

The

CHIEF

PONTIAC TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL



LIFE SKILLS CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

Life Skills and Adaptive Living Skills classes invite us all in to celebrate!

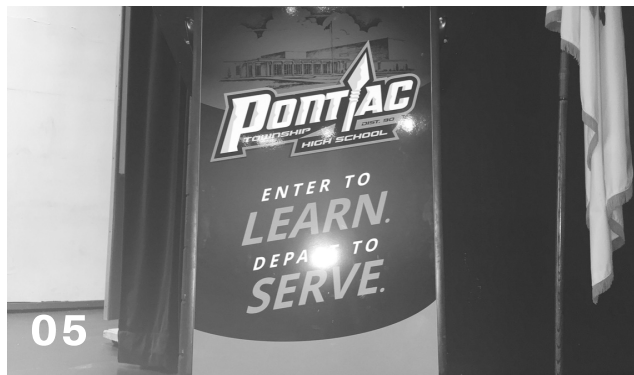


50TH ANNUAL MADRIGAL DINNER

Celebrating 50 years is certainly something to sing about!

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Spanish Club





50 YEARS OF SINGING AND MERRIMENT

MADRIGAL DINNER

By Eve Pouliot



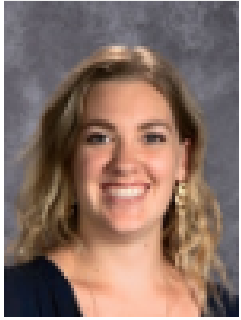
From December 5th to December 7th, the Elks Lodge was no longer in today's time. Instead, it was in the year 1478, in Olde England I might add. There you could find singers, instrumentalists, and even a jester. All of these people were hosting dinners to celebrate the holiday season. This event and the group of people who hosted it are called Madrigals. This year happens to be the 50th anniversary of when it was first started here in Pontiac, Illinois. The first two nights were a little rough at times, but very enjoyable. The last night was the very best of the performances. All of the food was delivered gracefully and the songs were performed beautifully. However, there are a few seniors in the group, one of whom started to tear up at the end of the performance. At the end of the night the cast lined the hall where "Thank you's" and praise were exchanged. The guests shook the cast's hands with praises like, "Great job," and my personal favorite, "Bravo!" After everyone left, the director of the event, Mr. Joseph Durbin, gave thanks to all the people involved: the Court Singers, the Madrigals, the Madrigal Brass, the Madrigal Recorders, the people in charge of lights and the kitchen staff. The last night always leaves one with this bittersweet feeling of being glad it was over but also wishing it would go on for another night. We all thanked Mr. Durbin for directing this event. That was the end for this year, and may it continue for many more years to come!



What was your favorite semester break activity?



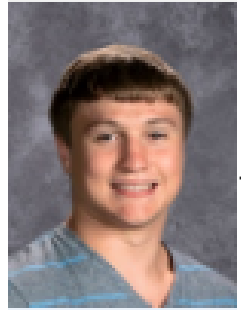
Alexa Duffy



"Seeing family from out of town and sleeping in."



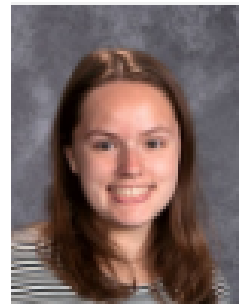
Jake Lanning



"Setting the school's record for most wins in wrestling."



