students and teachers with an educational and unforgettable experience. Students were given the opportunity to fly a variety of different space missions in simulators at the Challenger Center.

This trip was intended to further educate students about science and space exploration while encouraging teamwork, leadership, communication, and experimentation skills. Eighth graders worked in teams to complete their task, while organizing experiments, observing life support, and executing navigation controls. While performing tasks on their expedition, students used concepts dealing with science, mathematics, and technology to complete their mission.

New School Store Benefits Students and Community

by Nia Zlatkin

Many citizens of Palisades Park are not able to afford the proper clothing to keep warm during winter, the majority of whom are children and teens. Concerned teachers at Palisades Park Jr./Sr. High School have noticed this and are working for a change.

"The idea came to me after a faculty meeting," said Mrs. Vivanco. "Mr. Bott had suggested that this school should give its donations to our very own students, since many are in need right here in Palisades Park. I decided that we do a clothing drive and then it came to me to secure a location and store all of the items in there. And actually, students will be able to go in and pick out what they need."

"No one will have to pay," said Ms. Raguseo, another teacher involved in the creation of the school store. Students who are on the free or reduced lunch list will be allowed to take four clothing items and one accessory, monthly. Students who are not on this list will still be welcomed into the store. The only difference is these students must bring in something

of their own to exchange.

In the morning, the store will be open from 7:05 to 8:05. In the afternoon, it will be open from 2:45 to 3:10.

Although the store was thought up by Mrs. Vivanco, it will be run by Mr. Garcia and Ms. Raguseo. "We are also going to be starting up a community service program since the students here have to complete a certain amount of hours," Mrs. Vivanco added.

In order to operate, the store will rely on student volunteers. They will be required to organize the items and of course, do laundry.

"All students are welcome to help out around the store, but for now, the community service hours affect only the 8th, 9th, and 10th graders," she continued.

"As we get settled in, older students will be able to take on bigger roles. For now they'll stick to organizing and cleaning," Mr.

Garcia added.

Senior Chelsea Valdez sees the store as a great opportunity for students to get involved, "I think it's great that there will be another way for students to not only meet their required hours, but also help those in need."

"We're always doing collections for others, but we have a growing segment of our student population that needs this. We need to help our own," stated Mr. Garcia and Ms. Raguseo.

PPHS Students of the Month



Michael Brestin
by Alexandra Miskulin

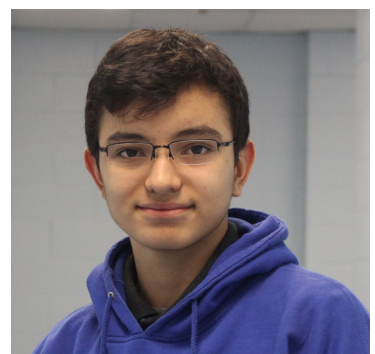
"My parents have always told me to try everything at least once," states Michael Brestin, a Freshman at Palisades Park High School who was named student of the month in October.

Michael's philosophy to always try new things led him to join many clubs that Palisades Park High School has to offer including Mu Alpha Theta, Model UN, Academic Decathlon, Ski Club, and Trivia club. Michael is also part of the Math and Science Academy, a program he describes as difficult but rewarding.

"It's definitely challenging, but I love challenges. I love seeking new limits and I love to learn."

Michael is also a student athlete who participates in swimming, tennis, scuba diving, and cross-country.

"I'm enjoying it, trying to make the best of every day," states Michael about his experiences in Palisades Park High School.



Juan Marin
Staff Article

"Knowledge and values are very important to be successful," states Palisades Park High School ninth grader Juan Marin. In short, Juan loves learning. His mantra is that in order to achieve success, it takes perseverance, discipline, and motivation. Juan's elite level of intrinsic motivation has led to him maintaining a straight A average.

Moving here from Colombia 18 months ago, Juan knew only a very limited amount of the English language. But his passion for learning enabled him to quickly pick up English.

Juan cites Math and Science as his two favorite classes, "I like how science has a close connection to nature, and math is basically a universal language across all cultures."

Juan is also a dedicated member of the Trivia Club, Model UN, and Tiger Tales. In the future he would like to further his education in a field related to Science.



