

The

CHIEF

PONTIAC TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL



SPOTLIGHT: CHESS CLUB

PTHS Students step up to donate 50 pints to the Red Cross!

SPRING BLOOD DRIVE

PTHS students step up and donate 50 pints of blood to the American Red Cross

FRESHMAN ORIENTATION

The next members of Indian Nation get ready for their first year at PTHS!

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2017 FRESHMEN ORIENTATION

WELCOME, FRESHMEN!

By Taylor Ritter & Shelby Jennings

This year, our freshmen orientation was held on January 25th in the auditorium. As many of you all know, current 8th graders from surrounding schools were able to experience all that awaits them in high school for only a couple hours that evening, including previewing classes, sports, and activity groups offered at PTHS. Many of the activity groups displayed different things such as trophies, art work, and sports equipment to show incoming students that they too can reach their potential in whatever interests them. Overall, the evening was successful in both the current students connecting to the incoming freshman to help with their transition and informing 8th graders more about what they will need to be ready for high school and what they could get involved in. It was inspiring seeing all of the Indian Pride from current and future students!



What has been your favorite class activity this year?



Dylan Read



"Building a car out of paper in General Science."



Myranda Styner



"Attending the Career Fair in October."



Garrett Brunner



"Reading and acting out the play *12 Angry Men* in English class."

A Call to Arms

By Allyson Shoff

If you're seeing this article, it means you probably already read *The Chief*. If you just so happen not to know, it's Pontiac Township High School's newspaper. Each month, a new issue of *The Chief* is released with articles written by students. These articles are about events at the school, tips for studying, poetry, reviews on the latest books, movies, or music, or just some fun information about what's going on.

Here's the problem. *The Chief* has ten members. All but two of these members are Seniors. That means there will only be two people in *The Chief* next year unless we get some new members. The list of interested freshman is pretty great, and joining the newspaper will be a nice way to integrate them into PTHS, but there will still be the need for older students to help guide them along.

That being said, do you like to write? Do you find stuff going on in this town or school interesting? Are you bored during block study hall? If you answered yes to a single one of those questions, there's room for you on *The Chief*!

PTHS SPORTS UPDATE

By Owen Putnam

Although we have six more weeks of winter according to Punxsutawney Phil, the winter sports season at PTHS will wrap up much quicker.

The Boys basketball team has had a tough season. Although their record sits with more losses than we'd like, they played a lot of good basketball. We saw Zac Dittmer finish the season with a strong second half, this being his last at PTHS. Dittmer, along with a very few seniors paved the path for a much younger squad next season. Be on the lookout for Ryan Weir, as he had a lot to contribute on the varsity level this year despite being a freshman.

The Girls basketball team has enjoyed a competitive season, as they have a chance to be .500 in the conference. This squad was led by lone senior Grace Gschwendter who has put together a very productive season on both sides of the ball. Things will definitely be different without her next year, as she has had a varsity impact for four years. They have improved over the course of the season and have been exciting to watch. Hopefully they can end the year at or above .500 in the conference.

As for wrestling, we have seen a very hardworking team with state aspirations.

Regionals was a success as we see five men advance to the sectional meet. Look for Jake Lanning to headline this group as he looks to make his fourth trip to State. Lanning added to his resume this season as he holds the record for the most wins all time (140 and counting) in PTHS history. We will be sure to cheer on this group as they try to wrap their season up on top.

Speaking of cheering, the competition season has come to an end. The Indians finished their season on a high note placing 6th in Regionals, however 5th place and up advance to sectionals. It was a bittersweet ending, but they finished with a 6th place trophy. Thank you cheerleaders for coming out to the basketball games and getting our audience pumped up!

Swim was strong again this year as they won the conference championship. Look for a Brett Spires as he could have another late surge and see his second consecutive trip to State.

As the winter season wraps up, we'd like to congratulate the teams on their success, thank all of our hardworking student athletes, and wish a good luck to all springtime athletes.





