



PINE-RICHLAND RAMPAGE

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 9TH, 2023 No.4

"DELIVERING HIGH SCHOOL NEWS...ONE PAGE AT A TIME."



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 The RAMPAGE is published every month. Be sure to look for new issues online every two weeks and in print once a month!
<https://www.pinerichland.org/Page/5624>

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Be The Match For Jax

Be the Missing Piece it Takes to Save a Life

BROOKE DEEGAN STAFF WRITER

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Two years ago, an immensely lovable young boy named Jax Ramirez was tragically diagnosed with a rare autoimmune disease known as IPEX. He was only 6 years old at the time and was already unable to fully cherish and enjoy his childhood years in the way that he deserved. His mother, Dr. Ramirez, PRHS' school psychologist, was heartbroken when this news was delivered to her and her family. However, she did not let the ghosts of worry and misery hauntingly consume her; instead she possessed something that she knew would be able to save Jax one day: and that beautiful thing was hope. Yes, hope, but also peppered with a strong sense of determination.



Jax Ramirez Riding His Bike, The Cranberry Eagle

As soon as she was able to grasp the reality of Jax's condition, Dr. Ramirez set out on a quest to get him the help he needed. She reached out to 'Be The Match', one of the largest stem cell registries in the nation, in an attempt to locate a match for her son so that he could beat IPEX as soon as possible.

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SUNDAY
Nov. 12

HIGH: 53
LOW: 37



MONDAY
Nov. 13

HIGH: 54
LOW: 37



TUESDAY
Nov. 14

HIGH: 55
LOW: 36

WEEKLY WEATHER REPORT
Nov. 9-Nov. 15

WEDNESDAY
Nov. 15

HIGH: 60
LOW: 40



THURSDAY
Nov. 9

HIGH: 63
LOW: 43



FRIDAY
Nov. 10

HIGH: 52
LOW: 37



SATURDAY
Nov. 11

HIGH: 51
LOW: 31



Be The Match’s social worker, Mrs. Welshonce, and Dr. Ramirez, have worked and continue to work together, having already organized 200 events to find a match for Jax. Two of PR’s students, sophomore Elise Duckworth and junior Addison Barnes, have also been fantastically helpful student leaders for this organization. So far, three matches for Jax have been discovered, but all of them have unfortunately ended up backing out of pursuing the procedure. Jax is still very much in need of a stem cell transplant, and Dr. Ramirez is hoping every reader of this article can do everything they can for the cause.

Any person over the age of 18 is eligible to join the Be The Match registry and test their stem cells to see if they can be a match for Jax, or any other person in need. Many people might assume that this sort of transplant is surgical, but it is not. It is a simple act that is pain and stress-free on the body, similar to a blood draw. If you or someone that you know is 18 years or older, they are encouraged to register, or register yourself. You or they could be that one to rescue a person in need.

As Dr. Ramirez explained, “It’s just you taking four hours out of your day to save somebody’s life.”

Even if you are not yet 18, there are still numerous ways that you can contribute to this exceedingly important cause. For one, attending the Friendsgiving lunch in the cafeteria on November 17th would help Be The Match For Jax greatly. Additionally, in this day and age of technology and social media, it is easier than ever for young people to spread awareness and be a catalyst for change.

“Students have an incredible power and voice. You’re active on social media, and you probably know 18 year olds in your life. You can talk about our story, post about it on social media,” said Dr. Ramirez.



Dr. Ramirez (left) and Jax Ramirez (right), 'Good Morning America'

“Our Tiktok is @jaxneedsahero, and if you're on Instagram, follow us on @bethematchforjax, and share it. If you just do something so simple as to tell people to follow us, or text us, that will help.”

Once Jax finds his match, Dr. Ramirez will not stop working with Be The Match. She is determined to continue to help those who need it. In the time being, though, until Jax finds his match... It is beyond important that you do all that you are able to in order to help this cause and assist Dr. Ramirez.

She said, "It is important for humanity to encourage people to get on the registry. I know I don't take no for an answer. So we will find a way to make it work... Not only for Jax, but for everyone.”



Thank you Dr. Ramirez for talking to the Journalism staff

Social Media:

- Tiktok: @jaxneedsahero & @bethematchforjax
- Instagram: @bethematchforjax
- Facebook: @bethematchforjax

Gofundme:

- Find Jax a Match

Upcoming Event:

- Friendsgiving (PRHS Cafeteria Nov. 17th)

Scan this QR code or text 'JAXRAMIREZPA' to 61474 to order a swab kit





The Meaning Behind the Pink-Out Football Game

PR Student Section Supports Mini-THON and Cancer Fighters

CALLE HENNE STAFF WRITER

On October 13, PR celebrated Senior Night before the football game against Shaler Area. However, the bigger story was



PR student section during the game, photo by Elise Duckworth

was going on off the field. Up in the stands, the PR student section was a sea of pink. The crowd of high schoolers wore matching pink shirts in support of breast cancer. October was breast cancer awareness month, so the timing was perfect. Leaders of the student section and members of Mini-THON organized the event.

