

MAY, 2017

The

# CHIEF

PONTIAC TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL



**FAREWELL,  
CLASS OF 2017**

PTHS Student Council President Shelby Jennings has one more message before she graduates.

**2017 SPRING  
SPORTS WRAP-UP**

What a season for our track, softball, baseball, and tennis teams!

**PROM 2017:  
CARNIVAL NIGHT**

PTHS Juniors and Seniors danced the night away!

# table of contents

- 02 Letter from Shelby
- 03 Spring Sports Wrap-Up
- 04 2017 Baccalaureate
- 06 Prom Highlights
- 07 Upperclass Acts
- 09 Critic's Corner - Film



# FAREWELL

## A FINAL MESSAGE FROM YOUR STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT

By Shelby Jennings

As the school year comes to a close, it is time for us to reflect on all that we have done this past year. Since this my final year of high school, I would like to personally thank you for making this year so successful for the future of PTHS. It is because of your involvement in both the school and community that makes our school a positive and welcoming learning environment. This year easily became my favorite, and it was my privilege and honor to serve as your Student Council President.

To the freshman, one year down! You have come a long way since you first walked in the building on the first day of school. It probably feels like you have a lot of time on your hands. Take your time, stay involved, and keep working hard. Three years will go by sooner than you expect.

To the sophomores, you are halfway done! Two full years may seem like a long while; however, focus on how far you have come. You started high school two full years ago! With that, the next two years are going to be a little more challenging. You have the SAT, AP classes, and more responsibilities. If you can manage your time well and stay focused, you will succeed.

To the juniors, you have just a little bit farther. Some of you by now are on the downhill slope to graduation, while some are still climbing upwards. Either is perfectly okay, but no matter how hard or easy this next year may be for you, don't forget to stop and make some memories while you begin counting down to graduation. "Senioritis" is a real thing.

To the seniors, I am proud of you. Four years of high school have just flown by, and now we are all ready to depart in our separate paths, wherever that may be. I wish you all success in your future, and I hope that some of you stay in touch with each other. There are greater things ahead for you! Congratulations, class of 2017! We did it!

From myself to all of the student body, staff, and administration, I want to thank you for such an inspiring school year. Students, I encourage you all to make the 2017-2018 school year even better. Stay involved and enjoy your summer break!

Your President, Shelby Jennings





# SPRING SPORTS WRAP-UP

By Owen Putnam

The end of the school year is approaching us quickly here at PTHS, and we look to wrap up our spring athletics season on top. For some of these student athletes, this will be their final weeks of competition, while others may have the opportunity to compete at the collegiate level. We wish all of them the best of luck to finish their PTHS careers, and what is yet to come.



The boys tennis team has had a quiet, yet successful season. They are close to the .500 mark and have a good shot to finish the season with a winning record. Next year, the team will be without a strong senior nucleus; however, they will hand things over to an exciting young trio consisting of Marcus Long, Rocco Sartoris, and Griffin Brunner. This year's squad will compete in sections on Friday May 19th. We wish this team the best of luck moving forward!

As for boys and girls track, they are both having strong seasons. The boys seem to have at least one PR every meet and finished third in the conference. They will compete in their sectional on Saturday May 20th. They girls are also competing hard this season and are headed to sectionals on Friday May 12th. We wish both squads the best of luck and hope to see a few state qualifiers!



The boys baseball team has had an up and down year as they sit at 3 and 18 this season. The team has played hard and is very enjoyable to watch. This team was led by senior Levi Ransom, who has been unable to play the field due to a shoulder injury. However, he has batted over .300. This team had a tough act to follow after last year's tribe played far into the postseason.

For girls softball, the team has a 17-9 record and sits as the third seed as they advance to regional play. This has been a fun squad to watch, and they have had a solid season and are built to play strong again in the years to come led by freshman Reagan Krause.

Once again, we'd like to thank our student athletes for all of their hard work and dedication this year. We would like to wish the seniors the best of luck in finishing this school year and athletic season strong. Also, thank you to all of the parents and faculty or anyone behind the scenes who made this year run smoothly. It wasn't possible without your support!

## Seniors, what are your summer plans?



**Hannah Verdun**

"Spending time on the lake"



**Colin Lakadat**

"Work, travel, prepare for college."



**Aysha Willis**

"Play travel softball, work, and sleep in!"



**Grace Watson**

"Spend time with the people I love, and sleep."



**Taylor Ritter**

"Work, enjoy time with family, sleep."



**Alexa Duffy**

"Soak up some sun, spend time with family."



**Shelby Jennings**

"Sleep, work, and prepare for college."

# 2017 Baccalaureate Ceremony

By Taylor Ritter

PTHS' annual Baccalaureate ceremony was held on Sunday, May 7th, in the auditorium of the high school. This year, we enjoyed words of advice from Pastor Shawn Jensen and Pastor Josh Anderson. This year, our theme was "Seeing into the Future." Both speakers spoke of the road bumps that we are sure to face in the future and how these road bumps are natural. Pastor Jensen likened this process to when the maps on our phones "recalculate" our path. In all, the Baccalaureate ceremony was appreciated by its attendees who are looking forward to what the future has to offer.

