Basketball PHMS:
Celebrating a victory against Perry Hall High School

Panther’s basketball team: Mrs. Anderson, Mr. Robinson, Ms. Hessian, Ms. Koury, Mr. Williams, Mr. Young, Ms. Hall, Mr. Miller, Mrs. Núñez, Ms. Hall, Mr. Choate, Mr. Jankowski

BRAWL AT THE HALL: Panthers Show Their Pride as They Tame the Gators

BY MRS. NUÑEZ AND MS. HOWARD

When Perry Hall Middle School was challenged by Perry Hall High School to see who would reign supreme, the faculty was ready to show their school pride in a basketball showdown. Ms. Perry and her team could not refuse the invitation to the battle on Thursday, November 12th, 2019 at Perry Hall High School.

And thus, the first BRAWL AT THE HALL was created!

PHMS teachers were excited to join the faculty basketball team as they knew that they possessed the competitive spirit needed for success. A magical team was then created.

Teachers from all content areas and even an ecstatic counselor came together to make history happen. Spending hours after school together, they practiced their skills to prepare for the face-off.

From the start, the team knew they could work together to bring victory and bragging rights to the middle school. They found each other’s strengths and found ways to combat and support their weaknesses.

As Mrs. Núñez stated, “Losing was not a word in our vocabulary. We play to win.”

On the day of the event, the Panther team arrived early at 3:30 to the high school gym to warm up. The stands were filled with students anxiously waiting for the grand event to begin.

Mrs. Núñez admitted, “I’m not going to lie, it was very impressive to be in a gym full of people waiting for the game to begin.”

From the start of the game, Perry Hall Middle united together to score as many points as they could. Although the Gator teams’ defenders were large in stature, the Panther’s willpower to win was even greater.

The teachers and counselor persevered through the game and brought victory to the best Hall in town, Perry Hall Middle School! A final score of 20 Home – 33 Guest. The Panthers beat their rivals in their own swamp.

Ring Pops high in the sky, the team celebrated their glorious win!

When asked on her opinion of the game, Ms. Koury stated, “It was a ton of fun! It was great being able to play alongside teachers whom you did not know well prior to playing. Being able to play and be a part of a team was so special. It felt like being a kid again. It made us closer as a faculty and gave us a sense of comradery.”

Although this brawl will go down in the history books, PHMS awaits their next challenge!
Scrunchies, Hydro Flasks, Vans Galore!

These trends invaded the world in summer of 2019 and spread like wildfire across the Internet, but are people already over them?

BY ABBIE ZNAMIROWSKI

The most important trend I want to talk about is the “VSCO Girl/Boy” trend. This trend came out of nowhere but appeared over the summer. This occurred during the time when people were addicted to an app called TikTok. TikTok allows you to create short videos of whatever you want! These could be comedy sketches, singing videos, or even videos for showing off your gifts from your birthday. You can make every second count, even when nobody cares! The app is full of diversity and is essentially a safe place where anyone can be who they want to be.

By the middle of summer, another app called VSCO also started to become popular. VSCO is an app where you edit, post, and/or look at aesthetically pleasing photos. As it became increasingly popular, some specific objects became more common in the pictures than others. Things like Hydro Flasks, scrunchies and puka shell necklaces appeared frequently. Certain shoes also became super popular. Birkenstocks, slip-on Vans, and Crocs became a staple.

On one Friday, the internet/ Snapchat decided it was time for a VSCO day. (This also included the trending “soft girls” and “e-boys/boys”). In order to decode the trend, I decided to go around our school courtyard and school asking people if they considered themselves to be a “VSCO girl/boy” or not. I also added an option for the people that like to dress with the same style as a “VSCO girl/boy” but do not consider themselves as “VSCO”. Almost every person said they weren’t a “VSCO girl/boy”, including Mrs. Coyne. A few brave souls stood up and confessed their “VSCO-ness” and told me they were. One of these students was Claire Scarborough. Claire is one of my friends, so I could ask her what truly makes a VSCO girl.

We already know the basics as explained earlier, but there are more criteria. Accessories include: metal straws, Air pods, Carmex, Fjallraven Kanken backpacks, Mario Badesco, clout goggles and finally, a wave ring. Their catch phrases are “and I oop...” “skkskksk...”, and “Save the turtles!”

By the end of summer, the “VSCO girl” trend started to become a meme. It all started with the scrunchies, Hydro Flasks and Starbucks (Even though Starbucks was already a “basic girl” trend). It slowly started to become the apocalypse with the products. The “VSCO girls” took over very popular name brands and created their own trend overnight. They started posting these popular brands as if they were trademarked by “VSCO girls”. This meme may already be dead, but it was worth mentioning due to its popularity.