PTHS Club Spotlight: Chess Club

By Matthew Birkett

The Chess Club is a recent addition to our large selection of activities and is led by Connor Wolf. Studies Department Head, Mr. Sweetwood, is our faculty supervisor. Some of you may not have heard of the Chess Club, and that would be because it was created only a year ago. As for why it was created, Connor had this to say: "I wanted to start the club so I could personally improve at the game. My dad taught me how to play when I was very young, so I wanted to test my skills against other people. Some of my friends also seemed very interested in joining, so we all went and talked to Mr. Bohm about how to create the club."

The club now sits at about 11 members, with open registration. "People who don't know how to play chess are welcome to join!" Connor told me. "We already have a few members who had never played the game before, and now they attend every practice to play against some of our best players. We're all learning together, and playing against each other helps us get better." I had the chance to actually teach someone how to play chess during the Freshman Orientation, and that person joined as a result. Overall, this is a great club for both long-time fans of chess and newcomers to chess.

Music Department Update

By Eve Pouliot

This month was special for those in Choir and Band with the upcoming Solo and Ensemble contest on February 7th at PTHS. Also during this month on the 16th was the annual showcase concert which had a slight Disney theme this year. We will spend the rest of the month preparing for our New York trip over spring break when we will sing at a cathedral.



Student Council's Spring Blood Drive



**American
Red Cross**

Each year at the beginning of February, Student Council holds their annual Spring Blood Drive. This year, you couldn't walk down a single hallway of our building without seeing a poster reminding students to sign up, and sign up they did! The blood drive had over 70 students attempt to give blood this semester! While not everyone was able to donate for one reason or another, the Red Cross successfully collected 50 pints from our PTHS donors! This shows how willing PTHS is to help out when needed. Next year, let's shoot for even more! Great job, Indian Nation!



FCS Rebooted at PTHS

This year, the Fellowship of Christian Students (FCS), a student organized and lead group designed to promote fellowship and encouragement for Christian classmates through discussions, bible studies, and serving the community and God, has been rebooted in the building. This provides the opportunity to find other Christian students and grow and strengthen each other together through Christ. Students meet in room 131 and Mrs. Hoffman ("Senora") the sponsor. The meetings start at 7:15 am on Thursdays, and the next meeting is Feb.16th. According to member Leslie Babbs, "It's not going to be the boring kind of meeting. We aren't going to do the same thing every meeting. We plan on mixing it up."

Upperclass Acts



Jake Lanning

NAME: Jake Lanning

NICKNAMES: Lanning

ROLE MODEL(S): My parents

ACTIVITIES @ PTHS: Wrestling, National Honors Society, National Technical Honors Society

FONDEST MEMORY OF HIGH SCHOOL SO FAR: Wrestling at State

3 MAJOR AREAS OF INTEREST: Sports, spending time with friends,

PLANS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL: Attending the University at Buffalo to major in Chemical and Mechanical Engineering and wrestle.

FAVORITE MOVIE: *Step Brothers*

MOST INSPIRATIONAL SONG: "MoneyGrabber" by Fitz and the Tantrums

FAVORITE TEACHERS: Mrs. Verdun, Mrs. Mallory, Mr. Ramseyer, Mr. Stein, Coach Casson

MOST POSITIVE MOMENT: Finally committing to a college.

PET PEEVES: Food chomping, being rude

WHAT MY FRIENDS WILL REMEMBER ABOUT ME: my sense of humor, and helping people out

HOW WOULD YOU SPEND \$1,000,000? On food

IF YOU WERE STRANDED ON A DESERT ISLAND, WHAT 3 ITEMS WOULD YOU WANT WITH YOU? Water, knife, rope

LAST WORDS OF ADVICE: "Take nothing for granted and work as hard as you can."

Upperclass Acts



Rachael Sypult

NAME: Rachael Sypult

NICKNAME: Rakal

ROLE MODEL(S): Mama C and Judy

ACTIVITIES @ PTHS: Cheerleading, Color Guard, Choir, Spring Play, and Student Council.

FONDEST MEMORY OF HIGH SCHOOL SO FAR: Marching in Disney World.

3 MAJOR AREAS OF INTEREST: Shopping, Child Care, and School Spirit.

PLANS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL: Major in Elementary Education at Illinois State University.