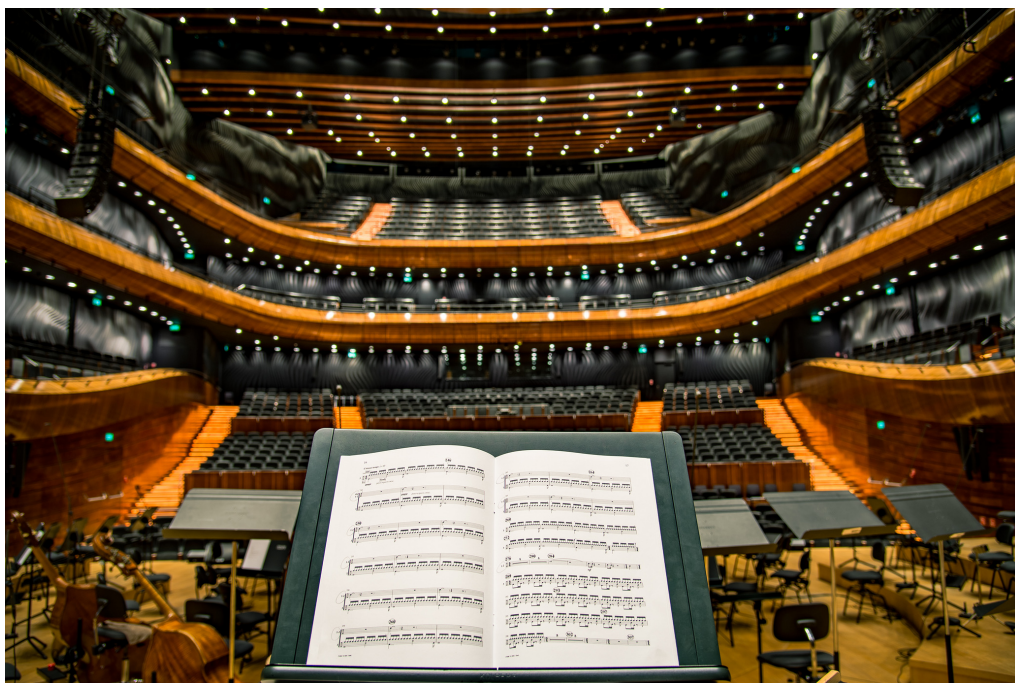
## PTHS International Exchange Program: Brazilian Edition



Last month, PTHS hosted fifteen Brazilian students. Many of these students didn't speak English very well, but nonetheless, everyone had fun! On Monday, April 24th, we attended the Clean Water Celebration in Peoria to celebrate our most precious resource and present on some of the projects that the Science Clubs does. Some of our other fun activities included sight-seeing in Chicago, touring Pontiacs' agriculture industries, and exploring downtown Pontiac. We all miss the Brazilian students dearly and hope to see them again in the near future.



# PTHS Music Dept. Update



## Band

By Matthew Birkett

The band is in preparation for two upcoming events: Graduation and Memorial Day. For graduation, we have the next year's Symphonic Band performing the pieces "Pomp and Circumstance" and "Crossgate," as is tradition. For Memorial Day, the entire band including participating seniors will be performing "America," "God Bless America," "Salute to the Armed Forces," and the "National Anthem." Following Memorial Day is June Band Camp, where incoming freshman are first taught how to properly hold their marching instruments and march. Good luck to all incoming freshman, and good luck. Seniors!

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## Chorus

By Eve Pouliot

This month in Choir, most are doing a musically-related project. The exception is Concert Choir which is preparing music to sing at graduation. The new Madrigals are beginning practices this month too for performances during summer break.

# *Prom 2017: Carnival Night*

By Allyson Shoff

May 6th was one of the biggest nights of the year for Juniors and Seniors at Pontiac Township High School. Friends and couples gathered at the Castle Gardens in Lexington, Illinois, for a night of dancing and fun. The theme for the 2017 Prom was “Carnival.” Students could enjoy cotton candy, nachos, pretzel bites, popcorn, and corn dogs. Until 8 PM, a train ran around the property and a carousel took up a large portion of the dance floor. While the night was a bit too cold for my liking, and the dance room was a tad crowded, the night was definitely memorable. Prom was a perfect night full of fun with friends. Even though no one would go the same direction during “The Cupid Shuffle,” it was fun watching everyone celebrate the end of the year!



# Upperclass Acts



## Macey David

NAME: Macey Loren David

NICKNAMES: Mace

ROLE MODEL(S): My mom. She went to nursing school and got her RN as a single mother with three young kids, talk about perseverance.

ACTIVITIES @ PTHS: I participate in the Madrigal/Route 66 Ensemble.

