



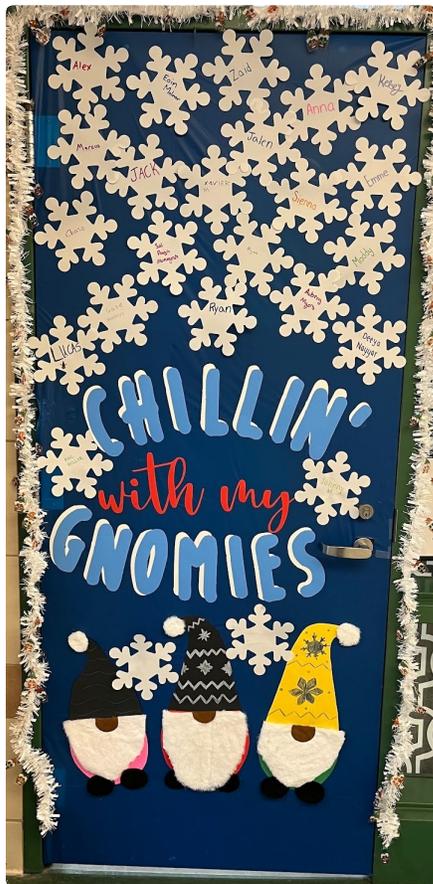
HAPPY HOLIDAYS



PRHS Spanish Club Junior Alona Grytsiuk and Freshmen Cassie Barg, and Jordyn Riley

Seniors Logan Keegan, Chase Ogden, Jonathan Sweet, Jordan Crutchfield, Mateen Hassan, Nick Annal, and Rodolfo Ramirez.

Provided By: Rodolfo Ramirez



Miss Marion



Mrs. Brough

DOOR DECORATING CONTEST!



Mrs. Vigliotti and Mrs. Carrabba

PR Local

Global Recipes

How to make “Venezuelan Hallacas”

CAMILA MÁRQUEZ MEDINA STAFF WRITER

Global Cultures

In Venezuelan culture, we have a yearly tradition where in December, the whole family reunites into one household to make hallacas. My family usually makes around 80-100 hallacas for the whole year, but this year we are making around 60. The most popular story behind the Hallaca attributes their creation to enslaved people during colonial times. After Christmas festivities, they gathered leftovers from their masters’ meals, wrapped them in cornmeal dough, and boiled them in plantain leaves. This method helped blend the flavors into a unique dish. The most common version features a stew with pork, chicken, and beef. In the Andean region, people add boiled eggs (don’t ask me why, they’re kinda weird.) But an Hallaca is more than just a dish, it’s a symbol of tradition, friendship, resolution, union, celebration, family, and childhood memories. The day of the making of the Hallaca is also the perfect excuse to reunite with your whole family, even with the ones you don’t have around anymore, because when you use the recipe your mom or grandma used to make, we give honor to their legacy. Even if they don’t turn out the same.



Camilla's Family and Friends

The Recipe

This is my family’s recipe that has been passed down from my grandmother. The real story is that my grandma and grandpa are both originally from Colombia, but immigrated to Calabozo, Venezuela, and made it their new home. There, their neighbor taught my grandma how to make Hallacas. ANYWAYS, enough with all the backstory stuff and let’s get to the actual recipe.

DISCLAIMER: This is MY family’s recipe so it’s not the original recipe, but I can argue that it’s way better, because if you ask a Venezuelan what is the best hallaca the answer will always be, the best hallaca “La hace mi mama”.



Ingredients

Ingredients

- 3 kg of meat
- 6 Green Onions
- 1 Big onion and 2 little onions
- 7 Seedless tomatoes
- 3 Small packets of garlic
- 1 Jar of capers
- Various Plantain leaves
- Corn dough, brand - P.A.N
- Avocado/Olive Oil
- Chicken Broth
- 7 Red peppers
- 3 Packages of Chicken Breast
- 1 Big jar of olives
- 1 Pound of prunes
- 1 Pound of raisins



Venezuelan Hallacas

PR Local

Page designed by TAYLOR SERVAGNO DESIGN EDITOR

Preparation

Stew: First, the meat is cooked thoroughly. The whole piece is placed in water, with salt, onions, garlic, cilantro, and other seasonings. In another pot, we do the same with the chicken breasts. Around midday, it's cooked for about an hour. Then, it's left to rest and stored in the refrigerator. The water is kept covered at a comfortable temperature. The following morning, the meat is chopped into small cubes. The seasoning should also be chopped, not too finely, as it will dissipate quickly.