Mini-THON is a 4 Diamond program coordinated by K-12 students throughout Pennsylvania and surrounding states. The club at the high school raises money and awareness for kids fighting childhood cancer. The money raised through PR is donated to kids who require surgeries and treatments. The goal

of Mini-THON is to cover some of the costs for families who are fighting everyday.

Two weeks leading up to the important game, Mini-THON and student section leaders sold shirts for \$20 during lunches. For the first few days, the line to purchase a shirt consisted of 10-20 people at a time. After a week and a half of selling, the only size that remained in stock was XL.

Junior Taylor Brown is the Communications Chair in Mini-THON. She said, "The proceeds from the t-shirts were split between breast cancer and childhood cancer. We split the costs 60/40, so 60% of the money went to Mini-THON in support of childhood cancer, and the other 40% went to breast cancer." After the costs of the t-shirts, \$6,872 was raised.

Brown, a cheerleader, was on the field looking up at the crowd of pink shirts throughout the game. "Seeing the student body at our high school wearing the pink Mini-THON t-shirts really touched my heart and inspired me to continue with my involvement. I loved seeing how our community can come together and fight/support a good cause," she said. "I was inspired by the mass support we received, and I hope that the money we raised can continue helping to support people with breast cancer and childhood cancer."

As mentioned before, the student section leaders played a big part in organizing. Senior Cadan Bennett was the main representative from the student section leaders. Bennett and Brown worked together for weeks in preparation in order to host the second consecutive Mini-THON game. "The PR Mob is not just a rowdy group of students, even though we are, but we love to give back to the community who supports us and the players on the field," said Bennett.

The past two years have been so successful that Bennett hopes next year's student section leaders will also work with Mini-THON to continue the annual tradition. Bennett said, "We intend to make one of the themes each year charity related. If the leaders next year decide on a Mini-THON theme, that's great. But I think it would be cool to have a split donation again next year and keep the tradition up."

About 1 in 285 children in the U.S will be diagnosed with cancer before their 20th birthday, and 1 in 8 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer. Although Mini-THON may seem too small to make an impact, every cent that is donated makes a huge difference in the life of a cancer fighter and their family.



Junior cheerleader Taylor Brown (middle) looks up at the PR student section, photo by Elise Duckworth



Here's Why I'm Grateful For an Overlooked Holiday

Thanksgiving Deserves More Appreciation

CALLE HENNE STAFF WRITER

On October 1, most people get into their Halloween moods. They get excited for haunted houses, pumpkin spice, and horror movies. Then, when November 1st comes around, it becomes Christmas time: hot chocolate, matching pjs, and holiday cookies. Where is the time to celebrate Thanksgiving?

On Thanksgiving Day, our house gets an early start to the day. The kitchen is filled with the aroma of mom's fresh desserts. My brothers, Owen and Adam, and I rush around to prepare ourselves for our annual Turkey Bowl. And Dad is hovering above the stove making everyone their requested egg breakfast. Once everyone is fed and dressed in layers, we head out to Pine Park for some football.

The Ryan Malady Turkey Bowl is an annual turkey bowl in memory of a late dad, husband, and friend: Ryan Malady. Lots of kids from ages 8-17 join together to honor a wonderful person, and have some fun competition playing football. Everyone's goal: take home the Turkey Bowl Cup. Each year, a plaque is added with the name of the winning team's coach. When the football pauses, we enjoy donuts, coffee, and hot chocolate. Win or lose, everyone enjoys the time spent with the friends closest to them while embracing the perfect autumn weather. To some of the boys who play, including Adam, it is the best part of their Thanksgiving Day.

Once the football concludes, the craziness settles down a bit. In our home, the fire burns as we warm up our cold, exhausted bodies. One TV plays the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, while another plays football pregame.

Once we regulate our body temperature, we begin the process of making ourselves look presentable for our uncle's house.

As I get ready, I watch the thanksgiving episode of *Gilmore Girls*.

The show radiates fall vibes and puts me in a happy, tranquil mood. I usually end up raiding my mom's closet in order to find a suitable outfit. I love choosing from her many warm, cozy sweaters. They are the perfect way to be comfortable, yet fashionable at the same time. Ninety percent of the time, I put limited effort into my appearance. My hair is a mess, and my outfits consist of an over-sized sweatshirt and baggy sweatpants. However, on special occasions such as Thanksgiving, I enjoy taking the time to do my hair, and get dressed in something more than sweats. I look forward to it, actually. My favorite part of the day, however, is the people I get to spend it with.