In addition to the “VSCO girl” trend, Peppa Pig became a trend. Oh Peppa… In my opinion, trend is very stupid, but can be very funny at times. As every kid’s show that every toddler has ever loved has become a meme at some point, the time had come for Peppa Pig. Although no one may understand how it was created exactly, it started with people photoshopping Peppa Pig and her family into trendy things or just plain stupid things. It started as a meme in a meme and then it transitioned to people editing Peppa Pig episodes on Youtube. There are some channels that have gained fame due to their edits. Some of the channels include “emily”,” Riley”, and “Steph Inc.” The last channel started running before the Peppa Pig trend, but they gained over 100,000 subscribers because of her few videos of editing the episodes. The whole “Peppa! What are you doing here?!” trend from TikTok was strong at first, but it died quickly. Just like anything that is meme placed on that app.

One final trend that I want to talk about is the Minecraft meme. It was released on May 17, 2009. Since then, it has had many updates and has changed a lot; however, it remains loved by many people of all ages. It has done very well on Youtube, Twitch, and other media apps. For some unknown reason, it has become a meme and it has been even more popular since the Youuber, PewDiePie started making videos on it. Even though it is an older game, it is beloved by many.

Additionally, while on the topic of games, Fortnite ‘shut down’ this summer. This only took place for a couple of days as a hook for the ‘new’ Fortnite. There were a lot of memes saying “Since all these other games couldn’t defeat me… I’ll have to do it myself.” By the time this article is published, the memes will be long erased, but it deserved honorable mention for its humor.

These were the trends that graced our presence during the summer of 2019. Although not an easy task, “VSCO girls” have been debunked through this article as well as the sudden craze over Peppa Pig! Only time will tell which crazy trend comes next.

Inform us on what trends we should touch on next for the newspaper. I hope everyone has a swell day!
Fall in Love with the Season

BY ANASTASIA ORR

Don’t you just love the spirit of fall and Halloween?

Fall has perfect weather and temperature. You can wear almost anything without being too hot or too cold! Fall also has Halloween! Halloween is the perfect day to take on the role of whoever you want to be while getting as much candy as you can for free. Even if you don’t celebrate the holiday, you can celebrate the beautiful leaves changing color, the warm bonfire nights, and hot apple cider shared among friends.

Have you been looking to upgrade your Fall & Halloween Decorations?

If you love the great smelling candles of the season along with the oranges and reds of the gorgeous leaves, keep reading to discover ways to spice up your pumpkins and décor!

There are many ideas for Fall and Halloween decorations. If you’re like me and don’t want to spend a lot of money on decorations to use once a year, you don’t have to spend money at fancy stores. It is still possible to get into the fall spirit but also stay in a budget!

In this column, I will give you ideas for how to create your own Fall masterpieces!

5) Rainbow pumpkin

You will need: Fake pumpkin, crayons, blow dryer & Hot glue gun

Directions: 1. Take the wrapping off every crayon you want to use
2. Hot glue the crayons to the top of the pumpkin
3. Take you blow dryer and blow air onto the crayons

It should look like this:

1) A Ghost Rock

You will need: A rock, white cloth, a Sharpie, and a string

Directions:
1. Take a round rock and cover it with the cloth
2. Draw with the sharpie two eyes and a mouth
3. Tie a string around its neck to hang your ghost wherever you want to make a spooky decoration!

2) Leaf Painting

You will need: Leaves, paper or canvas, and any paint color of your choice

Directions: 1. paint one side of the leaf
2. Stamp the leaf on the canvas or paper
3. You can use different colors or add more leaf prints if you would like

3) Leaf light

You will need: a bunch of leaves, Paper Mache or glue, a clear glass jar & a real or fake small candle (Small enough to fit inside the jar)

Directions: 1. Pour glue of paper Mache into a bowl
2. Dip one leaf at a time into the bowl
3. Stick the leaf onto the jar
4. Cover the whole jar with the leaves
5. Light or turn on your candle and place it inside your jar

4) Pumpkin candles

You will need: Small pumpkin (Enough to fit a small candle), A small fake or real candle and something to scoop out the pumpkin’s insides

Directions: 1. Make a big enough hole into the pumpkin to fit your small candle
2. stick the candle into the pumpkin

By Isabel Chrysler

On Saturday, September 28, 2019 at Perry Hall Middle School a cross country race took place.