Then the stew is fried in annatto oil (prepared beforehand over low heat, checking that it doesn't burn, and turning off when it takes on a slightly orange color, without overcooking; approximately half a liter of oil is used in more than half a standard bag of annatto). Afterwards, it is strained.

Add the seasoning to the oil and stir for a while until it browns. Then, add 2.5 caps of adobo seasoning, 2 caps of cumin, and half of the broth. Then the meat is added and stirred so that it doesn't burn.

Dough: Then, in a large bowl, pour the same broth from the meat and dissolve half a packet of flour in it. Add this mixture to the stew and stir until all the ingredients are combined and cooked. (Taste to check the seasoning and make sure it's flavorful.)

Then the dough is prepared by hand in the same bowl, from half a package to almost a whole package of flour, with the broth from the meat and chicken. When it is well mixed, the rest of the annatto oil is added to give it color; it should be soft.

Now we proceed to prepare the hallaca itself. A quantity of dough is placed on the leaf and spread, using plastic wrap and a spoon to flatten it. The stew and decorations are added: 1 to 2 olives, 2 large raisins, 5 small raisins, a strip of bell pepper, and a few strips of onion. The hallaca is folded in half and tied with kitchen thread. Then it's cooked for 20 to 30 minutes per batch until all are cooked. They are then left to cool completely and refrigerated.

SIDE NOTE: This whole process must be made with Gaitas Venezolanas playing in the back. (Which translates to Venezuelan bagpipes), and wherever we are, we will make hallacas with our families and with friends who become like family, and that way, we will always have a little piece of our homeland in our homes.



Camilla and her aunts making hallacas when she was little



The inside of an hallaca



Camilla's family and friends making hallacas 2 years ago

PR Local

Big Bucks Back to Back

PR's Joe Strobel Wins Big Two Years in a Row

ELLIE MYERS STAFF WRITER AND DESIGNER



*Joe Strobel with his winnings two years in a row
 Provided by: Joe Strobel*

Two years in a row, and exactly one day apart, PR's favorite custodian Joe Strobel won the PR football game 50/50 raffle. What makes this experience even more amazing is the fact that he won it at the home stadium, while the same away team Shaler was there. The odds of winning twice in a row are 25%, so it's safe to say the odds were against him. He is the only person in over 60 years to win a 50/50 twice at PR.

This is a great example of good things happening to good people. Just over a year ago, Mr. Strobel successfully saved a customer's life at a restaurant in Richland Twp. For years he has been an asset to the PR staff, and to see his good deeds come back to him in cash is heartwarming. Call it good karma, call it luck. All I want to know is, will he go 3 for 3 next year?

PR Local

Page designed by TAYLOR SERVAGNO DESIGN EDITOR
AND MARIANNA ZAHORCHAK EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Color Guard Takes the Field

Learn About the Work Behind Every Toss

GRACE LOGUE AND VIENNA RESTELLI STAFF WRITERS

If you've ever attended a school football game, you've for sure seen the blurs of flags and perfectly timed tosses throughout the marching band. That's the work of our very own color guard: an elective, as well as a tight-knit team.

This year, it's led by seniors like Lucy Kissman and Kendall Cain, who both describe it as something "kind of like a dance team, with flags and synchronized movements." Both tried out back in 8th grade, surrounded by friends and inspired by captains who made the work look effortless.

But if you ask any member, the first year is *never* effortless.

"It definitely gets easier over time," junior Mackenzie Medjimorec said.

Through the long practices and steep learning curve, she said that she was able to find her place.

"I'm really happy I chose to do it," she said.

Mackenzie originally wanted to be a part of the band, so color guard seemed like a great place to join.

Now, she's a leader in French club, serving as both secretary and social media officer, takes electives like marketing (which she recommends), and even picked up piano with zero prior experience. She plans to major in marketing in college.

All three members vividly remember their three-day tryout process: two clinic days where captains teach one or two routines, and third day of official auditions—numbers assigned and groups of three rotating between tables of judges.

Lucy said that you just perform what you had learned, and that the results go up that night by your assigned number.

Kendall remembers tryouts being harder than expected, but the chance to perform at places, like Acrisure stadium, made it worth it. Even school assemblies, despite being "a bit stressful when everyone's crammed together," are part of the thrill.

Both Lucy and Kendall also live busy lives outside of color guard. Lucy, who works at Graeter's, is part of student government and loves classes like marketing, FCS, AP Psych, and AP Lit. She's attending Pitt next year and is considering a double major—possibly psychology and something in science.