For the first many years of my childhood, Thanksgiving was hosted at my house. But a couple years ago, we changed the tradition and now visit my dad's uncle's house. We keep the group relatively small with my grandparents, my dad's aunt and uncle, and my dad's cousin, her husband, and her 5 year old daughter, Ava. We don't see each other very often, so spending quality time together is special.

Ava is the star of the show. She always impresses our family with her long brown hair pulled back into braids, decorated with various colored butterfly hair clips. She loves telling stories about her crazy, 5 year old life, and will color any picture that gets put in front of her. Football plays on the TV as we sit in the living room; waiting for the delicious meal we are about to devour.



Ryan Malady Turkey Bowl Cup that is awarded to the winning team, photo by Calle Henne



We gather around the table, our noses blessed with various scents. Several colorful dishes were placed in front of us: orange sweet potatoes, green bean casserole, yellow corn, and red cranberry sauce. Each white porcelain dish is filled to the brim with delicious ingredients. Each dish is passed around the table in a systematic way. Once everyone has their plates overflowing with more food than they could ever eat, we say grace. And then we dig in. The delicious turkey (covered in gravy, of course), creamy mashed potatoes, warm homemade applesauce, and corn fills my plate. My brothers and I enjoy our annual sparkling apple cider in place of our parents' adult beverages. Laughter and chatter fill the room as we share our life events from the past year. Topics range from school to sports to funny moments, anything you can think of. Once everyone thinks they could not possibly fit any more food in their stomachs, dessert time has arrived.

Grandma's fresh chocolate chip cookies, mom's homemade chocolate covered pretzels, multiple different pies, pumpkin roll, Uncle Mark's homemade whipped cream, and fresh cups of coffee. While enjoying our sweets, Aunt Cheri pulls out conversation cards. These cards range from thought provoking questions to "would you rather" questions to completely unrealistic conversation starters. They may seem stupid, but the amount of tangents, unpredictable conversations, and enormous smiles that result in these cards are priceless. Before we know it, the sun has set and hours have passed. We express our gratitude and love for one another before heading home.



2022 Turkey Bowl participants, photo by Calle Hene

The 24-hours that we get to celebrate Thanksgiving are so special to me. Celebrating a life lost too soon, playing football with close friends, being blessed with delicious food while amongst special company, and smiling and laughing all day, make a day worth remembering until its return a year later.

Easter Vs. Thanksgiving: *The Bunny Against the Turkey*

FRANCESCA GUZZY STAFF WRITER

Both Easter and Thanksgiving are holidays where families come together and have a delicious feast. The two holidays even both have a famous animal as their "mascot:" Easter has the Bunny and Thanksgiving has the Turkey. Now, we just need to decide which feast is more delectable, or more preferred at Pine-Richland High School. I went around the school and in each of my own classes I surveyed 50 students, and here are the results.

As the ratio of 29 to 21 Thanksgiving obviously won, and by a reason many know: the food. Out of the 50 students there was a great number of students who chose Thanksgiving, which is why it won with 29 votes. Many think Thanksgiving is only about food, but Thanksgiving holds so much more, as freshman Ella Davis states: "It's all about family, thankfulness, and good food."

Thanksgiving is a fantastic holiday and that is in many students' opinions, which is why it won the majority.



Now Easter was close, but at first many students didn't even consider Easter but the holiday started to pick up in the end, even though it lost by 8 tallies. I chose Easter myself, so did English teacher Mr. Mckown and his argument was pretty strong. He said: "Easter is easily the superior holiday, because it's warmer and sunnier; also the break is way longer."

In the end, both Easter and Thanksgiving are great holidays and special in their own ways, but Thanksgiving is Pine-Richland 's favorite based on this poll.



Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade

The History Behind the Famous Charlie Brown Balloon

MADDY HOMER STAFF WRITER

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Have you ever woken up on Thanksgiving morning and immediately turned on the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade? Well, I have and I certainly enjoy watching all of the unique balloons go by.

My favorite balloon by far is the Charlie Brown balloon which has developed differently over the course of the last couple years.

According to the Fandom website, concepts of a Charlie Brown balloon have dated back to the 1960's, when Goodyear Tire and Rubber company planned to make a balloon of the loveable blockhead to fly along his beloved dog Snoopy. Charlie Brown's first balloon portrayed him in a "chasing" stance, with a football balloon in front of him, referencing an annual recurring gag in *Peanuts* where he attempts to kick the ball before Lucy van Pelt pulls it away to make him feel miserable and powerless. This balloon led the parade in its first year and continued to appear until 2005.

The balloon also appeared in a 2008 Coca-Cola commercial, in which he claimed victory over a Coca-Cola bottle that Stewie Griffin from *Family Guy*, and Underdog had previously fought over.

Charlie Brown returned in 2012 with the football when Snoopy as the Flying Ace was retired from the Parade. This return was brief, though, as the balloon would be retired the next year as a new balloon of Snoopy was introduced, pairing him with his best bird buddy, Woodstock.

