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CASKEY BALANCES
THREE SPORTS

Pike High School
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Indianapolis, IN 46268

Pike Hi-Life

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Mourning their friends

Students remember junior Robert Fletcher and sophomore Yann Cayetano

BY DESNEIDY LOPEZ

Hi-Life Reporter

One day, junior Sofia Fernandez woke up without her friend. She was in disbelief that someone close to her had died.

"He was my friend, my brother," said Fernandez. She was talking about Robert Fletcher, a junior who died on Aug. 1, the day before school started.

Shortly after the beginning of the school year, two Pike students died – Fletcher and Yann Cayetano. Lots of students were impacted by their deaths.

Fernandez mentioned that she and Fletcher lost their bond after middle school and wishes they would have talked more in high school.

"I would make sure that he was okay, and if he talked to me more maybe things could've been prevented," said Fernandez. "He was a kind soul and didn't deserve what happened to him."



Photo provided by Sofia Fernandez

Robert Fletcher, shown at the center of the bottom row, poses with friends during his time at Lincoln Middle School. Fletcher, a junior, died Aug. 1.

According to police reports, Fletcher, 17, died of gunshot wounds outside an apartment complex in the 7100 block of Knobwood Drive.

Fernandez described Fletcher as funny and kind. She said he gave the best hugs.

Junior Jemarion Robinson added, "He was funny, hysteri-



Photo provided by Jordan Cabrera

Sophomore Yann Cayetano smiles for a picture in 2020. "He was caring and would stay in his own lane," said sophomore friend Douglas Melendez.

cal. You couldn't be around him and not laugh."

Fernandez and Robinson also talked about Fletcher's interest in playing basketball. They said Fletcher played on an AAU basketball team and that he was offered many scholarships.

"He wanted to go to the NBA. He had a chance," said Robinson.

Fletcher's best friend and basketball teammate, junior Dyllin Amos, said Fletcher was "very energetic, very humorous."

If Fletcher was still here, Amos said, he'd tell him that he loves him.

Sophomore Cayetano, who died July 29, had a close friend, sophomore Douglas Melendez.

"He was caring and would stay in his own lane," Melendez said about Cayetano.

Melendez mentioned that if Cayetano were here right now, he'd tell him to keep his head up.

No details were available about Cayetano's death.

Principal Troy Inman said the hardest part of his job is grieving the deaths of students and staff.

"My heart goes out to both families. Know that we're here to support them in any way we can. They're still a part of the Pike family," said Mr. Inman.



Check out these 3 new clubs

Baile Folklorico, ChemClub, Bring Change to Mind join list of opportunities

BY KAYLA AGUILAR

Hi-Life Reporter

Erika Hernandez-Lopez wanted to see more school clubs available that reflected her culture, especially since there are so many Latino students at Pike.

"The fact that we don't have anything like this, baffled me," said Hernandez-Lopez, a junior who is Latina.

Hernandez-Lopez came to English teacher Jessica Keller with the idea of starting the Baile Folklorico club, as a way to provide a cultural learning experience. Mrs. Keller is now the sponsor of the club.

Baile Folklorico is one of 3 new clubs available this school year. The others are Bring Change to Mind and ChemClub.

Baile Folklorico will focus on teaching people Latino-style dances.

"This will spread awareness on more Latino culture," Hernandez-Lopez said.

This club meets every Wednesday after school in Room F117.

Bring Change to Mind, sponsored by school social worker Tonya Monnier, will focus on mental health awareness, learning how to take better care of ourselves, and knowing where to find safe places to go. Ms. Monnier noticed that after Covid, many students hadn't been feeling their best and were struggling

with depression and anxiety. She hopes the club will help students cope with these struggles or simply to make friends.

"It's okay to not be okay. Hopefully students can help get that word out to other students," Ms. Monnier said.

The club meets Wednesdays from 2:30 to 3:15 p.m. in the CRR (Community Resource Room) in Student Services.

ChemClub will be supported by the American Chemical Society and is meant to provide fun and give students the opportunity to experience chemistry beyond what is taught in the classroom. ChemClub invites, motivates and encourages high school students to explore the many ways that chemistry connects to their world, said Cassandra Winn, a science teacher and the club's sponsor.

"Leadership, experience, fun, adding context to why we 'do school' and the potential to serve your community are great reasons to join a club" said Mrs. Winn.

ChemClub meets Tuesdays from 2:30 to 3:15 p.m. in Room D139.

Two freshmen, Demarion Triplett and Desmond Ryle, are trying to start a chess club. They're still looking for a sponsor.