*Color guard with Journalism class
Provided by: Mrs. Harshman*

Kendall, a competitive dancer, is also in student government, works at Target, and loved taking classes like marketing, baking, AP Lang, and AP Lit. She's also attending Pitt but undecided on her major.

Color guard isn't just a fall activity; it's a class too—members sometimes spend the period running through the entire halftime show with the band. The team has a max of 24 people, and Kendall noted that, this year, they filled every spot.

As next year's scheduling nears, color guard is definitely an elective worth considering.



First Bell Breakdown Podcast

HANS MEIJER AND DEREK MANTON
PODCASTERS

The Great Surprise

BAEDEN GAUTHIER STAFF WRITER

Advent Calendars, The start of the element of surprise found during the Christmas season. The big mystery of what's inside our calendar. There are so many things that could be found in advent calendars. Including chocolate, toys,skincare, giftcards, etc. And as you grow older the things you want change. And you may not like that chocolate you once loved. Or that gift card you get every christmas. With that in mind, here are some advent calendars for each grade level:



Kindergarten: In kindergarten you don't really think too hard about what you want to have. In my opinion almost every kindergartner would love a **kinder advent calendar**. Come on what little kid wouldn't like candy. It's found at Target for \$9.29.



1st Grade: I feel like 1st grade screams Bluey. Obviously they would get a **Bluey advent calendar**. The calendar costs \$15.99 and is at Target.



2nd Grade: 2nd grade just gives 2021 vibes where fidgets are trending everywhere. So a **fidget advent calendar** is the only right choice here. I found one on Amazon for \$15.99.



3rd Grade: 3rd Grade just gives legos. I feel like every 3rd grader would love legos. But maybe that's just me. I feel like third graders would also want something to make.



4th Grade: It might have been just me in 4th grade but I was obsessed with some pretty creepy things. And something that's creepy that I think kids love include Furbys. I found a **holiday Furby advent calendar** on Walmart for \$19.99.

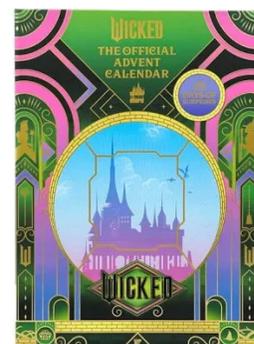


5th Grade: Are squishmallows still popular? I believe when my sister was in 5th grade she was obsessed with them. Like majorly obsessed with them. I have to put the **squishmallow calendar** from Walmart which costs \$24.88.

PR Local

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 MARIANNA ZAHORCHAK EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

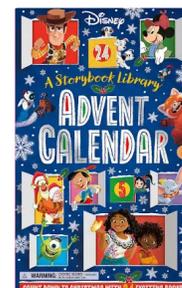
Continued: Advent Calendars For Each Grade To Bring Fun, Joy, And Mystery



6th Grade: The grade my sister is currently in, my sister is still influencing me with my decision for this advent calendar. She loves mini brands, so the only option for me is the \$20.00 **mini brand advent calendar** from 5 below.

7th Grade: 7th grade, the start of middle school. This is where it gets harder. I guess if I had to pick something for 7th graders it would be the **Minecraft advent calendar** from Barnes & Noble costing \$37.99.

8th Grade: 8th graders, I have no idea what these guys would be interested in. So I'm gonna completely guess and say the **Wicked for good advent calendar** available at Walmart for \$24.48.



9th Grade: Freshmen just scream beauty products. I don't know why they just do. So the **Ulta beauty advent calendar** would be great. It's from Target and costs \$45.00.

10th Grade: Sophomores like me are either miserable or lively. Huh sounds familiar? Well the Grinch does come to mind so for this advent calendar I picked **The Grinch 12 days 2025 advent calendar** from Walmart which costs \$29.97.

11th Grade: I feel like juniors love to binge TV shows. Which led me to think about the **Netflix advent calendar** from Walmart for \$88.99.

12th Grade: 12th graders couldn't care less. But they do have a lot of trends such as backpacks to bring out their inner child. So a **Disney advent calendar** from sams club costing \$16.88 would be nice.

PR Local

Page designed by MARIANNA ZAHORCHAK EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Athlete Spotlight: Jackson Mehaffey

An Inside Look at an Off-Season PRHS Baseball Player

JACOB HADLEY STAFF WRITER

What does a normal off-season training week look like for you?

“After school I go to a training facility and work on all aspects of my game.”

What part of your game do you focus on most during the off-season?

“Hitting for sure.”

Do you follow a specific workout routine at home?

“On the days I don’t go to a facility I go over to my gym.”

What kind of strength training do you do?