Olivia Welshans



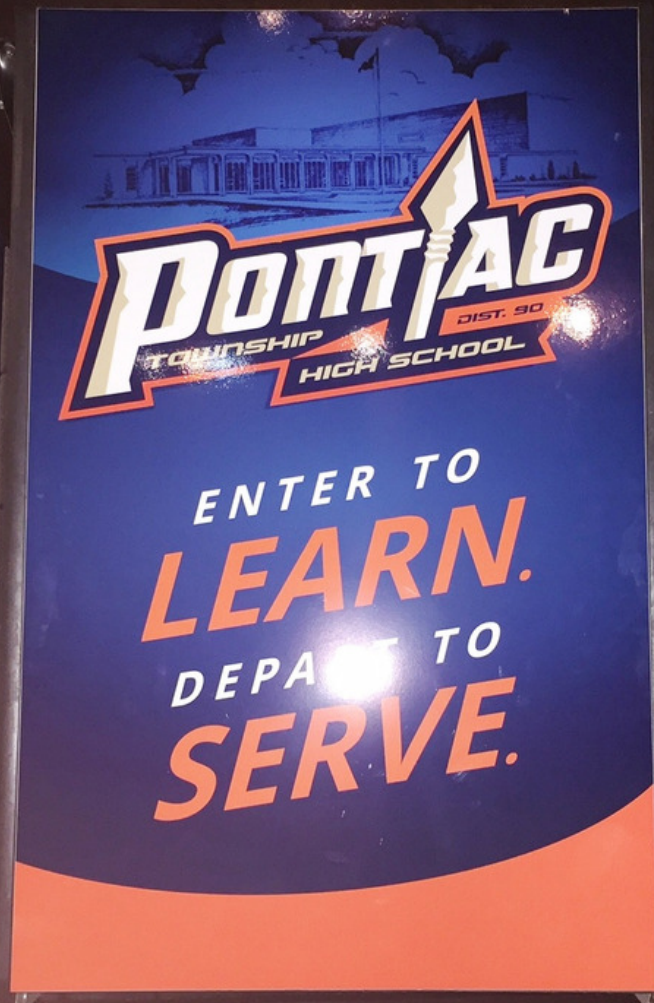
"Spending time with my brothers and sleeping in 'til noon."



Indian Pride: Life Skills & Adaptive Living Skills Christmas Open House

Every Christmas for the past 26 years, the PTHS Life Skills and Adaptive Living Skills classes have hosted their Christmas Open House, welcoming everyone from around the community to join in food, drink, and fun! The students plan and help prepare all of the food, as well as helping with cleaning and decorating the classrooms. This year, 136 teachers, staff members, administrators, students (current and former), family members, and other community members attended to celebrate, which even included some other Life Skills classes in the county!

The Christmas Open House is certainly one of the highlights of first semester for all members of Indian Nation here at PTHS!



BACK AT IT

CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY

By Shelby Jennings & Taylor Ritter

Our first day back to school after the long winter break was greeted with a “Welcome Back” assembly. On that day, certain students were recognized and rewarded for both their hard work and their perseverance. Varsity wrestler Jake Lanning received congratulations for obtaining a new school record of personal wins, certain seniors were able to receive a certificate for becoming an Illinois State Scholar, and some students were even lucky enough to randomly receive a t-shirt or hat thrown out into the crowd by Mr. Bohm! There were also over 60 people who had perfect attendance throughout all of last semester. Those students received a pass for the head of the lunch line and a free ticket to the winter dance. From that group, one person was fortunate enough to receive a \$50 bill from Mr. Bohm himself. The assembly as a whole provided students with the second semester motivation needed to continue working hard and attending school. We look forward to seeing how this semester turns out!



A WORD FROM YOUR

STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT



By Shelby Jennings

Congratulations and welcome back! You have successfully made your way through one whole semester. Whether last semester went well or dragged on, I hope this semester brings even more success to you.

To freshman- You are 1/8th of the way through! I hope you have reflected on this past semester and have adjusted accordingly to make this one even better. By now, most of you are in the swing of things and have mainly adjusted to the flow of high school. Graduation may seem very far away right now, but believe others when they say that the rest of high school will go by quicker than you realize. You can do this!

To sophomores- Last semester you guys hit the ground running. You weren't in a transition period to start off, so you got right down to business. By now you are all also around the middle of your high school career, so don't slow down now! Keep going!

To juniors- As the anticipation for your senior year grows, time may seem like it is dragging. Let all that time fuel your desire to finish strong as you tackle certain obstacles that impact your future this semester, such as the SAT or your AP tests! Good luck and keep working hard!

To seniors- We are on the home stretch. I'm guessing most of you have countdowns of some kind going to the day we receive our diplomas. It is pretty common for our motivation to fall as we coast our way through it. Just remember that the more hard work you put into something, the greater the reward. That being said, graduation is just a little further...so why stop now? Stay focused!