The balloon made its final public appearance at the 2014 MoCCA Arts Festival in New York City. Here, the Charlie Brown balloon made a very special appearance to delight fans, young and old, as he soared inside the 69th Regiment Armory. The balloon was on display April 5-6, joining 2014 MoCCA Arts Festival fans and honorees including Alison Bechdel, Howard Cruse, Fiona Staples, and Robert Williams, who were celebrated for their work in illustration, comic, and cartoon art during the acclaimed arts gathering.

In 2016, the lovable blockhead appeared in the form of a new balloon, to help celebrate the 50th anniversary of the beloved Broadway musical, *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown*. This balloon featured Charlie Brown in a familiar pose, running, full-tilt with his red kite and its length of string frustratingly wrapped around him. The inspiration for this classic moment comes straight from the popular play. In one scene, Charlie Brown finally gets the kite off the ground, only to have that insane kite-eating tree snatch it out of the sky and devour it.

That same Thanksgiving, Charlie Brown would rise for yet another fruitless effort to get his kite aloft. If only he knew he was already flying. The balloon made subsequent appearances in the 2017 and 2018 parades and was retired shortly after the latter. It was later revealed that the balloon was retired in order to allow the Astronaut Snoopy balloon to take flight.

The balloon was most recently seen in the balloon loft at Macy's Parade Studio in November of 2019. Some people believe that this year 2023 they will be making a brand new Charlie Brown float since they are planning to make a new Snoopy float in 2026.

Make sure to check out the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade this Thanksgiving (November 23rd) on NBC. The stream starts at 9 AM.



The first Charlie Brown Balloon, photo from Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade Fandom



Attitude of Gratitude:

Here's Why We Should All be Grateful for our Fabulous Phones

IZZY BANJAK STAFF WRITER

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Everyone has a phone, right? Well, almost everyone. You have a phone right? That thing that's always in your hand or pocket or bag? Yeah, that rectangle shaped thing. It has so much power, some people don't even know how to use it.

Imagine a life without a phone. Would it be simpler or more complicated? I think not having a phone would make life so much harder. How would you reach out to your friends? Tell your mom you needed to be picked up? How would you know what the weather is gonna be like tomorrow? There's so many more questions we could ask, right?

I, for one, would be so lost in a universe without a phone. What do you think? I know some of you might say I'm a "slave to technology" but I don't look at it that way. I view it as a resource. A resource that gives me the ability to check the weather and text my friends and tell my mom I need to be picked up.

Could you imagine what life was like 100 years ago? Some of our parents didn't even have phones when they were our age. That's wild to think about.

So, let's all be super grateful for Alexander Graham Bell, the inventor of the first phone. Of course they have changed a lot over the years, but without him we wouldn't have our modern day phones. He provided room for improvement, a lot of room. So my attitude of gratitude goes out to my phone, well, all phones.



Allison Michael with her phone, photo by Izzy Banjack

Why I am So Thankful for my Bed

LILLY REMBECKI STAFF WRITER

It's probably not the first time someone wrote about being grateful for their bed but it's one of the things I appreciate the most. I am a person who is constantly sleeping. It's not something I choose to do; it's something I can't control.

I was born with athyreosis, a rare illness where I don't have a thyroid. Most people don't know what exactly that means for a person so I'll explain it as best as I possibly can. Your thyroid is one of the organs responsible for your metabolism and energy production. You can't function like a normal person without the hormones made by it. You gain weight, become lethargic, and fall asleep whenever your body decides that it's done for the day. There are a lot more side effects with it, but these are some of the worst ones.

While the average adult has to take 100 mg of the supplements to maintain their illness, if they're a hyperthyroidism patient, which means that while they do have a thyroid, it doesn't produce as many hormones as necessary, they have to take 175 mg of supplements.

Whenever I get extremely tired out of the blue, it's just a sign that my hormones aren't strong enough. Back in Germany this wasn't as much of a problem, given that our health insurance is mandatory and good, but in America, there are a lot more obstacles.

First, I have to find a fitting doctor, and while I am grateful that I have good health insurance, doctor visits are still overpriced and way more expensive than they should be. Second, while I may have a doctor, it doesn't always make everything ok and make me automatically feel better.

So, the highlight of my day is coming home and being welcomed by my bed. Being able to take time to relax and recharge is important to me. When I come home, the first thing I do is take around three hour nap before actually being able to be productive.





Attitude of Gratitude: *Thankful for My Family and Friends*

JOEY DELIE STAFF WRITER



Joey Delie in Lewis Delaware with his Cousins, photo by Joey Delie

What am I grateful for? I'm grateful for my family and my friends because without them I wouldn't be the person who I am today.