“All of the normal stuff you think of when someone says ‘lifting’ but also some other baseball specific exercises.”

How often do you hit during the off-season?

“Everyday if I can but usually 5 or 6 times a week.”

Do you work with any coaches or trainers in the off-season?

“Yeah there’s a bunch that I work with but I usually only work four of them.”

What goals do you set for yourself before the season starts?

“Getting on Varsity first of all and then trying to work up to being a starter.”

How do you keep your arm healthy before the season starts?

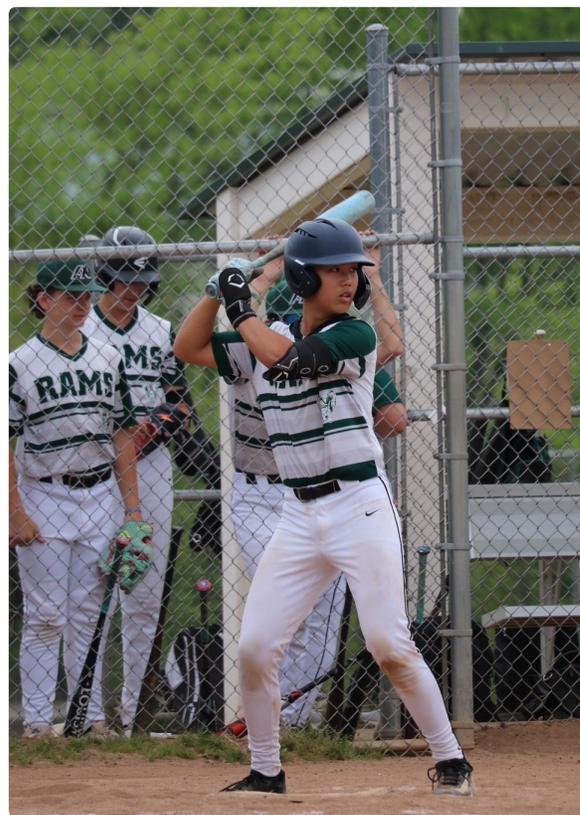
“I stretch every day.”

What does your throwing routine look like during the winter?

“We have a throwing program that we do 3 times a week.”

How do you prepare mentally for the upcoming season?

“Setting goals for myself and pushing myself to reach them.”



Jackson Mehaffey
Provided by: Jackson Mehaffey

What’s the biggest challenge of off-season training?

“Staying consistent and getting out to do all the stuff I need to do to succeed.”

Do you play in any off-season leagues or showcases?

“Yeah I do showcases but not any leagues.”

How do you balance schoolwork with training?

“Doing my work when I have free time so I can focus on my training.”

What part of your game are you most excited to show improvement in this season?

“I think the fielding and defensive part of my game.”

Why is the off-season important to you as a player?

“It builds my strength and confidence leading into the season.”

Entertainment

Page designed by TAYLOR SERVAGNO DESIGN EDITOR

Word Search

Try and find all the Words
CAMILIA MARQUEZ MEDINA STAFF WRITER



O	E	B	F	S	O	B	V	Q	R	V	Z	S	O	U
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| north pole | ornaments | presents |
| reindeer | santa | stars |

Entertainment

Page Designed by TAYLOR SERVAGNO DESIGN EDITOR

Holiday Hunt

Get into the holiday spirit!

DARSHA KANNAN STAFF WRITER

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| WORKSHOP | SKATE | SLED | SHOPPING | MISTLETOE | BLITZEN |
| DONNER | PRANCER | DANCER | DASHER | NAUGHTY | NICE |
| HOLIDAYS | DECORATE | HOT CHOCOLATE | HOLLY | FROSTY THE SNOWMAN | LIGHTS |
| GINGERBREAD | MRS. CLAUS | MERRY | NUTCRACKER | GREEN | RED |
| WRAPPING PAPER | SNOW | SNOWFLAKE | CHIMNEY | SNOWMAN | ORTAMENTS |
| TOYS | NOEL | JINGLE BELLS | FAMILY | JOY | EGGNOG |
| STOCKING | PRESENTS | CHRISTMAS TREE | CANDYCANE | SLEIGH | COOKIES |
| MILK | REINDEER | ELF | SANTA | RUDOLPH | |

Student Life

Page designed by Taylor Servagno DESIGN EDITOR

Money Matters

FBLA Speaker Megan Spear on Budgeting and Saving

VIENNA RESTELLI STAFF WRITER

At this month's FBLA meeting, speaker Megan Spear shared valuable insights on building a strong financial foundation. With a B.S. in business and accounting, Spear emphasized the importance of defining your personal financial goals and taking steps to start taking control of your money earlier on.