"Chess is a real mental game. It's unknown, but there's a lot of people who



Photo by Bailey Madden

Social worker Tonya Monnier (left) meets with juniors Corrie Gray and Madeline Thomas during a meeting of Bring Change to Mind, a new club in which students can discuss struggles and coping strategies.



Photo by Kayla Aguilar

From left, juniors Belsy Ruiz, Ashley Macias, Saidy Rivera and Amairani Garcia dance during a recent meeting of the Baile Folklorico club.

want to join it," Triplett said.

If anyone is interested in sponsoring this club, please

talk to assistant principal Ben Csikos.



A fresh start, and some anxiety

9th graders share what they were feeling on their first day of high school

**BY MICHELLE
SANTIAGO-SALAZAR**

HI-Life Reporter

As incoming freshmen begin the school year, they experience different feelings and unexpected obstacles in their path.

Francia Jean, a freshman, got ready for school on the first day and got lost finding her classes. She expected the school to be bad, but it wasn't as bad as she expected in the end.

"I expected it to be different but it ended up being the same (as middle school)," Jean said.

Another freshman, Nakaya Goshen, had the fear of not fitting in or being expelled from school due to tardiness.

"When I am around my friends, sometimes all they do is push me away and it's like I don't fit in at all," Goshen said.

Jean and Goshen are two of the hundreds of freshmen who have come to experience their first year as high school students. Some wonder if they are the only ones who experience these feelings; in reality, there are many others who experience these feelings as well.

For Zayne' Davis, a freshman, being a transfer student meant a new environment for him and new people as well. But now, he is more comfortable knowing that he knows more people.

"I can be more of the person I want to project out," Davis said.

There are some tips that freshmen could find useful at the beginning of the school year.

Deborah Daniels, a biology teacher and sponsor of four clubs, suggested getting involved in extracurricular activities. She also suggested making use of support programs such as the 21st Century After-School Learning Center.

This tutoring program is open after school from Monday through Thursday. Students can receive help and work on assignments.

Dr. Daniels added that freshmen should do their best this year and next because what you learn will be used on a higher level.

"Freshmen should come into high school and do their very best because their foundation is being laid right now," Dr. Daniels said.

For Brayan Valdez, a freshman, moving from elementary to middle school was different than moving from middle school to high school, mostly because he was so young during the first transition.

"It was a good time and I met new people and had fun doing work back then," said Valdez.

Another freshman, Nasiratou Muhammad, said she remembers knowing everyone when she began middle

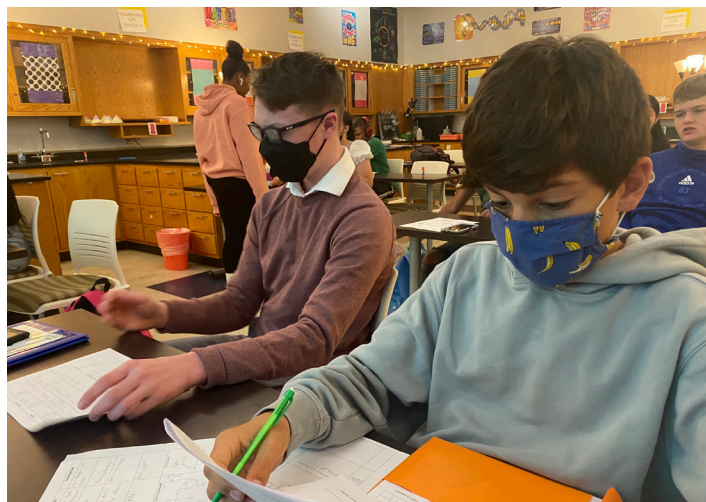


Photo by Michelle Santiago-Salazar

Freshmen Jack Smith (left) and Isaac Rosario work together during their honors biology class. For some freshmen, the beginning of school produced some apprehension about what to expect.

school. But for her first year of high school, this wasn't the case.

"I wasn't used to the new people and I didn't know their names. In middle school, it felt normal because I had someone to talk to every day," Muhammad said.

'I expected it to be different, but it ended up being the same as middle school.'

-Francia Jean, freshman, on her first day of high school



Photo by Michelle Santiago-Salazar

Freshmen return to their classes after a lunch period ends. To help ease the transition from middle school, teachers recommend involvement in extracurriculars.



Generation Z wears Y2K

Students bring back fashion trends from the start of the millennium

BY KYLA REED

Hi-Life Reporter

As you take a glimpse in the halls of Pike High School, you may see vintage low-rise jeans, cropped jackets, tight tops and more. For some reason, Y2K clothes – worn around the year 2000 – are becoming a trend. Generation Z has started something that brings back memories for millennials and a new fashion sense for others.