I'm grateful for my family because they love and care for me everyday. I'm so grateful for my brother because of how much he has helped me with school and rowing. During sophomore year, every time I would have a bad practice he would come up to me and tell me what I did wrong and how to fix it.

He's the reason why I am now on varsity because of how much support he gave me during my freshman and sophomore year.

I am also very grateful for my parents because of how much they have done for me during my life. They have helped me with school as well as been supportive to me when I quit baseball for rowing. When I told them I wanted to quit baseball I thought they were going to be upset with me but they weren't. They always stuck with me and I'm so grateful to have parents who care about me as well as allow me to follow my own path.

I'm so grateful for my friends because they are people who have been emotionally supportive for me as well as people I can just be myself around. It's great to have someone by your side who you can talk to as well as someone that really cares for you and your family.

Attitude of Gratitude: *Why I Love Music*

JACK HADLEY STAFF WRITER

When life becomes stressful there's always been one thing I turned to my whole life: music. Whether I just failed a test or an exhausting day at practice I always know that the moment I get home and put on my airpods I'll be able to forget about everything. And honestly this has been a part of my life for as long as I could remember. Ever since I was a little kid I was always very interested in music and alot of memories in my life revolve around music.

I remember being very young driving to Florida with my parents and sisters and the whole time asking for the next song to play in the car. Or putting on music to fall asleep to something I remember starting to do probably when I was nine and still do to this day. Also my older sister showed me different artists and expanded who I listen to. It really does feel like everywhere I go I always want music with me.

Thinking of it all together, this obsession does start to make sense when I think about how much both my parents love music. My mom played the piano since she was really young and still does, also she tried out a lot of instruments. And for my dad he's like me always listening to music. He's also been to more concerts than anyone I've ever met. I know this definitely played a part in mine and my sisters love for music.

The one thing that will always stand out to me about music though is how it can take you away. It can make me forget where I am at or what I was just stressing about. Music gives me one thing to focus on which is always a challenge for me in every other aspect of my life. Honestly, I just want to thank music because without it I really don't know how I would have got through the day when life gets tough.



Joey Delie and friends in Ichiban beofre Homecoming, photo by Joey Delie



First Orchestra Concert of the Year

Student Musicians Debut their Skills

ELLA DAVIS STAFF WRITER

On October 19th, the PRHS orchestra performed at their annual fall concert. They played four pieces: Blazing Bows of the West, Allegretto, Blue Fire Fiddler, and Los Toreadors which all fell under a country music theme. The string crossings and fast pace of the music made it seem like fiddlers were in the auditorium playing some country tunes. The orchestra has been rehearsing since the first week of school, and all of the practice really paid off.

With orchestra teacher Mr. Belchick conducting, the orchestra opened with Blazing Bows of the West from a 1960's show, The Magnificent Seven. This was then followed by Allegretto, which was composed by Ludwig van Beethoven from Symphony No. 7 and is featured in the movie The King's Speech. Blue Fire Fiddler is another country song with key violin parts and many string crossings. To close the concert, they played Los Toreadors which is another fast paced piece.



View of the violins at the concert, photo from PRHS website

If you missed the concert, you can still view the entire concert on PRTV Archive on YouTube, where future concerts will also be recorded live.

Overall, the concert was a success and they represented Pine-Richland music department really well during this concert. The orchestra plans to have other concerts as well. Dates include December 21 2023, April 11 2024, and May 30 2024. The concert on April 11th will be the all district concert and will feature all grades, starting at 5th grade. All of the grades then come together to perform one song all together. Be sure to support the PRHS orchestra by attending the Christmas concert December 21, 2023 and other future concerts.



View of conductor Mr. Belchick, photo from PRHS website

Upcoming Concert Dates:

(ALL CONCERTS AT THE PRHS AUDITORIUM AND ATTENDANCE IS FREE)

DEC. 21- Winter Concert

APR. 11- All District Conert

MAY. 30- Spring Concert



View of the entire orchestra, photo from the PRHS website



PR Students Succeed at Slippery Rock University's World Language Competition

MARIANNA ZAHORCHAK STAFF WRITER

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On October 10th, Slippery Rock University hosted a world language competition and 18 Pine-Richland students competed. Nine Spanish students and nine French students spent the day at Slippery Rock with other high-achieving language students from around the region. Each student battled against a 60-question multiple choice test that challenged their knowledge on the culture, grammar, and vocabulary of their chosen language. The assessment judged students' knowledge from the language class they took the year prior. Level 4 Honors students were quizzed on what they learned from level 3; level 3 students were quizzed on their memory of level 2, and so on.

Out of roughly 200 students total who competed in this competition, four PR students attained placements for their scores on the test. Honors French 4 junior Ian Bowen took home 2nd place, Honors Spanish 4 junior Levina Jithesh placed 2nd as well, and Honors Spanish 3 sophomores Davin Biagini and Maddy Dorigo won 1st place and 3rd place.