The PHMS girls dominated the race with Brooke Dewitt (7th grade) in first place. It only took her 13:08 minutes to finish the race! Very close behind, Haylee Kurek (8th grade) took 2nd place with a time of 13:09. Only one second separated these two hardworking ladies. In 3rd place, Charlotte Sutherland (7th grade) finished with her final time at 13:35 minutes. In 4th place was Ashley Kyle (7th Grade) with final time of 13:36 minutes. In 5th place was Emma Pyles (8th grade) with 13:39 minutes. Next in 6th place came Alex Wilson (8th grade) with a time of 13:45 minutes. Seventh place was taken by Aubrey Wofinski (8th grade) with a time of 13:54 minutes. In 8th place was Marena Ouattrocche (8th grade) with a final time of 14:06 minutes. Ninth place went to Lucille Myers (6th grade) with a time of 14:10 minutes. Finally, in 10th place was Mackenzie Borchers (7th grade) arrived with a time of 14:12 minutes. All the girls that placed in the race were from Perry Hall Middle. This was an outstanding feat as each of these athletes were only separated by a matter of seconds.

The PHMS boys also were successful in the races. Eighth grader, Brendan Keller-Bates finished in first place with a final time of 11:25 minutes. In 2nd place Francesco Mattucci (8th Grade) finished with 11:58 minutes. Third place belonged to Cameron Davis (8th Grade), a Pine Grove Middle Student, with a final time of 12:10 minutes. In 4th place, our own Jacob Gage (8th grade) finished with a time of 12:17 minutes. In 5th place, Isaac Boteler (8th grade) finished with a final time of 12:18 minutes. In 6th place, Ian Brandy (8th grade) finished with a time of 12:35 minutes. Seventh place was awarded to Brody Anderson (6th grade) with a final time of 12:37 minutes. Jake Anderson (6th grade) took 8th place with a final time of 12:35 minutes. In 9th place, Carson Giannelli (8th grade) finished with a final time of 12:42 minutes. Finally, Blake Wancowicz (6th grade) took 10th place with a final time of 12:50 minutes.

As for the official team scores, Perry Hall Middle School crushed its competitors. Pine Grove Middle School took second place and Stemmers Run placed third overall. Sparrows Point Middle School placed in fourth whereas General John Stricker came in fifth.

Perry Hall Middle School showed dedication and determination during the 3,200-meter race as they made their community proud!
Emma’s 10 Questions: Anime Club edition

BY EMMA BURKE

Hi, I’m Emma! This is a segment where I ask people in PHMS about clubs or events.

This edition’s topic: Anime Club

I had the pleasure of sitting down with Mr. Reed, the club’s sponsor, to ask him about this cool club!

1. What is Anime Club?
   “Anime Club is a club for students who want to meet in person and online to watch, share, and play in all thing’s anime and/or manga (basically anime graphic novels).”

2. How did it start?
   “I think our school has always had some form of anime club but last year was the first year that I agreed to sponsor it. Working in the library, it’s pretty obvious that we have a high interest in this area at our school and I was more than happy to agree to be part of this group!”

3. What is your favorite anime?
   “My favorite anime is Promised Neverland. It’s a blend of dystopian and horror fiction that I just absolutely love... don’t judge me!”

4. What does Anime Club do?
   “We also watch music videos, read manga, create book trailers for manga in our library, play games, sing karaoke, cosplay, and so much more... other clubs are jealous of the ‘weeb’ tribe we’ve got going on!”

5. Do I have to do work in this club?
   “The only thing club members need to do is be respectful and show up. Some students simply sit back and take it all in... other students hang with their friends... many will watch anime together while many others are showing off their artistic/creative skills and still others are just playing games. The goal is having an hour each week where everyone can ‘weeb’ out together!”

6. Does Anime Club just sit around watching anime for an hour?
   “Some students will definitely just watch anime for the time club starts to when it ends. Most students hang out, play games, draw, read, and explore new anime/manga that others are talking about.”

7. Can I sign up now?
   “Anime club accepts new members up until March 19. We do not advertise our club. We accept members through recommendations and word of mouth.”

8. Are there any special events?
   “We have 4 unofficial events and 1 official event. Our official event is Librari-Con at the end of the year... this is a huge 3-hour party with movies, cosplay, music, food, and well it’s basically our club but on steroids! The other 4 events are each Anime Fathom Events at AMC White Marsh. It's unofficial because it's not connected to our club but many of our club members will be going to these anime events at the movie theaters!”

9. What days does the club meet up?
   “Anime Club meets most Wednesdays after school.”

10. How big is Anime Club?
    “Without advertising, we had 60 students attend our first club meeting (and even more students who turned in permission slips but couldn't make it).”

