

Issue 16 RAMPAGE

March 28, 2025

**THIS YEAR'S PROM
THEME IS HOLLYWOOD
NIGHT! TICKETS WILL
BE ON SALE APRIL 3
THROUGH APRIL 9, IN
THE PINE-RICHLAND
HIGH SCHOOL FRONT
LOBBY BEFORE SCHOOL.**

**Seniors Grace Hanselman, Mackenzie
Mercuri, Erica Waite, Emma Eckert, and
Lucy Powell**



Delivering high
school news...one
page at a time!
Pine-Richland High
School

**Peer to Peer members hosted the Mind
Matter Conference to promote mental
health awareness and welcomed many
school districts.**

Phot by @pr_schools



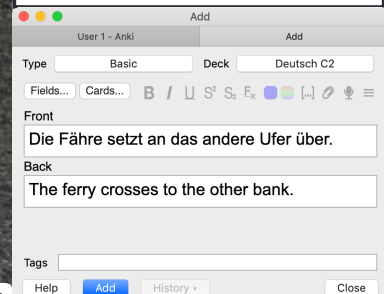
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Student Life

Student Spotlight

Meet Junior Isaac Kraus

AVA BARSON STAFF WRITER

What's your favorite color?

"Purple"

Favorite song?

"Don't Blame Me by Taylor Swift"

Favorite singer?

"Britney Spears"

Favorite food?

"Chicken Alfredo"

Favorite subject?

"Science"

Favorite candy?

"100 Grand Bars"

Favorite Vacation?

"Anywhere with a beach and decent weather"

Do you have any pets?

"1 Dog, 4 cats, and many foster cats"

Do you have any siblings?

"One sister who's a freshman named Aubrey"

What do you like to do in your free time?

"I like to go out with my friends anywhere just to hang out and drive around and I love playing video games."

Do you play any sports?

"I don't play any sports"

What's your favorite class that you have?

"My favorite class this year is AP Chemistry because I'm very interested in the content and labs are usually fun."

What classes are you excited to take next year?

"I'm really excited for AP Bio next year because again I'm really interested in science and biology specifically is one of my favorite sciences."

What are your future plans?

"I plan to go to college and major in biochemistry or something similar to that but I still am not 100% sure what college or if that's definitely what I'll major in."

What does the ideal free day look like for you?

"The ideal free day to me is just laying in bed binge watching whatever show I'm on and playing games with my friends all day."

Do you have any hobbies?

"I honestly don't do much outside of school so I don't really have any hobbies aside from video games."

Are you a morning or night person?

"I am a night person because I basically get the whole house to myself and it's quiet and relaxing."



*Right is Junior Isaac Kraus
Left is Sophomore Francesca Guzzu*

If you could meet anyone in history who would you want to meet? "I know she's still alive but I would say Britney Spears in the late 90s because I think she would be cool to talk to and hear about her music ideas."

Advice for other students?

"The only advice I have is to keep trying your best and get rid of the perfectionist mentality because classes are going to get harder and it's very difficult to maintain those perfect grades that everyone feels like they need to have."

MINI-THON: On Saturday April 26th from 5 to 8pm, we are going to Wave Away Cancer at Mini-THON. Join us to show support for all families in need! Even if you can only join for a part of the evening, they could use your support. They will still have the Buffalo Wild Wings Wing Eating Competition as well as Zumba, Knockout, Cornhole and more!

Student Life

Plans for the Fourth Quarter

Last Nine Weeks

GIANNA UNGOR STAFF WRITER

With the last nine weeks on its way, it's important to set goals to ensure a good ending to the school year. The 2024-2025 school year has gone by super fast but it's not too late to set goals. For the last nine weeks I want to set goals to help end the year on a positive note.