Davin Biagini (Spanish 3 1st place), Maddy Dorigo (Spanish 3 3rd place), Ian Bowen (French 4 2nd place), Levina Jithesh (Spanish 4 2nd place), photo by freshman Maddy Homer

How did you find out about the competition?

"My French teacher brought it up and asked if I wanted to go. She specifically asked people who she thought were really interested in French, but the competition was open to everyone," Bowen said.

"I was put on a list, so apparently my Spanish 2 teacher thought I was really cool," Biagini stated.

As for Jithesh and Dorigo, both shared that their Spanish teacher, Señora Hough, had informed them of the event and suggested they participate.

What made you want to compete in the competition?

The PR winners came to a general consensus that they didn't want to pass up the opportunity for an experience like this.

"I didn't expect to win, but I figured I'd give it a shot. Even if I didn't win, I would still get to see the campus and have fun doing the other activities they offered, so why not?" Bowen said.



Was the test hard?

The first place score on the Spanish 2 test was a 79%, so yes, the exam was a difficult one. The participants believe that the creators of the test purposely made it challenging so that no one could achieve a perfect score. Part of what made the questions so demanding was that a large portion were centered around the language’s culture.

What was the prize for winning?

Those who placed received a plaque for their accomplishment, as well as a certificate presented to all participants.

How did you spend the rest of your time on campus?

After participants completed the quiz, they had the option to participate in workshops and go on a cultural scavenger hunt if they so desired. Bowen, for instance, went to a book-making workshop where he learned how to fold the pages of a novel into its standard book-shaped fashion. Biagini, Dorigo, and Jithesh, on the other hand, took part in the scavenger hunt. The goal of the hunt was to visit every culturally-focused station and learn more about the nations they promoted. Some of the countries included were Japan, Saudi Arabia, and Spain, alongside many more. Clubs at Slippery Rock further promote the awareness of these cultures.

What was the campus like?

A brief tour was offered to all the participants in order to familiarize them with the most central areas of the building. Bowen and Biagini agree that the campus was “very beautiful” and “aesthetically pleasing.” It was also “very rock-themed and walkable,” they added in a joking yet honest manner. The campus was small and had an emphasis on nature with its abundance of trees in its rural setting. Dorigo claimed that the site was “very cozy.” She and Jithesh felt that finding their way around the campus was easy and hassle-free. In addition, Dorigo enjoyed the on-site Starbucks and thought that the Slippery Rock staff were extremely welcoming.



View of the Slippery Rock Campus from a window, photo by Maddy Homer



On-site Starbucks, photo by Maddy Homer

Here is where the four student's opinions differed the most. Bowen stated that the university had a very nice dining hall with lots of tasty options.

Biagini was quite a fan of the salad and dessert bar, in particular.

Additionally, the cafeteria had a hot food selection that included these options: pasta, turkey, chicken, pizza, and soup.

Jithesh and Dorigo agreed that the food was “what you would expect out of a college,” claiming that it “wasn’t bad.” However, they did enjoy the wide range of options and the design of the cafeteria.

Overall, the food was ok and quite usual, but the students enjoyed the various options offered to them.



Food served in the cafeteria, photo by Maddy Homer



Slippery Rock Cafeteria, photo by Maddy Homer



Continued...

Why did you decide to take your language course?

For Bowen, it all started with his father who took French classes when he was in school. Bowen wanted to follow in his footsteps and decided to give it a shot, and it ended up being one of his passions in life.

Biagini claims he has always wanted to take Spanish. He can't put his finger on why, but for whatever reason, Spanish has captivated him for as long as he can remember.



View of the award Ceremony, photo by Maddy Homer

his. As for the next school year, he'll take the AP French class. Bowen's not sure if he'd like to study abroad on his own due to how far he'd be from home, but if a French trip is offered in high school, he will totally go on it.

Biagini finds himself in a similar situation as he doesn't see himself pursuing a career in a language-based field; however, he is fully prepared to take on any job that involves foreign interactions as he has a list of languages he'd like to pursue including Spanish, Hindi, Arabic, Mandarin Chinese, Russian, and Bengali. Because of his love for linguistics, Biagini would love to take a college-level Spanish course in his future. Unlike Bowen, Biagini is completely open to the idea of studying abroad in any Spanish-speaking country with Spain as his first choice. Biagini says traveling abroad would be a beneficial "opportunity to learn the [Spanish] language more naturally."

Both Jithesh and Dorigo hope to take AP Spanish in the future. When it comes to studying abroad, Jithesh isn't exactly sure how she feels about it, but if the potential for such an experience comes up in the future, she wouldn't necessarily be against it. Dorigo feels the same – both girls worry about living so far away from their families for that long; although they do think they'd have fun visiting schools with unique educational cultures.