FAVORITE MOVIE: *Catching Fire* (*The Hunger Games* Series) or *The Maze Runner*

MOST INSPIRATIONAL SONG: "Bless the Broken Road" by Rascal Flatts

FAVORITE TEACHER/CLASS: Early Childhood Education with Mrs. Richardson.

FAVORITE AUTHOR/BOOK: *The Gallagher Girl* Series by Ally Carter.

MOST POSITIVE MOMENT: My Gonzaga retreats.

PET PEEVES: Being able to hear someone's music when they have headphones in.

WHAT MY FRIENDS WILL REMEMBER ABOUT ME: My sense of humor and being "mom" (always having everything you could need).

HOW WOULD YOU SPEND \$1,000,000? : I would pay off the bills for my family and take them on a nice vacation.

IF YOU WERE STRANDED ON A DESERT ISLAND, WHAT 3 ITEMS WOULD YOU WANT WITH YOU? : Lip balm, a reusable water bottle, and a knife.


LAST WORDS OF ADVICE: "This is just four years of your life. Have fun, but don't let others bring you down. Life goes on. <3"



Valentine's Day

By Stephanie Davies

Valentine's Day is known for many things. This holiday falls on February 14th. Valentine's Day and is a day we show our significant others one of our most intoxicating feelings: love. Many couples exchange gifts like roses, cards, candies, and anything else that might represent the theme of sweet love, all out of their amazing love for each other. The real question is how did this popular day become a holiday at all? Well, many myths surround this holiday but one dates back to the Romans. Around this time there was a saint named Valentine. He was a priest who served during the third century in Rome. Claudius II, who was Emperor at the time, decided that single men should be soldiers instead of men with wives and families. Claudius II then outlawed marriage for young men. Valentine did not believe in this injustice to the people and finally betrayed Claudius and continued to perform marriages for young men and women in secret. When Valentine's secret was discovered, Claudius declared that Valentine be put to death, thus the day being named Valentine's day. Despite the dark history, Valentine's Day is widely known and celebrated in other countries like Canada, Mexico, the United Kingdom, France and Australia. All these countries use this themed day to celebrate love by giving candies and cards to the ones they love. Roughly 150 million cards are given a year, 2 million dollars worth of candy is bought, an estimated 224 million roses are grown for the holiday, and about 4.4 billion dollars spent on diamonds, silver, and gold jewelry. All of these, and much more, contribute to roughly 18.6 billion dollars in spending, making Valentine's Day the third most expensive holiday.



As February came around the corner, so did our winter dance. Occurring every year, students came for a couple hours on a Saturday night to dance, have fun, and enjoy refreshments. This year, the dance was held on February 11th, from 8:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. The theme of this event was "Winter Snow Globe," giving a more seasonal theme to fit with the cold weather. Everyone seemed to have a great time and is looking forward to next year!



PTHS
Winter Dance

By Shelby Jennings



Pontiac FFA Auction



February 18, 2017

Pontiac High School
Commons

\$5 Ribeye or Pork Chop Dinner
Served 3:00 p.m.—?
Kid's Plates Available for \$1

Silent Auction—3:00p.m.

Live Auction—5:00 p.m

Proceeds Benefit the Pontiac FFA Chapter and Alumni

For a listing of items and donors visit:
www.pontiacffa.org
Follow us on Facebook: Pontiac FFA



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Important Dates to Remember:

February 17th - No School (School Improvement Day)

February 20 - No School (President's Day)

March 16 - Parent/Teacher Conferences

March 17 - Spring Break

March 27 - School Resumes

The Pontiac Peer Club



PONTIAC
TOWNSHIP
HIGH SCHOOL

"The mission of The Pontiac Peer Club is to create a positive environment within PTHS and serve as an outlet for our peers to utilize when struggling with difficulties in their own lives."

Are you struggling with a problem? Do you need to sit down and talk with a member of our Peer Club about a difficult situation you're going through?

To get connected with a member of the Pontiac Peer Club please see the link on the PTHS website under "All People" → "Students", or see Mr. Bustle.

- **Members are expected to be respectful and kind with any peers they interact with.**
- **Discussions are to be held confidentially unless there is a risk to someone's safety.**
- **All discussions are to always be non-judgmental.**
- **All members are expected to be supportive and positive.**