Upperclass Acts



Zach Fellheimer

Name: Zach Fellheimer

Role Models: Dan Bilzerian, Barney Stinson

Activities @ PTHS: Spanish Club, Tennis Team

Fondest Memory @PTHS: Beating Central Catholics #1 @ Home

3 Major Areas of Interest: Tennis, college basketball, fantasy football

Plans after High School: Attend ISU to major in Business Administration

Favorite Movie: *The Wolf of Wall Street*

Most Inspirational Songs: "Bounce Back" by Big Sean "Do What I Want" by Uzi Vert

Favorite Class: Foods with Mrs. Butler

Most Positive Moment: 5 seed at sectionals as a junior

Pet Peeve: People who run red lights

How Would I Spend \$1,000,000? Mansion on the east coast

3 Items I Would Bring to a Stranded Island: All the Transformers movies, a yacht, and Madeline Mitchell

Last Words of Advice: "If you're late to school, make sure you go get breakfast."

Upperclass Acts



Grace Watson

Name: Grace Watson

Nicknames: G, Gracie, G-Wat

Role Model(s): Amy Poehler and Lena Dunham

Activities @ PTHS: National Honor Society, National Technical Honor Society, Student Council Treasurer, Law Enforcement Club, Volleyball, and Senior Class Treasurer

Fondest Memory of High School So Far: Painting up for football games

3 Major Areas of Interest: Biology, reading, and history

Plans After High School: Attend Illinois State University to major in Biology

Favorite Movie: *The Pursuit of Happyness*

Most Inspirational song: "Paradise" by Coldplay

Favorite Teacher/Class: Anatomy with Mr. Nollen

Favorite Author/Book: *The Notebook* by Nicholas Sparks

Most Positive Moment: Being voted Homecoming Queen

Pet Peeves: When people always have to put in their "two cents."

What My Friends will Remember about Me: My sense of humor, my tendency to worry too much, and my love for TV shows

How Would You Spend \$1,000,000? Pay for my college, buy my mom a beach house, donate to a charity that helps animals, and save the rest for the future.

If You Were Stranded on a Desert island, What 3 Things Would You Want with You? The Harry Potter book series, a body pillow (can't sleep without it), and a friend.

LAST WORDS OF ADVICE: Be the person that you needed when you were younger and don't wish your life away.



Review of Metallica's *Hardwired...to Self-Destruct*

By Allyson Shoff

On November 18th, 2016, Metallica released what is arguably their best album since *The Black Album*. *Hardwired... to Self-Destruct* was such an intense and heavy album, they had to put it on two discs with a special release having a third disc. This also was the first album from any band in several years to have a release specifically directed at small record stores. Special masks were sent to record stores, including Bloomington's Waiting Room Records, with download codes for videos and new songs. About one hundred record stores in the United States and Canada received a bunch of freebies to give out and the ability to have a midnight release party for the album. A record store exclusive version of the vinyl was also released; this was the only way to get the third disc on vinyl, and all three discs were pressed on red vinyl for this set.

With all of the hype surrounding the album, including the systematic release of music videos for every song on the album every two hours starting exactly twenty-four hours before the first release of the album in New Zealand and Australia, it would have been highly likely and disappointing if we were met with a sub-par album.

Luckily, this was not the case. One of the only things to live up to the hype of 2016, another being the results of the World Series, *Hardwired... to Self-Destruct* was an emotionally charged and musically driven album full of catchy riffs, amazing lyrics, and just a lot of music that definitely sounded like classic Metallica.

The first disc opened up with "Hardwired," the first song to be released over a month before the album actually came up. The song was perfectly thrashy and a great way to open up the album. The other songs, "Atlas, Rise!," "Now That We're Dead," "Moth Into Flame," "Dream No More," and "Halo on Fire." Only half of the record, this first disc was thirty seven minutes and thirteen seconds and amazing music from start to finish. Two of my favorites, "Now That We're Dead" and "Dream No More" were part of this disc, and "Halo on Fire," the longest song on the entire album, led into the second disc perfectly with almost two minutes of the band just rocking out to end the song.

The second disc clocks in at forty minutes and sixteen seconds and features my favorite song on the album, "Murder One." This song played as a tribute to the late, great Lemmy Kilmister of Motorhead who passed away December

28, 2015. The second disc was just as great as the first with "Confusion," "ManUNkind," "Here Comes Revenge," "Am I Savage?," "Murder One," and "Spit Out the Bone." While I was not as fond of "Am I Savage?" and "Spit Out the Bone," I felt they were perfectly placed in the album. The second, third, and countless following listens made me fall in love with the album as a whole. Any fan of old classic Metallica is sure to enjoy this album from start to finish!