Dorigo, in particular, finds learning about new languages fascinating and explores other languages, in addition to Spanish, in her free time. She's not sure if her future career will involve the Spanish language, but she does have interest in traveling in the future and believes knowing a wide variety of languages will help with international interactions she may encounter.

Overall, what was your favorite part of the experience?

In particular, Dorigo's favorite aspect was the scavenger hunt because of how informative it was. She thought it was interesting to see her name written in Japanese and to learn to make origami. For Jithesh, getting to have a fun, independent, day focused on self-interests and chilling with friends was the best part. In general, the group seemed to be on the same page when it came to the best part of the day: every part.

In Dorigo's case, she wanted to learn more about Spanish culture, specifically. Dorigo already had a foundation in Spanish due to her prior school, Seneca Valley, teaching her the basics of the language since 3rd grade. Therefore, she felt very comfortable with Spanish, so she decided to take it in 8th grade at Pine-Richland. "I also have a lot of friends who speak Spanish, so it'd be cool to be able to speak it with them," Dorigo said.

As for Jithesh, initially, she was stuck trying to choose between German and Spanish. Her mother pointed out the fact that more of Jithesh's friends were taking Spanish, so eventually she decided to go down that path as well and now greatly enjoys it.

To what extent do you wish to pursue/learn more about the language you are currently taking?

Since Bowen is a big fan of languages in general, he may minor in French during his time in college and will at least take some French-focused classes while he's there. However, he isn't looking into it as a potential career option, despite it being a big passion of



All participating students at the award ceremony, photo by Maddy Homer



The Long Awaited Reveal

The Brand New PR Gym Debuts

ANASTASIA PUNOSEVAC DESIGN EDITOR

Starting all the way back in 2016, there have been whispers of a potential gym renovation. The goal for the auxiliary gym was to extend the seating to go around the gym as well as add more seats, add a Jumbotron, and add a fresh coat of paint. However, due to covid-19, these plans had to be put on pause. So, when it was announced that the gym renovation would take place starting this past spring, it was excitement all around.



PR girls' volleyball seiors Sofia Morse, Sydney Servagno, Macey Hayes and Kaylee Oglan cutting the ribbon, Triblive

students. With the extended seating, this means no more having to broadcast the pep-rallies on the PRTV.

Other teams are looking forward to being able to use this new gym as well. The girls' and boys' basketball teams are looking forward to this winter season where they will have the chance to test out the gym for themselves. And in the spring, the boys' volleyball team will have a go at testing the new facility.

But this is just the beginning; while the aux gym is complete, the green gym is soon to be. With talk of an elevator and a second floor, all of Pine-Richland is on their toes waiting for the reveal.

All of Pine-Richland is thankful for our administrators putting in the work to make a better environment for practice and play, and we can't wait to see the gyms being used from here on out. The new facilities will hopefully make a wonderful improvement for Pine-Richland's various sports teams as well as be a wonderful place for a pep-rally.

After spending a grueling (roughly) six months working on it, the auxiliary gym's renovation is finally complete. And what better way to debut this new facility than with a girls' volleyball game?

On October 19th, Pine-Richland's girls' volleyball team played against North Allegheny, their biggest rival. The girls were excited to say the least, as it was also Spike Out Cancer Night for breast cancer awareness month.

While Pine-Richland's girls' varsity volleyball team suffered a devastating loss, the girls put up a good fight, had fun, and were excited to show off their brand new gym.

The new design of the gym is a wonderful improvement. With the seating that wraps around the girls can feel the energy of the crowd better and thus makes the girls perform better.

There's still more to come from this wonderful new facility. Dr. Hernandez, Pine-Richland high-school's principal, is looking forward to hosting pep-rallies in the gym with all of PRHS's



View of the gym after the volleyball game, photo by Blake Fuchs



A Commentary on the Fear of Being Basic

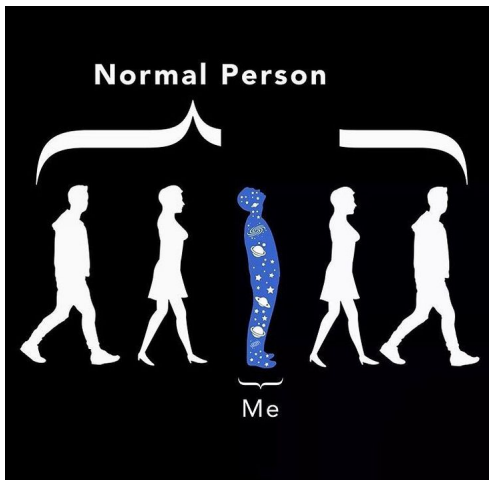
My Slightly Controversial Opinion on the "Look-At-Me-Syndrome"