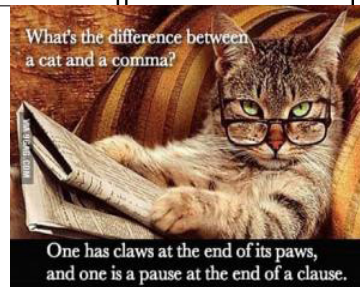
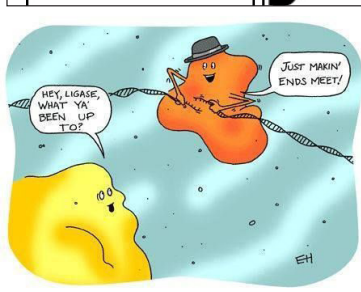
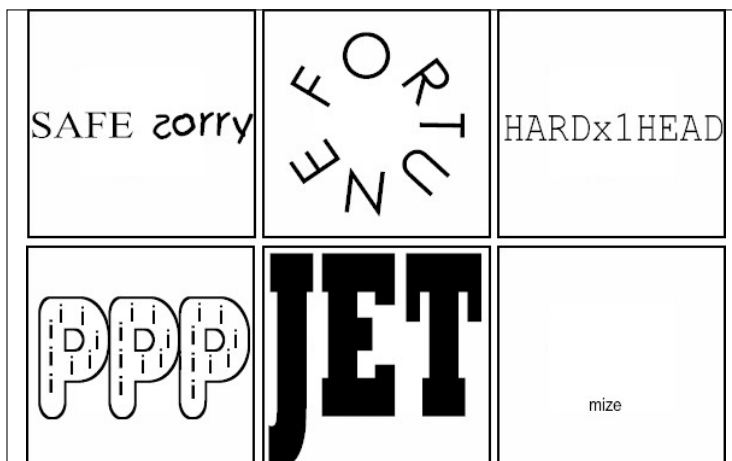
Sophie Huh
by Nicole Briones

Sophie Huh's teachers, coaches, and peers describe her as a very conscientious, responsible, and hard working student. Mrs. Turro, Sophie's history teacher says Sophie is "a great role model for younger girls and exemplifies what a student of the month should be. She is not just into academics but she is extremely well rounded and very involved in both athletics and the community."

Her basketball coach, Mr. Hutchinson, calls Sophie a "hard worker, who is dedicated, and excels in everything she does. She is very assertive vocally, has great ideas, and has a very positive vibe that allows a lot of people to look up to her. She shows all of these qualities both on and off the court."

Sophie multiple honors classes, Sophie is ranked in the top 15% of her class. She also tutors younger kids, plays basketball and runs track.

The Funnies





Palisades Park Tiger Sports



Athlete of the Month

Justin Kim Leads Bowlers into State Tourney

by Andrew Lee

Averaging an outstanding 160.6 pins for his final season, a season high of 223, and breaking over 200 four times, Justin has been an outstanding bowler all season.



Park Ridge their first loss of season.

With such accolades to remember, Coach Youmashakian stated “He has talent, dedication, work effort, and love for the game.”

Ending his season with 2nd team all league honors, Justin pulled off a lot of achievements that most highschool bowlers only dream of. He helped the tiger bowlers hand league champ

Justin hopes his competitive spirit compels more students to join the team, “Everyone thinks it’s a chill sport, but until you play competitively it gets really intense.”

Lady Swimmers Capture Second Straight Title

by Nicole Briones

The Palisades Park Leonia Swim team had an unforgettable season. The girls undefeated title run led them to the state tournament for the first time ever. The guys also had a great season with a 6-2 record.

Swim coach Mrs. Sterni described this year as an overall great season. She states, “the girls did a wonderful job and so did the boys for such a small and young team. We are losing some seniors, but we have a lot of really strong underclassmen. Not a lot of teams come close to meeting our athletic abilities.”

The girls won the league championship for the second year

in a row. All of the coaches were euphoric to make states this year, Although the girls lost in states, the coaches were happy with the close score.

Freshman Samuel Golovin, played a major role on the boys’ team. “What many people don’t know is that Sam practices before school and after school in the city, so he is extremely dedicated,” stated Coach Sterni.

Another extremely talented freshman is Elle Morse from Leonia High School. She swims with the Secaucus Flyers. She was not able to swim in states due to pneumonia, but she should bring home plenty of first place finishes next year for the girls next year.

Junior Alexandra Miskulin believes the girls have a shot at winning leagues next year. “We are a dedicated team and we practice hard,” she concluded.

Freshman Sensation Golovin Dominant in Pool

by Micheal Brestin

Samuel Golovin is an avid swimmer. As part of A.G.U.A. in Manhattan, New York, a prestigious swim club, Sam is accustomed to putting his 110% into all that he does. His determination to succeed starts 5:00 a.m. sharp on a weekday morning. But for Sam, by a quarter to six, he’s doing his fourth set of 200-meter butterflys. After an intense morning practice, Sam arrives to school on time for zero-block.

Sam’s journey started ten years ago. At just five years old, he promised himself that he would work with all his ability to reach the goals that he had set. However, it is not just the fact that he is going beyond his expectations, but is reaching heights that most teenagers cannot even imagine.

Of course, Sam doesn’t rest after the 2:39 bell rings. Sam has another intense practice with A.G.U.A. Yes, two practices, morning and night, on the same day, three days a week. And it’s not just like this on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. He has early morning practices both Saturday and Sunday

Samuel is also an all-around solid student. Sam has consistent A’s in all his classes, as well as the academy classes. He is a member of PPHS athletic teams as well as conscientious student. Sam’s the type of person that will not only carry his own weight, but is willing to give someone else a hand when ever needed.

Sam aspires, to become a professional swimmer, and one day make it to the Summer Olympics and win a medal. Sam feels that if you can put time, effort, dedication, and heart into the sport, anything is possible. A lot of young athletes have dreams of making it to the NFL or NBA, but Sam, does more than dream, he works for it.