But wait, there's more! For those lucky enough to get a copy of the three disc edition, a seventy nine minute and thirty seven second extension awaits. This disc featured "Lords of Summer," the song released at a live performance in 2015. The rest of the album was cover songs, like the Ronnie James Dio tribute album and Deep Purple's "When a Blind Man Cries," and live songs from two different shows.

While I didn't expect to enjoy this album as much as I did, *Metallica's Hardwired... To Self-Destruct* became one of my favorite albums of 2016. I still have hope that they will tour the states in 2017.



Review of *Rogue One:* *A Star Wars Story*

By Shelby Jennings
& Taylor Ritter

This month, both Taylor and I went out to see the latest hit movie: *Rogue One*. As one of the highest acclaimed films of 2016, this film lives up to the hype. The movie brings together ordinary, diverse, heroes to accomplish a near-impossible task. The whole story was centered around the dreaded Death Star and how the plans for it got to into the hands of Princess Leia. The main characters, Jyn Erso and pilot Cassian Andor, are accompanied by other friends and bot K-2SO

and try to stop Darth Vader's ultimate weapon of destruction. Also a part of this band of misfits are a blind wanderer, and his counterpart, Baze. This film acts as an example of how to band together in times of need and devote themselves to a higher cause, with a couple twists and turns throughout. For those who haven't seen the *Star Wars* series, it's definitely worth a watch. This one is certainly going on our "Best Movies of 2016" list.



Student Poetry

On a good day By Olivia Welshans

On a good day
I can look outside my window and see God
No- McDonalds, no- Allah, no- park bench Buddah, no-
Something, I can see something.

Does it matter the name,
if when I look to the side of the road I am awestruck
at how light tip toes in just a way
among the road side weeds
that only the brightest colors meet my eyes?

On a good day
I can look up to the night sky and fall to my knees
because up there is where people's dreams glisten- not the
stars
held up by high hopes and ambitions and kid-you're-gonna-go-
so-far's.

On a good day
I can speak to you
forget everything you used to be, everything you are
find hope to fuel the parts of me that want everything you aren't
and shield myself from your intensity
because I'm not flame retardant
But

on a bad day
I remember that weeds are only there
to suffocate their neighbors
that dreams held up by fragile things
don't mean there's something greater
that our relationship has somehow grown
just as thin as paper,

but then
the sun returns and I can forget again

The Cows of the Sea By Jordan Wallace

Manatees, Manatees, so many manatees,
All floating about in my fantasies
Gentle to you and me,
None are as innocent as thee!
May I ask what created you?
In an ocean vast and blue
Tell me when hit by a boat,
Why you continue to calmly Float?
Thy gentle manatee,
The docile cow of the sea.

Oh, Please tell me who-
Envisioned perfection such as you
I know others of your ilk,
Yet you are so hard to milk!
Oh, In a world so dark-
Full of tigers, bears, and the shark
And yet here we have you
Floating amongst the blue
Oh cow of the sea
Is there any as innocent as thee?



By Taylor Ritter

Recently, the Spanish Club traveled to Chicago for a day of shopping and a trip to Shedd Aquarium. At the Aquarium, we were able to explore, see a Dolphin training show, and be a part of a 4-D experience about prehistoric aquatic animals. After some time at the Aquarium, we then went to Watertower Place, an indoor shopping complex complete with over 100 stores. Following five hours of shopping, we headed to a restaurant called Lalos for dinner where we were serenaded by a live mariachi band. The spring of 2017 also holds many exciting activities for the Spanish Club. First up on February 1st, we will be holding an evening of Salsa dancing. Every year, Salsa instructor Kathy Hempstead teaches the fundamentals of the dance. For those who have come in years prior, she helps those to relearn and refresh on the principals of the dance. Also in February, the Spanish Club heads to Cascade Mountain with the FFA for a day of skiing. In March, we head to Pilsen to immerse ourselves in the Hispanic culture. More fun events for April and May will be announced closer to those dates. For more information about certain events, see either Mr. Flowers or myself.



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