LILLY REMBECKI STAFF WRITER

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Probably everyone knows at least one person who feels the need to include themselves into every single conversation. Not just that, but they also intentionally set themselves apart from others to make them self feel better than them. I like to call it the "Look-At-Me-Syndrome." Many times this phenomenon occurs as something people also may call "pick-me." This refers to someone who puts down other girls to make themselves stand out. It could also manifest itself in the constant need to make fun of her friends (or anything that's stereotypically feminine). These types of people are not totally the same, but one thing they all have in common is that they think they stand out. I really hate to break it to you, but no matter what you do or think, you are more similar to others than you realize. So when you make fun of people for being "basic" you are making fun of yourself as well. I wonder, how can someone fill their everyday life with so much hate and negativity? I have this theory that they mostly just project their insecurities on everyone else, because they're unable to enjoy it the same way which gives them this huge feeling of impostor syndrome and eats them up inside. So, they just make it everyone else's problem, probably to cope with it. However, there is nothing cool about being unlikable and while you may feel like one of those action movie villains that everyone likes more than the hero, you're really not.

I initially wanted to write this about how people shouldn't waste their energy by trying to avoid being basic when it comes to pop culture or clothing preferences, so I apologize for ranting like that. Everyone is special in some way and there's more to you than the way you dress, what your favorite T.V series is, what your hair look like, etc. Don't let someone ruin your interests just because someone thinks, "You're Basic."



The Stress and Struggles of Junior Year

Figuring Out This Difficult Time of High School

ELLA BARKLEY STAFF WRITER

You've all heard of the challenges that come with this certain year. And yes, everything everyone says about it is 100% true. So I'm sure it's not something that you are looking forward to if you are an underclassman. And if you haven't heard about it yet, well let this be a newflash for you. Junior year in high school is the first year you officially have to start thinking about your future life out of high school and what's to come in the following years. For some underclassmen, this might seem intimidating and nerve-racking because you are scared to make the wrong decision at such a young age. Who would have thought that your freshman year you are already dreading graduating? But here's the thing. Things work out for a reason. So say you don't do as well on something to which you contributed hours; it's a sign that something better is coming from it. You may be thinking that every decision you make from here on out will affect your future life, but in reality, nothing is permanent. Junior year is supposed to help you rather than hurt you. It does have some negative associations with it, but it is just preparing you for the choices you will make in the next few years.



CONTINUED...

With all of this being said, there are many different pieces involved throughout the junior year that are crucial to succeed in your after-high-school plans. You've got the PSAT and SAT along with AP classes in high school. Not to mention getting your license as well as getting a job to make some money. And on top of it all, probably the most time-consuming and anxiety-inducing is college preparation and visits. When thinking about all of this, most can probably agree that they don't want to grow up and live on their own by themselves. Some may feel that they are ready to move out and finally get their independence. Whichever you are, all of these tasks are still critical throughout your junior year and that starts right when sophomore year ends.

But with all of this stress upon you, there are solutions and things to assist you during these difficult times in which you may feel you are all on your own. We as high school students benefit so much from attending Pine-Richland due to how prepared we will be in college. You might think that the late nights filled with homework and hours of studying aren't worth it. You would so much rather throw your homework out the window and relax on the couch watching your favorite movie. But in a couple of years when you are in your college dorm, you'll be thanking your high school life for the amount of preparation you did.

So whether you are an underclassman reading this article or an upperclassman, know that junior year is tough, but you'll make it through. Just remember while tossing your cap at graduation in less than a year or four years, that you made it through some tough times as a 17-year-old. You can only go up from here. And just before you know it, junior year will be complete and you'll be the one with the senior skip days instead.



*Junior Anna Amato touring Penn State University,
photo by Ella Barkley*

"Twilight"

Why Does This Movie Saga Represent Fall So Well?

ANARELLA PENA STAFF WRITER

If there's a movie (saga) that's a must-watch for fall, it's Twilight because of the vibes, the plot, and the atmospheric setting of lush forests and misty landscapes. It creates a perfect backdrop for the supernatural romance between Bella and Edward. The films' cool color palette and cozy aesthetic make it an ideal choice for a fall movie night. Plus, the story's theme of transformation and embracing the unknown align well with the spirit of the season.

But why is this saga so famous? Mostly because it was one of the first to be created with the typical, normal girl/supernatural boy cliché. The books and movies created a fanbase that embraced the characters, their struggles, and the enchanting world they inhabited.

This comforting movie provides a sense of escape and nostalgia. The story of forbidden love and supernatural creatures allows viewers to immerse themselves in a fantasy world where anything is possible. The familiar characters and their struggles make it easy to connect with the story and find comfort in their journey.

Additionally, the movie's cozy setting, along with its emotional soundtrack, creates a comforting ambiance that wraps you up like a warm blanket on a chilly fall evening. So grab a blanket, a cup of hot cocoa, and immerse yourself in the cozy comfort of the Twilight Saga.



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