He expressed the struggle of having to balance excelling in the pool as well as in the classroom. Sam and his work ethic as well as his determination and will to succeed has carried him to a point beyond most could only imagine.



Sam Golovin was named first-team all-league in both the 100-yard and 500-yard freestyle. He was also a part of two all-league relay teams. Photo courtesy of Alex Han.



The Leonia/Pal Park Girls' Swim Team took home their second straight NJIC League title. Photo courtesy of Vera Khym.

Bowlers Return to Post-Season

by Micheal Brestin

For the first time this century, the bowling team qualified for the State Championships. The Bowling team finished in fifth place in a tightly packed league. Last year, the bowling team was in nearly last place and when they skyrocketed to the top of the rankings, most teams were stunned.

New varsity members Justin Kim and Jae Hoon Yoon dominated the lanes, averaging 160 points a game. Heading into the state tournament, veteran and senior Seung Ju Lee stated, “ I believe we will do well at states, as long as we don’t mess up and have fun”.

The varsity team consists of Seniors Seung Ju Lee, Justin Kim, Andy Park, and Juniors Frederick Lee, and Won Ho Lee with the addition of Sophomore Jae Hoon Yoon. The varsity team has been consistently getting better throughout the season as their averages go up every week.

Senior Justin Kim stated, “ If we just bowl how we normally bowl and keep our morale up, we can win.”

The state sectional meet took place Saturday, February 13th, at Parkway Lanes in Elmwood Park. The team bowled an aggregate score of 2006, ultimately finishing in seventh place.

Persistence Key to Growth of Young Lady Tigers Squad

by Sophie Huh

Coming into this season, the Palisades Park girls basketball team faced a challenge. With only two returning seniors, the team was filled with new faces and inexperience. Through the beginning of the season, the girls struggled to play to their full potential because they had no team chemistry.

But as the season went on, the Lady Tigers turned the tides. After two strong wins against Bogota and Wood-Ridge, everything finally seemed to click for the team. All the sweat, hard work, and emotion put into this team fi-

nally paid off.

Junior guard Sophia Gomez was a huge offensive factor in these two wins, scoring 16 points

against Bogota and a game-high 18 against Wood Ridge. Junior forward Sophie Huh scored 13 against Bogota and 10 against



The Lady Tigers celebrate their 27-16 victory over Hawthorne Christian on Senior Night. Photo courtesy of Arianna Lopez.

Wood Ridge. Freshman Nicolette Costanzo also dropped 11 points against Wood Ridge.

Center Lani Watt made huge contributions on the defensive end, having around 14 rebounds against Bogota.

“In the beginning, we didn’t really know each other but as time went on we started to create that team chemistry like knowing what each other’s strengths and weaknesses were” Gomez said. “Everything started to click.”

As the season comes to an end, the Lady Tigers hope to continually improve and lend this 2015-16 season with a bang.

Boy Ballers Prepare for March Tourney Run



The boys' basketball team posted a record of 12-4 in the tough NJIC Patriot League. Photo courtesy of Jenna Bober.

Staff Article

At the end of February most basketball teams are usually busy reflecting on accomplishments from the past three months. While the Palisades Park Boys’ Varsity team certainly has a lot to be proud of; a 17-9 regular season record, and a 12-4 league record, all while battling through numer-

ous injuries to key players, the team knows March is the time for them to prove themselves.

The boys’ head into the post-season as the #5 seed in a North I Group I section littered with dangerous opponents everywhere. In order to prepare for their matchup with #12 seed Cedar Grove, Coach Wiseman

scheduled some tough out-of-conference opponents towards the end of the regular season. These teams include big schools, Mahwah, Indian Hills, and Montclair. Head coach, John Wiseman believes, “Each game helps us prepare for the tournament run in different ways. We need to finish the season strong, and always come prepared to play.”

Wiseman points to the strong perimeter defensive play of senior guards Christian Digsby, Michael Wearing, and junior Jonathan Yi, as really cutting down on penetration by opposing offenses. Strong play on the perimeter, coupled with an intimidating interior presence has allowed the Tigers to control the boards and the tempo of play on both ends of the floor.

The potential of the team was never more apparent than in their Bergen Jamboree contest against powerhouse Hackensack. Entering the fourth quarter with a one-point lead, the Tigers suddenly

found themselves on the verge of Jambo history. Ultimately, the squad lost by eight, but according to Senior Seyong Park, “We proved that day, we could play with anybody.”

“We (the team) always spoke about how on any day we could play with anybody. We opened some eyes against Hackensack,” exclaimed Wiseman.

But “almost” wins are not what tournament basketball is about. Yale-bound Seyong Park believes, “Now we are healthy. We need to play defense and play tight on our full court press.

Win, and they survive, lose, and their season is over. The defensive-minded Tigers know the highs and lows of March can change quickly in a span of 24 hours. For now, the Tigers plan to focus on what they do best and head into the post-season with a healthy team. They’ll square off against Cedar Grove Monday night, February 29th.