She outlined several steps to success: creating a budget, saving for the future, and paying down debt. She stressed that everyone's financial journey is unique, so it's important to have a clear picture of what you want to accomplish. She also encouraged students to start thinking about financial habits even while in high school, since early patterns often shape stability.

One budgeting strategy she spoke about is the 50-30-20 rule: 50% of your income goes toward essential expenses, 30% toward lifestyle, and 20% toward savings. Savings includes emergency funds, while investing can help reach larger goals such as a down payment, college tuition, or retirement.

Spear also explained the "Rule of 72," noting that money can double roughly every eight years if invested wisely. She said that starting early with savings can make a significant difference over time.

"Financial success isn't always about being the highest income earner," she said.

Finally, Spear talked about the difference between "good" and "bad" debt. Good debt includes things like mortgages, business loans, and education loans — all of which can help build wealth.

Therefore, take responsibility for your finances, plan ahead, and prioritize your savings. All of this can set anyone up for long-term financial success.



Mrs. Megan Spear
Picture provided by: prfbla on Instagram

Thursday, December 18
Sweater Weather! Break
out your favorite Holiday
Sweater!

Friday, December 19
Holidays Around the
World! Dress up to
represent a holiday from
around the world!

Student Life

Page designed by TAYLOR SERVAGNO DESIGN EDITOR

Waiting for Big Moments in Life

How Anticipation Makes Fun Events so Much Better

JACOB HADLEY STAFF WRITER

Have you ever just wanted a day to come so fast but it feels like it's taking forever? Well unfortunately, this feeling happens to everyone all the time. I can't grasp what it is but this type of feeling comes around at least once a week for me. It could be anything; an upcoming hockey game, family event, rest day, etc. Maybe sometimes this feeling is a good thing because you can sit back and realize that what you have coming up is going to be way worth the wait. Let me tell you about some of my experiences with this feeling.

I am actually experiencing this feeling right now. Next week I get to see my family that is coming in from New York and I cannot wait to see them. We are going to go to a Penguins game together and then go hangout at my grandparents house. This week feels like it is taking forever and I can't stand it. However, sometimes I can think about the positives and realize that it will be worth it once I get to see them.



*Jacob Hadley at Sand Hollow Golf Resort in St George, Utah
Provided by: Jacob Hadley*



Jacob Hadley with his hockey team in Buffalo, New York
Provided by: Jacob Hadley

Another time I experienced this was in the summer time. This actually happened about every weekend in the summer. Every weekend I would play in different golf tournaments and I would spend all week getting ready and practicing. The practicing was great and I loved the whole process, but sometimes I just wanted to go play the tournament. It wasn't all about winning though. Of course, I love to win but the main part I would look forward to was just seeing all my golf friends, playing new courses, and getting that urge to play some good golf.

One last time this happened to me was a few weeks ago. It was a three day week at school but it felt like an eternity. This was all because I had a hockey tournament coming up on the weekend. Of course I wanted to win and we did, but the main thing I took away from the tournament was how much I loved getting to see all my teammates and make good memories with them. Overall, the main thing I want to leave you with is that you don't always have to focus on the big picture of life. Sometimes, just take a step back and look a little deeper into what positives you can take away from a fun experience.

Sports

Page Designed by PETRA BALKOVEC DESIGN EDITOR

Steelers vs Bears Week 12 Preview

DEREK MANTON STAFF WRITER

Week 12 in the NFL will feature the 6-4 Steelers vs the 7-3 Bears. The game will be played at Soldier Field in Chicago where the Steelers are 1-12 all time. The Bears are coming into this game on a 3 game win streak with a win in Cincinnati against the Bengals 47-42, a win at home against the Giants 24-20, and a win in Minnesota against the Vikings 19-17. The Bears made a big change this off-season after they fired Matt Eberflus mid season, and hired former Lions offensive coordinator Ben Johnson. The 40 year old first time head coach was known for his creative offense, and specifically his trickery. He has brought that to the Bears this season and is a big reason for the success so far.

2nd year QB and former #1 overall pick Caleb Williams has taken a step forward this season. Though he lacks accuracy, he makes up for it in his ability to create plays outside of the pocket, and has shown when the pressure is on, he can step up and make a play. The former USC Trojans QB has thrown for 2,329 yards (13th in the league), 13 TDs (19th in the league), 60% completion rate (51st in the league), and 4 interceptions (49th in the league).

The Bears have a 2 headed monster at RB, Rookie 7th draft pick RB Kyle Monangai has come on strong the past few weeks, and you cannot forget about RB D'Andre Swift. Both are averaging 4.7 yards per carry (31st in the league).