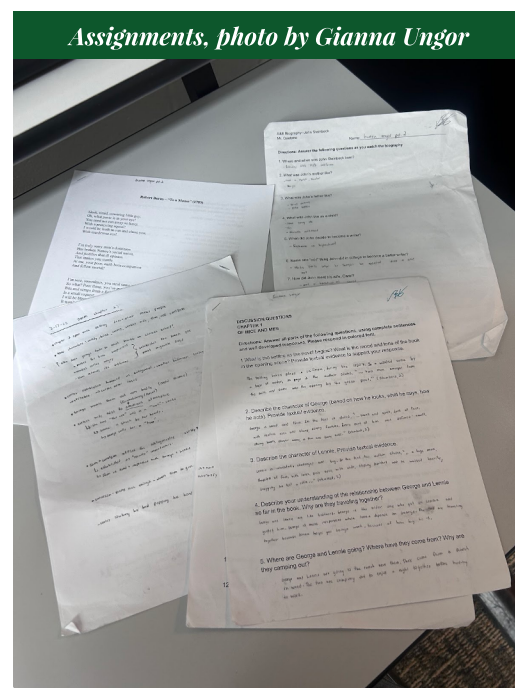
One of the goals I'd like to accomplish by the end of the nine weeks is studying. I have never been a good student. Usually I fall asleep before I even get to studying. I need to hold myself more accountable for studying. I want to be able to study at a table and not go straight to my bed because I get nothing done. This goal would help improve my test scores because primarily of my tests are memorization.

Another goal is to get overall better at math. I haven't been great at math in years because I stopped practicing and staying on top of it. I want to put more attention into that subject because it is the subject that I struggle the most with. I want to at least see what happens these last nine weeks when I try.

One of my longer goals is getting more sleep. Usually I go to bed around eleven and I wish to go to bed around nine so I'm not so tired in the morning. The only issue is that I get home from work around eight so I have to shower, eat, and do school, which takes over two hours.

Time management is another thing I need to get better at. During my study hall in school I usually sit on my phone or talk instead of getting anything done. Hopefully if I use my time better then I will be able to get stuff done faster. Which would help me fall asleep faster and improve my learning.

All of my goals really pile on top of each other and would make my schooling a whole lot better. What is a better way of doing these things than the last weeks of school? Besides, next year is my senior year so I might as well try before I get senioritis.



Assignments, photo by Gianna Ungor

42nd Street Review

Look into my Thoughts on the High School Musical

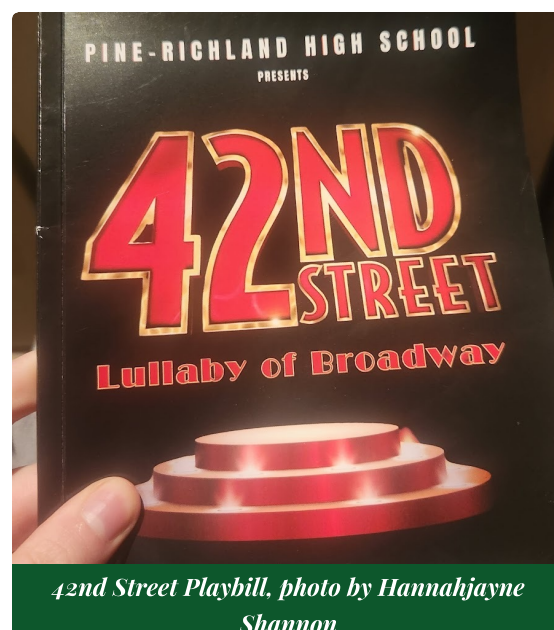
HANNAHJAYNE SHANNON STAFF WRITER

On Saturday March 15th I saw the second to last show of *42nd Street*. I waited because I wanted to see them at their best and I think it really paid off. I would like to share some of my thoughts and opinions about the musical.

I thought the acting and singing was so good. Everybody was amazing, I was blown away by the talent. All of the songs were so fun and catchy that once I left the theater I still had the songs playing in my head. I think my favorite song was "About a Quarter to Nine." I loved seeing the two characters that hated each other before have a cute musical moment.

The dancing was spectacular. I do not even have the words to describe how good the tapping was. I was so surprised that they were able to teach everyone to tap dance in only a few months. I loved the opening because of how they opened up with the tapping. I think everyone was so in sync and it looked amazing. I loved how every number incorporated tapping into it.