Thank you, Mr. Reed for taking the time to chat about this interesting club!
Friendship

BY GRACE RIBBIT AND MARY NWACHUKWU

I’ve had all kinds of friends.
There are those who protect you like a barrier,
And those who raise you up
To fly among the birds.

They make you feel anything
They make you smile
Even when you’re in pain.
You can even cry with them and you don’t have to speak.

You can paint the sunsets
And sew in the starlight.
You can watercolor the wind
And fill the world with color
With your friends by your side you can do anything.

They fill you with confidence
When you’re fearful
They stay with you
When no one else will

Putting truth to all those lies
With warmth that stretches across a million miles

Environment

BY GRACE RIBBIT AND MARY NWACHUKWU

We live our lives without a care.
We don’t realize what we do.
We put harmful chemicals into the air.
The beautiful world we see changes.
Not all at once but little by little we kill the beauty we see.

The world of clean blue oceans
And fresh, green grass
Replaced with litter and garbage,
oil and gas.

We can’t see trees, without watching them wither
We can’t even drink water without a filter.
We can’t breathe without smelling the pollution
We can’t look without seeing the destruction we cause

Spot the 10 Differences!

BY ANGELINA NGUYEN
Dancing into a Carnival:
The Sixth Grade Dance

BY NASHLEY FONTANILLA

This year, Student Council kindly hosted a 6th Grade Dance to welcome the new panthers to PHMS. We appreciate them working so hard to create a fun dance for us. In this article, we will discuss the dance and make some recommendations to make it even better for next year’s incoming panthers!

The Food

When asking students about the food in the 6th grade dance, students said that it was “OK”, because the food had “too much sugar.” To me and some of my friends, sugar can be very addictive even though we love sugar. Knowing that it’s a carnival themed dance, it made sense to have things like cotton candy and popcorn. We wished we could have eaten more of these delicious treats, but we were limited to food and drinks based on tickets. This was probably a good idea though because we might have eaten too much sugar and felt sick when we got home.

Recommendations for the future: Try to pick more foods that balance each other, but that will be something that the students will still enjoy.

The Tickets

The tickets were good idea for limiting the students with the games, snacks, and the drinks. Though, people did complain about not having enough tickets to play the games or eat more of the food, things like the food and prizes were limited, so it was reasonable to do the tickets so that everyone had a chance to play and eat.

Recommendations for the future: None! I, personally, say to keep doing the tickets.

The Games

The games at the dance were enjoyable. The game that involved trying to get a ping pong ball into a box was especially fun. The horse shoe game was not as fun, but I appreciate the effort. Not every game can be a winner.

Recommendations for the future: Keep the ping pong ball game and add similar games. We would also like to have more challenging games if possible.

Overall, we loved the theme and have small recommendations for next year. Thank you, Mrs. Mills and Student Council for making a fun afternoon at PHMS.

Smashing Chandeliers! The Seventh Graders Spend a Day at the Theater

BY SAMANTHA MORRIS, MACKENZIE WILLIS AND CARLYCIA JOSEY

On the 7th grade field trip this year, the 7th graders went to see The Phantom of the Opera, at the Baltimore Hippodrome Theater. Seventh graders had been preparing for many weeks by getting permission slips in, learning about some of the main points of the story and learning lessons about the production. Finally, it was time to get on the bus. Everyone was excited and ready to see the show.

When everyone arrived at the theater, the students took their seats and waited for the show to begin. They took in the architecture of the grand theater with a seating capacity of over 2,000 people. It was filled with golden structures and paintings, as well as with posters for other Broadway plays that had previously been shown there. As the lights dimmed, everyone started to cheer in excitement.

Phantom of The Opera was a play about a fear-inducing Phantom underneath a 19th century Paris opera house scheming to get closer with a ballerina, Christine Daaé. He had been giving her voice lessons so that she could have a chance in scoring the lead role in a play that the opera was producing. When the actress in the lead role quit, Christine stepped in as her replacement. Through this, her old childhood friend, Raoul, found and greeted her, but anticipated being more than friends. This would later cause problems because the Phantom wanted more from Christine as well. As Raoul and the Phantom continued to fight for Christine’s love throughout the story, Christine became very torn. When she was not selected as the lead role, the Phantom became very angry and ordered the casting-directors to assure that she was re-casted immediately. If not, something very detrimental would happen. The directors did not listen and at the opening night of the production, the beautiful glass chandelier short circuited and exploded. This was the end of act one, which left everyone in the theater in utter shock. As act two began, it led to a final showdown between the Phantom, Christine, and Raoul, but I’ve never been one to spoil an ending.