FONDEST MEMORY OF HIGH SCHOOL SO FAR: My fondest memory of high school so far is my participation in the Music Department.

3 MAJOR AREAS OF INTEREST: I am very interested in vocal music, raising birds, and genetics.

PLANS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL: I plan to go to ISU in the fall. My major is tentatively Music Education.

FAVORITE MOVIE: My favorite recent movie is *My Neighbor Totoro*.

MOST INSPIRATIONAL SONG: The most inspirational song I know is "Saturn" by Sleeping At Last.

FAVORITE TEACHER/CLASS: My favorite teacher is Mr. Durbin for Concert Choir.

FAVORITE AUTHOR/BOOK: My favorite author is Christopher Paolini and his *Inheritance Cycle* series of books. It's really intriguing for me because I've always loved books about dragons.

MOST POSITIVE MOMENT: My most positive moment was the day I first watched a cockatiel egg hatch. It happened within seconds, one second I had a chirping egg, and the next I had a very tiny baby bird. It was beautiful.

PET PEEVES: A pet peeve of mine is when people are mean to one another.

HOW WOULD YOU SPEND \$1,000,000? I would pay off my household debt and I would go to college. The rest of it I would put into savings, forget about it, and live as everyone else does.

IF YOU WERE STRANDED ON A DESERT ISLAND, WHAT 3 ITEMS WOULD YOU WANT WITH YOU? I would want the ability to make a legitimate raft, a map, and food.

LAST WORDS OF ADVICE: "Focus on your studies and work on yourself. Try to focus as much as you can on getting amazing grades rather than your social life."



# Upperclass Acts



## Matthew Birkett

NAME: Matthew Birkett

NICKNAMES: Tuba, MattyB

ROLE MODEL(S): Dom Fera

ACTIVITIES @ PTHS: Band, Chorus (until recently), Chess Club

FONDEST MEMORY OF HIGH SCHOOL SO FAR:  
Freshman year marching band.

3 MAJOR AREAS OF INTEREST: Film, English, Psychology

PLANS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL: Move to California and go to either film school or college for Psychology or English

FAVORITE MOVIE: *It's Kind of A Funny Story*

MOST INSPIRATIONAL SONG: "The Nights" by AVICII

FAVORITE TEACHER: Sorry, I've got to say Mr. Sweetwood.

FAVORITE AUTHOR/BOOK: *Solitary* by Travis Thrasher

MOST POSITIVE MOMENT: Marching at Disney.

PET PEEVES: People standing in the middle of the hallway, being disrespectful, not being able to understand what people say.

WHAT MY FRIENDS WILL REMEMBER ABOUT ME: Losing my mind about every single film I've tried to make.

HOW WOULD YOU SPEND \$1,000,000? Camera equipment and computer parts, if I'm being honest.

IF YOU WERE STRANDED ON A DESERT ISLAND, WHAT 3 ITEMS WOULD YOU WANT WITH YOU? Solar-powered camera (since there are no outlets to charge it), an infinitely large storage medium for it, and probably smoothies because they're both food and drink.

LAST WORDS OF ADVICE: "Seriously, you hear it enough but I have to say it, DO YOUR HOMEWORK. Do not get yourself into a situation where you don't know if you're going to graduate or not. Start on top of it and stay on top of it, and keep yourself accountable."

Review of :  
*Pride & Prejudice*

By Carlie Weaver



PRIDE & PREJUDICE

*Pride & Prejudice* is a film adaptation of Jane Austen's book, *Pride & Prejudice*. It's set in the English countryside in 1797. The main character, Elizabeth Bennet, lives with her mother, father, and four other sisters. She is one of the oldest sisters of the house and has received a lot of her pressure from her mother to marry. When she first meets Mr. Darcy, she does not really give him more than a once over before she decides she doesn't like him. Lizzy likes a man who will dance with her which Mr. Darcy does not. Her sister, however, falls madly in love with Mr. Bingley, Mr. Darcy's best friend, and goes to visit. Enter Mr. Wickham, a very bright soldier with an interest in Lizzy. And enter Mr. Collins, a very short man who also has shown interest in Lizzy. At this point it's almost impossible to see who Elizabeth will end up with, if anyone. The movie of *Pride & Prejudice* contains proposals of marriage and two rejections. Where will the Bennet girls end up? Who will marry who? Who will be denied? Tune in to see. *Pride & Prejudice* is available on Hulu and Amazon Video.

# Graduation

By Cheyenne Dillon

The end of a beginning  
Acknowledged in one day.  
Notables make speeches  
But most have nothing to say.

It was a long 12, or so, years  
Gone by in a flash.  
Now it's time to go on  
And prepare to roll in the cash.

It seems that we have learned it all  
My cap is full and ready to fly.  
But there is much more to come  
So I take my diploma with a sigh.

It is finally over  
My four years of secondary education.  
Acknowledged in one day  
This is my graduation.

## *The Chief Staff*

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