Monangai has 87 carries for 413 yards this season while Swift has 134 carries for 634 yards. Swift has 4 TDs while Monangai has 3. The Bears rushing attack doesn't just come from those 2 though, Caleb Williams has proven that he is more than capable to get a first down or 2 with his legs.

The game Sunday will come down to who is more physical, who plays more violent, the Steelers vs Bears will be a thriller as their matchups usually are. Aaron Rodgers is questionable to play, and if he does, expect a rowdy crowd where everyone hates Rodgers in Chicago. Here. We. Go.



#12 Aaron Rodgers stiff arming Bears defender
Provided by: Getty

Sports

Page designed by PETRA BALKOVEC Design Editor

Rams Fall Short in WPIAL Championship *Peters Township Outlasts PR to Win it All*

JACK PETULLA & DEREK MANTON STAFF WRITERS

On Saturday, November 22, PR football faced off against Peters Township at Acrisure Stadium under the lights. In a thriller of a game PR ended up losing to Peters Township 19-20. The entire PR community was well aware of the importance of this game, including administration.

Principal Dr. Hernandez said, “This game shows our students, coaching staff, and school district's, commitment to meeting our vision of high quality learning experiences inside and outside of our classrooms. We have a proud football culture at PR and making it to the championship speaks to our student-athletes talent and commitment to excellence.”

He continued, “As the principal, it is very rewarding to see your students work hard at what they are passionate about and then seeing their individual and team success pay off. Whether sports, extracurricular activities or performing arts, each group makes our staff and community proud.”

There was a lot of hype leading up to the WPIAL championship game. Peters Township was seeking revenge after PR beat them in the same situation. Peters Township and PR have played each other in the last 3 WPIAL games with the winner being alternate each time.

We arrived at PR's stadium at around 4 pm on Saturday, and met up with the team while they ate dinner.

Then the coaches showed the team a video of past PR football players who won the WPIAL to give them some words of encouragement.

After the video, the team went downstairs to either get taped up or just relax before walking out to the bus to head to Acrisure Stadium. In the film room, the 3A WPIAL championship game was being played. Some of the players decided to watch the game while they waited to go on the bus.

The amount of attention to detail the players had while just watching the game was incredible. They were focused on the details of the game and all of the little things.

Then it was time for the team to head to the buses. The drive was smooth with a police escort all the way to the highway. The team entered through a gate, but we had to go a separate way to get official media passes.

Once we caught up with the team, we decided to walk on the field and watch some of the 3A WPIAL Championship game.

The feeling of stepping on a field you've only watched was surreal. We walked through the tunnel where the players walked through, which was an amazing experience.

After watching some of the 3A games we went back into the locker room with the team.

continued on next page

Sports

Page designed by PETRA BALKOVEC DESIGN EDITOR

We noticed that most of the players were calm in the locker room: there was no screaming or head butting. It was just like the phrase everyone says: “The calm before the storm.” Then we got to go through the tunnel after the players and hear the cheers of all PR fans as the team warmed up. Since there was a game before the PR game, they had limited time to warm up.

Then it was gametime. We aren’t going to spend a lot of time on this part because most fans already know what happened, and while exciting, it was also devastating.

And so, to make an incredible, long game short: PR got an early lead with 3 touchdowns, a hand-off to senior Jay Timmons, a QB sneak by junior Oobi Strader, and a receiving touchdown by junior Khalil Taylor. After the first two touchdowns, PR tried throwing off the Peters’ defense with a trick play. Jay Timmons would snap it to Oobi Strader with Khalil Taylor behind him, while the rest of the offense lined up on the left side of the field away from the play. It was a bold strategy that would either throw off the defense and give PR the easy score, or Peters would sniff it out and stop PR.

Sadly for PR, it was the latter in both 2-point conversions. After the third touchdown, PR decided to kick the extra point with senior Brody Walkowski, who had to try out for the kicker position a few days prior when the current kicker (sophomore Alex Mestre) sustained a concussion. PR led the first half 19-0. Then after two long touchdowns and a couple turnovers, Peters Township made the game really close, and eventually took the win and headed to the PIAA Semi Finals.

After the game there were tears. For some players, it was their last football game. For others, a devastating loss. The camaraderie and support teammates showed each other was special to see.

Even though they lost, PR had an incredible season with many highs and a lot to be proud of. The attention to detail, passion, hard work, and dedication lead us to believe there is no doubt PR will be back next season at Acrisure, and this time, holding up that trophy.