It was fun to see all of my friends in the musical. I saw almost all of my friends that I wanted to see and so many more. I would recommend the soundtrack to anyone who loves some upbeat fun songs that are easy to dance to. I think everyone should have seen it but if you didn't, you can watch the movie instead.



42nd Street Playbill, photo by Hannahjayne Shannon

Sports

Spring Sports at Pine-Richland *What to Look Forward to in PR Athletics*

SHOME RAO STAFF WRITER

As the weather gets warmer, the focus has shifted to all the spring sports that we have here at PRHS. These ones I'm going to cover include boy's and girl's lacrosse, boy's volleyball, baseball, softball, and track and field, as of March 21st, 2025.

With two strong wins to start the season, the girl's lacrosse team is looking better than ever. Their first game against the USC Panthers ended in a score of 17-6, with the best performance coming from senior Madeline Mill with 5 goals. Their second game against Penn Trafford ended 16-4, with junior Cate Gentile having an all-around strong performance of 4 goals and 5 assists. Boy's lacrosse has had a slow start to their season with a loss to Mars, but they picked it back up with a win against Fox Chapel. Now they look forward to their first home game against Mt. Lebanon on March 20th.

Onto volleyball, the boy's team is looking amazing as usual, marching into Fox Chapel for their tournament classic and leaving with a 9-1 record and a championship win. After that, senior Luke Jancy was dubbed AAA Player of the Week. In their first game of their official season, they swept the Thomas Jefferson Jaguars in Pine-Richland fashion. They now look to their home opener against Armstrong on March 20th.

The Ram's softball team also look very strong this year. To start their season they went to a spring training tournament in Pidgeon Forge, Tennessee, and came home undefeated. Varsity had 37 runs scored in just 3 games, and JV had a walk-off win during the week as well. Their first official game against Mars was a solid 7-3 win, sophomore Abby Laurent going 2 for 3 with 2 RBIs.

With just two games into their season, the baseball team had both non-sections wins to start their season. The first match was against Hempfield, where the Rams won 11-2, a home-run coming from junior Ben Husted. Their second game against rival North Allegheny ended in a strong 11-5 win, with senior Anthony Mengine going 1 for 2 with 3 RBIs. Their next match will be on March 24th against Mars.

PR Track and Field have their schedule set, sadly with only two home meets on the 18th and 26th. With many more to come, the season will end on May 9th, and championships will go on until the 24th.



PR Boys Volleyball team, photo provided by Shome Rao

Rams Win Opener

Pine Richland Defeats Hempfield

DAVIS NATALI STAFF WRITER

Pine-Richland took care of business in their home opener, defeating the Hempfield Spartans 11-2. It was a complete performance from the Rams. Ben Husted and senior Thomas Kapanowski did most of the damage: Husted went 2-for-3 with one home run, two runs, and two RBI, while Kapanowski scored a run and stole three bases while going 3-for-3. Pine-Richland finished the game with a batting average of .419. With this win, the Rams go to 1-0 on the year.



Senior Tanner Cunningham, photo provided by Davis Natali

Sports

PR Softball Travels to Tennessee

Athlete Talks About the Trip

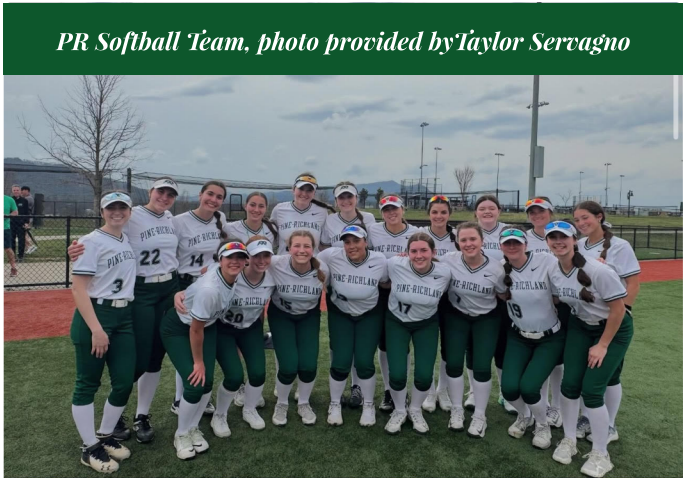
TAYLOR SERVAGNO STAFF WRITER

Two weeks ago the PR Softball team went on a trip to Pigeon Forge Tennessee. The trip lasted from Wednesday the 12th to Saturday the 15th. They missed school for three days for this trip which gave them a break from schoolwork. The team took a bus together that lasted 8 hours. I talked with sophomore Gianna Burja about her experience on the trip and here's what she said.