When asking students about the show, they exclaimed, “It was really good!” Another student stated, “It was scary and exciting at the same time.” A final student explained, “It was pretty exciting because of the special effects like the chandelier and the fire.” Overall a lot of students said they loved the effects and if they could go watch it again, they would.

In conclusion, The Phantom of The Opera was a great play and a majority of the 7th graders enjoyed it!
Student Spotlight: Lily Lindsay

INTERVIEWED BY ISABEL CHYSLER

What clubs is she involved in at Perry Hall Middle?
Lily is involved in Battle of the Books and Yearbook Club.

What is her favorite subject and why?
Her favorite subject is lunch because there is no learning involved.

What has influenced her to work her hardest in school?
She says she works hard because she wants to do well in school.

Who is her favorite teacher and why?
Mrs. Lindsay (She happens to be Lily’s mom!)

What is her favorite sport and what sports does she play?
She doesn’t really have a favorite sport, but she likes to play softball and basketball.

What does she like about Perry Hall Middle and what does she wish she could change?
She likes that it is a new experience and the classes challenge you, but she wishes she could change its crowded hallways.

Can’t figure out what movie to watch? Don’t pay attention to commercials? Try these!

BY MIKAYLA FORNAH

1. The Addams Family
   An old creepy classic now recreated into an animated movie great for the whole family. About a peculiar, ghoulish family.

2. Maleficent Mistress of Evil
   A sequel to the remake of Sleeping Beauty. It sounds childish but it really isn’t. I would recommend this movie. It’s one of my favorites!

3. It Chapter 2
   A sequel to the movie It, it is about the scary clown, Pennywise. It is rated R and I DO NOT recommend watching it if you don’t watch horror movies. It’s super scary from what I have heard. I’m not allowed to watch it.

4. Gemini Man
   This movie stars Will Smith. It’s about a guy who has an identical twin created in a lab. His mission is to destroy the clone. He has a twin like a Gemini sign.

5. Dora and the Lost City of Gold
   A remake of the baby show you probably watched when you were little. However, this has more action and is for older kids. This time Dora is a high schooler.
Hunting for a Story to Magically Entertain You? Wiz Through These!

BY ELLA WIDOMSKI

**Harry Potter**

Collectively, the seven Harry Potter books have sold nearly 500 million copies since the publication of *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone* in 1997, making *Harry Potter* the bestselling book series of all time. *Harry Potter* has been copied into 80 languages. The first book came out in 1997 and the author J. K. Rowling became very popular, very quickly. *Harry Potter* is a series of fantasy novels. The novels chronicle the lives of a young wizard, Harry Potter, and his friends, Hermione Granger and Ron Weasley. All the students are at Hogwarts School of witchcraft and Wizardry. The main story concerns Harry’s struggle against Lord Voldemort, a dark wizard who intends to become immortal. Voldemort wants to overthrow the wizard governing body known as the Ministry of Magic and subjugate all wizards and Muggles.

**The Hunger Games**

*The Hunger Games* is a series of young adult dystopian novels written by American novelist, Suzanne Collins. The series is set in The Hunger Games universe and follows young Katniss Everdeen. Katniss Everdeen is a girl from district 12 who volunteers for the 74th Hunger Games in place of her younger sister, Primrose Everdeen. Also, selected from district 12 is Peeta Mellark. They are mentored by their district’s only living victor, Haymitch Abernathy. He won 24 years earlier. They must fight to survive and save their communities. The novels in the trilogy are titled *The Hunger Games*, *Catching Fire*, and *Mockingjay*. The novels have all been developed into films starring Jennifer Lawrence, with the film adaption of *Mockingjay* split into two parts. The first two books in the series were both *New York Times* bestsellers. *Mockingjay* topped all U.S. bestseller lists upon its release. By the time the film adaption of *The Hunger Games* was released in 2012, the publisher had reported over 26 million *Hunger Games* trilogy books in print, including movie tie-in books.

**The Land of Stories**

*The Land of Stories* is a series of children’s fiction, adventure and fantasy books written by American author, actor and singer, Chris Colfer. The first book, *The Wishing Spell*, was released on July 17, 2012. The sixth and final book was published in July 2017. Colfer is writing many other books as well. The books are described by Colfer as “modern day fairy tales”, following twins, Alex and Conner Bailey, as they fall from the real world into a world full of fairy tales. These are tales they have only read about as children. They soon discover that in this land there is more to the stories than what they could imagine!

INKTOBER SUBMISSIONS

CREATED BY: NASHLEY FONTANILLA