*PR Captains
Provided by: Roman Thomas*



*Oobi Strader Warming up
Provided by: Roman Thomas*

Entertainment

Page designed by PETRA BALKOVEC DESIGN EDITOR

Are You A Fan Of Horror? Black Phone 2 Review: Spoiler Free

BAEDEN GAUTHIER STAFF WRITER

All data was from the trailers, the previous movie, and the 2nd movie

“My dreams are just dreams,” is a quote from the movie *Black Phone*. Although this quote is taken out of context, what if your dreams weren't just dreams? What if when you died in your dreams you died in real life? That is basically the whole concept revealed by *Black Phone 2* trailers. Sounds familiar, right?

Well, you would be right, and wrong. *Black Phone 2* does sound very similar to *A Nightmare On Elm Street*. But the trailer does reveal some very clear and evident differences between the two. Those being that in *A Nightmare On Elm Street* those having the dreams did not really sense at first that those dreams would be dangerous. And with the character Gwen having these dreams shown in the trailer and the first movie, being not only deadly dreams but also a psychic vision.

Another difference is that Freddy Krueger in the first movie only targeted a specific group of people/friends. But the grabber in the first movie did not target a group of people; he only targeted vulnerable boys. Comparing the second movies, Freddy just targeted a random kid who happened to live in the house that the final girl of *A Nightmare On Elm Street* Nancy Thompson happened to live in. But the grabber seems to want to target people related to final boy Finny, such as his sister Gwen, who is being plagued by those dreams.

Although there are these two differences I noticed within the trailers, it still seems, and will be comparable to *A Nightmare On Elm Street*.

After my cousin and I arrived at the movie theater we got some popcorn, drinks and some candy, and then walked into the theater. The movie was definitely scarier than the first movie, because it had a ton more jump scares, and creepy elements from the past. Speaking of the past, though the 2nd movie was definitely focused on flashbacks to tell the story, it really helped out the movie. It made it more creepy and tied everything together.

I would definitely recommend seeing this movie and I feel that it is definitely an upgrade to the 1st movie in a lot of ways. And hopefully that isn't a hot take.



Provided by: Google

Entertainment

Page Designed by TAYLOR SERVAGNO

Psychology of Why We Love the Holidays *Lights, Memories, Comfort, and Cheer*

VIENNA RESTELLI STAFF WRITER

Every December, neighborhoods are decked out with twinkling lights, the aroma of hot chocolate and sweet smells fill the crisp, cold air, and the world's favorite Christmas songs are blasting repeatedly on the radio once again.

But what is it that makes this holiday season hit us so hard emotionally? How can we, when we're already so busy and stressed out, suddenly feel cozy and optimistic?

The answer, as you may have guessed, lies mainly in nostalgia.

The sights, sounds, and smells of the season often remind us of our childhood. Think of sparkling lights, pine trees, and freshly baked cookies — all of these likely bring back happy memories.

Psychologists say that nostalgia boosts your mood and reduces stress, explaining why you probably become much more eager after you put your Christmas tree up.

Even before January 1st, the holiday season gives us a feeling of a fresh start and anticipation for the new year. This is often called by psychologists as the temporal landmark effect — when we reach a meaningful date or transition, our brains see it as a new beginning (American Psychological Association). That's why people suddenly feel motivated to try something new, create resolutions, or envision a better version of themselves. This excitement adds more joy to the holiday season.

Therefore, from the nostalgia that takes us back to our childhood, comforting routines, and the opportunity for a fresh start, it's no wonder that the holiday season greatly affects our minds. Whether it's drinking hot chocolate, laughing with friends, or simply enjoying the cozy atmosphere, the holidays make us feel good, and that's something worth celebrating.



*Sophomores Vienna Restelli and Erin Zheng
Provided by: Vienna Restelli*

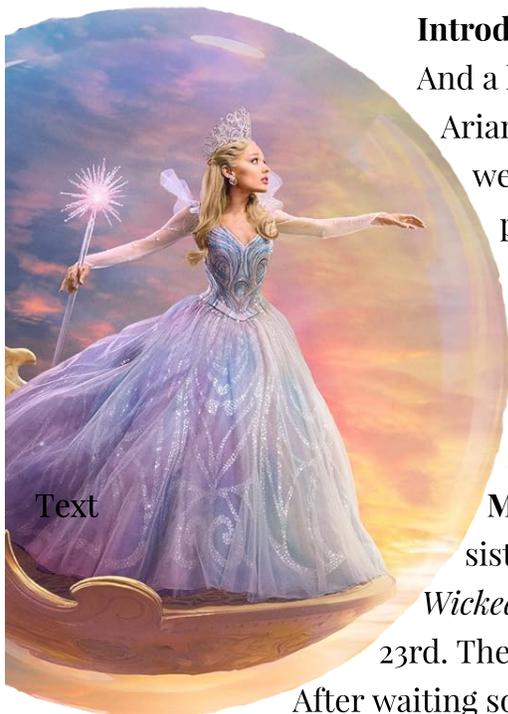
Entertainment

Page designed by MARIANNA ZAHORCHAK EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Is *Wicked* All That?