The team stayed at a house together and Gianna roomed with two other people, Catie Scholl and Nora Cherry. They all played board games together. The jv and varsity teams went 3-0 the whole weekend. They all did really well and had a great time together. They got along and got closer on this trip.

After playing games one night they went to a place called the Island. Together they all went out to eat and also went on amusement park rides. They stayed up late talking to the freshmen and playing games with each other, which was Gianna's favorite part of the trip. She felt that she got closer with everyone and she really enjoyed it.

In Tennessee it was really warm when they went. So when they played it was really nice outside. Gianna likes the warmer weather because she gets tan and she likes to spend more time outside. It's also a nice change from the cold Pittsburgh weather. This trip was successful for the PR Softball team since they won their games. It also made them get closer with each other.



Opinion

A Student's Review of the Anki Flashcard Software

ULRICH JOHNSEN FREELANCE WRITER

Some studies show that the human brain can hold a petabyte or two of information—that is thousands of times more storage than your smartphone or computer can maintain. If we take this metric at face value, it implies that we are more than capable of remembering 500 billion pages of text with room to spare.

However, experience tells us that harnessing our impressive memory is not always as simple as downloading a file onto a computer, and in spite of our plentiful storage capacity, we often find it is frustratingly difficult to remember information. Memorization is often one of the biggest cruces for students, and it is therefore imperative that every student finds a studying technique that works for them. As we are told ad nauseam, there is no one-size-fits-all solution to effective studying; however, there are certain methods and tools that may work for a large portion of students. One such tool worth consideration is Anki. Anki is a flashcard software, akin to Quizlet, with an abundance of powerful features. It is highly customizable and employs some clever tricks to help your brain to learn.

For instance, Anki will not, by default, show you all of the cards in a deck within a single study session. Instead, it shows you a few new cards each day and reviews older ones that you were about to forget.

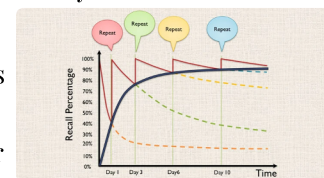
The more times you answer a card correctly, the longer it will take for that card to appear again in a session, ensuring that you focus more on the new information and less on what you've already mastered. This is called spaced repetition, a method scientifically proven to boost long-term retention. Much like other flashcard software, Anki relies on self-evaluation to grade cards. But while many platforms use a binary, right-or-wrong grading system,

Anki users rate their own performance using one of four buttons: "Again," which is selected when the user cannot produce the correct answer; "Hard," which is selected when the user has difficulty producing the correct answer; "Good," which is selected when the user produces the correct answer after a little mental effort; and "Easy," which is selected when the user answers the question quickly and effortlessly. This rating system allows the software to time reviews more precisely. Another useful feature of Anki is the unmatched freedom it gives users over the appearance of their cards. Anki comes with several built-in templates, such as "Basic (and reversed card)," which automatically creates a second card with the front and back swapped, or "Image occlusion," which allows users to cover up and reveal parts of an image. Creating simple cards is a quick and easy process, yet experienced users desiring more customization can exercise full control over the format, style, and function of their cards using Anki's built-in HTML editor.

For me, one of my favorite facets of Anki is the fact that it is almost entirely open-source. Unlike many applications, Anki does not operate under an unreasonably restrictive "freemium" model, smother users with ads, or sell private data. The desktop and Android editions of the software are entirely free. The iOS version does require a one-time payment, but as this serves as one of the only sources of funding for such high-quality software, many users consider the payment a donation rather than a pesky fee. Anki also uses "copyleft" licensing, so developers are free to make derivatives from the original source code as long as their work is also open-source. This means that students not only have access to the original software for free,

but also any add-ons or variations created by the community. While Anki has quickly solidified its place as my favorite studying tool, it certainly isn't for everyone.