Torria Buckley, the school district's graduation coach, has noticed the difference between the version of Y2K clothes now and the original Y2K clothing.

"I'm starting to notice that now the clothes are much tighter," she said. "Back in the 2000s, it was baggier."

She remembers the music group TLC, and how their fashion is reminiscent of those days. They wore baggy pants, tight tops, rhinestone hats and rhinestone belts.

Gen Z has brought 2000s clothes back to life. You see it around the halls, on social media and even outside of school and social media. People have different opinions on 2000s clothes; for example, some don't want to bring the trends back because it's not the same as it originally was.

Junior Brianna Aparicio said she does like the idea of Y2K clothes coming back.

"I think it gives our generation a look back into how



Photos by Ella Sowu

Juniors Naomi Sanders, Wylson Jones, Kalyn Peay and Dorian Footman dressed in 2000s fashion for Throwback Day during Homecoming Spirit Week.

people used to dress, and nostalgia for most millennials to see their fashion becoming popular again," she said.

Aparicio also said that she sometimes dresses like the 2000s but not strictly. She said she prefers to wear wide-legged jeans and showy jewelry.

Y2K clothing started in the 2000s, but what started it? The aesthetic of Y2K clothes was inspired by the mid-'90s, when the style was shiny jewelry, pleated skirts, wide-leg jeans and colorful sunglasses. Beads were added to shoe strings, and shoe brands like

Chuck Taylor Converse, New Balances and Dr. Martin were popular. But after the 2000s people grew tired of this style. And now since 2020, this style has been brought back to life thanks to Gen Z.

Junior Paulina Pedroza said she prefers crop tops and wide jeans, which is considered an outfit from the 2000s. "It depends on how I'm feeling that morning because I can be insecure at times," Pedroza said.

Not everyone thinks that Y2K clothes should've been brought back.

"I feel like the clothes are

not original, the materials are different and the style is too updated," said junior Gabriela Surian. She went on to say that the revamped Y2K fashion is not like the original because millennials have added their own style to it.

She added that Gen Z has made this style into their own. Surian also said she has her own style of dressing. Her own style of dressing, she said, is somewhat like Y2K clothing but she mixes in her own elements. For example, she likes dying her hair, adding beads to her shoe strings and wearing baggy clothes.



Athlete balances three sports

Caskey looks forward to his junior season of football, basketball and track

BY KYIAH BOSTIC

Hi-Life Reporter

Junior Camron Caskey is known for having a unique experience at Pike High School. He is known for being a basketball, track and football player. While most student-athletes play only one sport, sometimes two, Caskey plays three.

"Follow your dreams and work hard because you can do anything you put your mind to," Caskey said.

For some people, it's tough to balance involvement in sports and clubs with maintaining good grades. Caskey said, "it's not hard to because a sport lasts one season and since all sports don't go on at the same time, then it's easy to manage".

While many people are inspired to play a sport by a celebrity, Caskey was inspired by his older brother. Before Caskey started playing sports, he would just lay around playing video games, he said.

Being recruited by different colleges at a young age is a dream come true for Caskey. He doesn't know which college to go to yet.

Coaches play a big part in sports, whether it's the NBA or high school. Pike coach William Zych helps Caskey get to where he is now. Mr. Zych said he has some high expectations for Caskey, such as



Photo courtesy of Pike's Peek Yearbook

Junior Cam Caskey plays offense during a basketball game in 2021. Caskey also plays football and runs track. His basketball teammate, senior Devon Woods, called him "an amazing athlete."

playing with more effort than he did last season and being more focused. He also expects Caskey to step up because many seniors from last year's team have graduated.

Mr. Zych described Caskey as hardworking and determined to win. When the coaches saw Caskey for the first time at basketball tryouts, they knew that he would play

different sports and would enjoy what he did, Mr. Zych said.

"Cam has a chance to be a good all-around player on defense and offense," Mr. Zych said.

Senior Devon Woods is a teammate of Caskey. They are close friends off and on the court. When the team is at practice, Caskey can be

serious at one point and then be playful the next moment, Woods said, adding that Caskey is very determined to have great practice with his team.

"Camron is a good player, has nice talent, is a good teammate, and an amazing athlete," Woods said.



Congratulations to the 2022 Homecoming Court winners



Freshmen Trenity Oaldon and Brayton Howell



Sophomores Destiny Lowery and Jordan Adkins



Juniors Shana Poindexter and Raul Lopez Sanchez



Seniors Daja Hatcher and Elijah Davis



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