My Full Review with Minor Spoilers

BAEDEN GAUTHIER STAFF WRITER



Text

Introduction: *Wicked* is a movie that has been hyped up for some time now. And a lot of people are excited for it. Myself included. I mean, it stars Ariana Grande which is always a plus for musicals. The trailers were also amazing, and the whole movie was based off of a popular Broadway show. Yet movie trailers usually don't determine if the movie is good. So has this movie been hyped up too much? Is it fairly rated? And most importantly will this movie live up to mine and many other people's expectations?

My Review On Part 1: My grandma, sister, and I got tickets to see *Wicked* on Saturday, November 23rd. The trailers started at 11:30AM.

After waiting some time, the movie finally started. And it was amazing. It exceeded my expectations and was overall great. I mean in the 1st part of the movie the way they go from the present of Oz to the past for the story is amazing. There were also a few references to Dorothy throughout the movie. I'd have to say the best part of the movie was around the middle when Glinda and Elphaba finally became friends. Overall I would totally recommend others to see this movie.

My Review On Part 2: My cousin took me to see *Wicked: For Good* last Sunday (November 30th). I saw the movie at 12:30, and I thought it was great. It really did Glinda and Elphaba justice, and we got more funny moments from both of them. I still prefer part 1 of the *Wicked* movies though, just because I felt like the songs were way better in part 2. The ones in part 2 really fell short, and it was sad, but it was still an overall great movie.

Other Reviews Compared:

There were a ton of *Wicked* reviews online, including TikTok user

"popculturebrain" who thought that *Wicked* was amazing. He wishes that every other movie based on something was like this movie, and he thinks that it has one of the best endings in film history. Another TikTok user, "ericgoldie," believes that it was an amazing movie and that if you loved the on stage musical then you will love this.



Glinda and Elphaba photos provided by IMDb. Edited by Marianna Zahorchak using Adobe Photoshop.

Opinion

Page designed by ELLIE MYERS DESIGN EDITOR

Enjoy the Free Days in Life *Always Make the Most of your Days Off*

JACOB HADLEY STAFF WRITER

Have you ever woken up to your parents coming into your room to tell you that there is a snow day or you just didn't have school at all? Well I know all of us have, but how do you really react to it? I know some people take the day to be super productive or get all their tasks done but I think this is the wrong way to go about things. We're all still kids and we should take our days off to find joy in the things we truly like doing like playing video games or sledding down a hill with our friends.

For example, we had our first snow day of the year not too long ago and I was ecstatic. I got to have a mental break from school and just use the day to refresh. I slept in and then went down stairs with no worries at all. My dad asked me to shovel the driveway and even though it doesn't sound like the most fun task, it was actually pretty relaxing. I just needed to stop and think that there were much worse chores that I could've been asked to do. There was no wind and it wasn't that cold so I could just relax and get it over with before I went to relax for the rest of the day.



*Photo of Gaming Setup
Provided by: Jacob Hadley*



*Photo of First snow day of the year
Provided by: Jacob Hadley*

Now that I was done with the driveway, there was nothing else I had to do. I went upstairs and texted my friends to play some video games. We played for a long time and it was some of the most fun I had playing video games in a long time. I feel like now that we are older, things that used to be so fun, like video games, have kind of lost their spark. Being able to play all day with some friends was amazing and I felt like a little kid again.

Finally it was evening around six o'clock and I just went downstairs and sat in my living room for a little while. I put on some Christmas music and just enjoyed the calm. I felt like just sitting there let me sink in and find joy in some of the things I take for granted everyday. If there's one thing I want to leave you with after this story, is that you don't have to rush through life. Sometimes just find a day and use it to refresh and enjoy the little things that make you happy in your life.

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It is written by students, for students, and we 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.

Thank you for stopping by and we hope to see you next Thursday!

GOT PICTURES, PR? EMAIL THEM TO A RAMPAGE STAFF WRITER TO SEE YOUR SMILES IN PRINT!

Fall Play:
The Election
Provided by:
Erin Hasinger