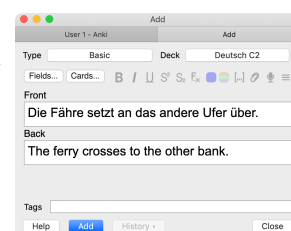
The interface is not nearly as polished as that of other applications,



and can sometimes be a bit unintuitive. It lacks the gamification of services like Blooket or Kahoot and does little to make studying "fun." Furthermore, creating decks and then going several days without studying can potentially lead to an overwhelming buildup of reviews. Anki works best when it is used over the span of many days, so if you're someone who tends to wait until the last minute to cram for tests, Anki cannot do much more for you than any other tool can. However, if you are a diligent student who is willing to invest a couple of extra minutes in your studies every night, I would highly recommend using Anki.

Even with our own petabyte of memory inside our heads, effective studying will always remain a challenge, and no single tool can completely solve this problem.

However, with hard work and a practical resource like Anki, our memories can become more and more reliable, training us to remember information not just until the exam is over, but almost indefinitely.



Serialized Novel

Chapter Six - A Knight's Dilemma

As Julius ran, his heart pounded through his chest. He tried to stop himself, but his feet would not listen. Against his better judgement, he flew through the tunnels and corridors of the castle until he eventually arrived at the infamous throne room of King Arthur. Although his feet had finally come to a stop, his mind was racing.

Joining Henry would be betraying the King, but telling the King would be betraying Henry. He was not quite sure which one was worse. However, the strident ticking of time backed him into a corner. He had no choice in this matter but to remain loyal to his duties; to serve his kingdom and, like always, his King.

"Are you looking for someone?" a familiar voice behind him interrupted his thoughts, booming with an unbearable sense of self-importance and arrogance.

Julius quickly spun on his heels and was met with a snarky smile.

"Yes, Derek," Julius addressed his fellow knight with disdain. Derek had long envied Julius for his position as Chief Guard, believing he was more deserving of the role if it were not for nepotism's upper hand. "I'm looking for the King. But, I don't need your assistance."

"Well, actually you do," Derek bit back. "The King is not here. I would tell you where he is, but, considering that I was the only one entrusted with his whereabouts, you are not allowed to know." A smug expression spread across his unfortunate face.

"Okay," Julius sighed, granting Derek a sense of temporary superiority. "I request that you retrieve the King for the delivery of an urgent message, or face the consequences." As Derek opened his mouth to fight back, Julius quickly declared, "It is a matter of the well-being and safety of every subject in this kingdom. You wouldn't want to be the reason our monarchy collapses, would you?"

"Fine, clotpole," Derek retorted. "Don't move," he called over his shoulder as he began to saunter away. "You know better than anyone that the King hates to be kept waiting."

Left only with the deafening silence of solitary, Julius found himself at a crossroads. He had spent the whole of his life tied to his allegiance to the King. It was not until now that he considered the possibility of such loyalty being the very thing that blinded him from the truth. Henry was not only a friend, but a brother. The two were bound together by their shared adversities, faithful to one another like family. Julius had never once before been given reason to question Henry's sanity nor his morality. He was a perfectly reasonable and honorable man. For someone like him to align with rebel causes, perhaps there were facets to such rebellion Julius had yet to consider. Perhaps he was too quick to turn his head to Henry's offer. Julius began to pace back and forth, his body feeling as pulled in different directions as his mind. The longer he stood outside the throne room, the more wrong he began to feel. Guilt crept into his conscience, and he could not fight the notion that he had chosen incorrectly by coming straight to the castle. Suddenly, Julius could hear the faint sound of footsteps approaching. Arthur and Derek were on their way, accompanied by additional members of the royal guard.

"Ahem," Derek announced their presence from across the corridor, leading the assembly as King Arthur and his mantle trailed behind.

"Your Majesty, sir," Julius greeted them and bowed as they neared.

"What is it, Julius?" the King impatiently urged, looking down upon him. His towering stature paralleled his towering reputation.

"Well, you see," Julius nervously began, unsure of what words would follow. "I wanted you to know that... Derek, here, has been... well, exceptional help recently. I suggest he receive a promotion in his ranks. Of course, nothing to exceed my role as Chief Guard, but a simple act of recognition would suffice."

He looked up to meet the eyes of a startled Derek and disbelieving Arthur. The guards standing behind them, typically stoic in their composure, could not help but let a brief moment of shock show on their faces. Julius had not entirely considered the consequences of such a suggestion, but it was all his brain could conjure up under the pressure of his changed mind. The knowledge of the information he now was intentionally keeping from the King taunted him. The words he spoke seemed of a foreign tongue, unfamiliar to him as their underlying motivation contrasted everything he had been raised to be. However, there was no harm in creating an opportunity for Derek to step off his back for the time being. He could not have any eyes following him too closely if he were to go through with his new plan.

"That's what you needed to inform me of so urgently?" Arthur questioned, skeptical. He glanced toward Derek, a flash of disapproval crossing his face.

"Yes, Your Majesty. I believed my message could not wait, and highly suggest the promotion be immediate," Julius responded.

"Well then, I will consider your suggestion," Arthur answered. "I trust your judgement, Julius. You have always served me and this kingdom like no other." His words, while a compliment, felt like a threat.

With that, Julius was left alone in the corridor. He exhaled sharply. Even if it was simply a lie by omission, he had still lied. This was only the first act of betrayal he had committed, and he knew there would be many more. In joining Henry's efforts, this was only the beginning.

As he turned to leave, a gloved hand clamped onto his shoulder, stopping him in his tracks. "You're acting strange, Julius," Derek murmured, his tone devoid of its usual arrogance. "I don't trust it."

Julius forced a smirk, but his pulse quickened. "Paranoia doesn't suit you, Derek." Derek studied him for a moment longer before releasing his grip. "We'll see about that."

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The RAMPAGE is available online every Thursday under the high school Resources Tab.

It is written by students, for students, and will make every attempt to report all school-related news. We welcome freelance submissions, suggestions, comments, and story ideas from students and staff. Since this is a student-publication, we realize we make mistakes: we encourage readers to report mistakes to the staff writers; you may win a prize if you locate any/all mistakes.

**Got news or want to be interviewed by our staff?
DM the Rampage on Instagram!**

@pinerichlandrampage

RYAN'S RADAR

RYAN LUBINSKY FREELANCE WRITER

With the recent severe weather this weekend and now 5 confirmed tornadoes in Western Pennsylvania, I thought I would address some concerns regarding the ominous low hanging cloud that moved through on the leading edge of those damaging thunderstorms. This is actually a shelf cloud, it is defined as a low-level, horizontal, wedge shaped cloud that forms on the leading edge of a thunderstorm's gust front or outflow boundary. This is caused by warm inflow air injecting into the storms updraft, and negatively buoyant air parcels (rain-cooled air) rapidly accelerating downward and spreading out in all directions, causing strong winds, this temperature gradient is what causes a shelf cloud. This is a very common feature in strong to severe thunderstorms with gusty wind. The image attached shows a shelf cloud on June 17, 2024, this storm ended up producing 60-70 mph winds and I received dozens of pictures and reports of damage with hundreds of thousands without power in the Pittsburgh Metro area.

Another storm feature is called "scud", it may look like a tornado, and actually take the shape of one, but it is just as a result of rising thermals and very rapid acceleration aloft of buoyancy.

Severe Weather Season will be picking up come April, so be ready and have a plan in place. If you want consistent information and updated info, see my instagram.

Photo provided by junior Ryan Lubinsky



Dear Readers,

Thank you for reading this edition of the Rampage! We appreciate your support and dedication to staying informed about our school community. If you have story ideas or feedback, feel free to reach out - we'd love to hear from you!

Sincerely,

June McCune and Anna
Karmanos
Editors-In-Chief