

The

CHIEF

PONTIAC TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL



PAY IT FORWARD

National Honor Society students work together to make a difference in the community.

RESPECT IS OUR SUPERPOWER

PTHS students pledge to respect each other, regardless of differences.

PERFECT ATTENDANCE PARTY

Students with perfect attendance get rewarded with a lunch party!

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P.T.H.S.'S SUPERPOWER - RESPECT

By Allyson Shoff

“Spread the Word to End the Word” is a program that has been going on at Pontiac Township High School for as long as I can remember. Every year, the school gathers in the assembly to hear about the projects students have done, see the life skills students in an earned spotlight, and watch that year’s “Respect” video. This year’s video went above and beyond to make everyone feel involved.

The video was filmed a couple weeks in advance with school groups and organizations recording speaking parts of the new “Respect Pledge” while “throwing” a Captain America shield to the next group. The video went together perfectly and featured students from all walks of life.

This year’s theme was “Respect is My Superpower.” The photo booth at lunch featured capes and masks. Posters were made by grade school students in Livingston County to be displayed at the high school. T-Shirts with a comic book-like design were sold weeks in advance. On March 1st, the day of the assembly, teachers were welcome to wear their favorite superhero shirt. We also were lucky enough to hear from Daniel Smrokowski, a young man diagnosed with learning disabilities and a severe language disorder, and is a Special Olympics Global Messenger and founder of Special Chronicles. Daniel has gone to great lengths to make sure no one deals with the hate speech that he did as a child. His speech was inspirational, and I felt a sense of pride for my school as he talked about his achievements in the Special Olympics and his writing career. I realized that students at PTHS with these setbacks already had the start they needed to be just as successful.

What are your Spring Break plans?



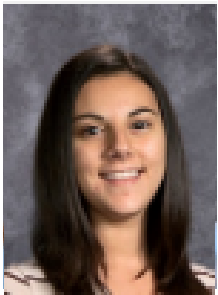
Austin Nelson



"Baseball"



Lanie Canard



"Going to concerts!"



Lexi Franklin



"EMT clinicals"

Paying it Forward

By Allyson Shoff

Every year, Pontiac Township High School's National Honor Society partakes in their "Pay it Forward" project. Each student receives \$10 and four months to donate their time and effort to hopefully grow upon that \$10 and donate it to a charity. A few people may not look forward to this project, but it allows just forty-four students to donate a couple thousand dollars to those in need.

The 2017 "Pay it Forward" project started right after winter break, but most students started theirs in February. The ideas are looking great this year, and I'm sure there will be a lot of success. Some students have chosen to work alone, with a partner, or even in a large group. One pair is making "Brownies in a Mug" and selling them to people in the community. These cute little mugs are hand decorated by the two, then filled with a baggie of brownie mix and instructions to make a single serve brownie in the microwave. Money from this project is being donated to the Humane Society.

I've personally been selling knitted and crocheted cat toys. A variety of toys have been made and sold, and some have catnip in them. Waiting Room Records in Normal, IL has been kind enough to display and sell a basket of my toys on their counter. Don't have a cat? Buy one for Murph, their new rescue shop cat! All money raised will be donated to Operation S.A.F.E.

Another group started selling bath bombs fairly early in February. These bath bombs are homemade with amazing scents. Sales will be donated to the Humane Society. Other ideas have been tossed around, such as a garage sale, a bake sale, or, for those students busy with several other happenings at PTHS, some time at the food pantry. Our project runs through April, and I can't wait to see what everyone comes up with!



PTHS

PERFECT ATTENDANCE PARTY!

By Shelby Jennings

Earlier this semester it was announced that over 60 people had perfect attendance last semester. Those students received a ticket to the head of the lunch line all of second semester and a free ticket to our winter dance. One student was even given \$50 right out of Mr. Bohm's wallet. In addition to these rewards, students who had perfect attendance last semester were invited to a lunch party earlier this month. They enjoyed Dairy Queen burgers and blizzards, in addition to chips and candies of their choice. This party was held in the auditorium and was certainly one of the highlights of the month. I am looking forward to seeing what students will receive if they have perfect attendance all of this semester!





PTHS Club Spotlight: Science Club

By Taylor Ritter

The PTHS Science Club has been in full swing with several fun adventures these past months. Just a couple weeks ago, the Science Club took a trip to the Shedd Aquarium where we participated in a squid dissection lab that helped learn more about the anatomy of the Atlantic Squid. While there, club members were able to explore the different types of marine and aquatic animals that Shedd had in its care. The Science Club has also gotten permission for an automatic refillable water fountain. This fountain will be more convenient for students between classes and also has a replaceable filter. Science Club welcomes new members at any time so if anyone is interested in joining please see Mr. Ritter or myself.

Music Department Update

By Matthew Birkett & Eve Pouliot

The band is preparing for the New York trip. We've had three rehearsals so far, and have one more just two days before we leave. To make up for missed time last week, our rehearsal will be nearly twice as long. A tip for those students that are going on the trip: go to bed early and set LOTS of alarms. You'll have to wake up early in the morning to catch the bus at our 4:30 AM departure time. As for the itinerary, you should have received it in your email the week before we depart, so long as your CHARMS is up to date.

In March of 2017, preparations have been begun for the annual spring concert. Also, the biennial music department trip, this year being New York, is happening over spring break.



PTHS

Spring Sports



By Owen Putnam

Spring is coming and we couldn't be more excited. The grass will turn green and many students will start to get anxious for summer. However, some will do all they can to enjoy their last season as an athlete, or finish their time as an Indian strong. Let's take a look at our spring sports:

Boys baseball will have another strong season led by senior Tony Krominga and Eric Zega. Krominga looks to be a front line starter, while Zega will roam in center. Both men have made an impact on the varsity level in previous seasons, but are primed to lead the team. Although they lost a lot of talent from last year's squad, the team will compete hard to win the last Corn Belt title and return to the postseason.

Softball will have another successful year and will focus heavily on teamwork. They will enjoy a strong season with plenty of talent on the roster. Look for younger players such as Reagan Krause to make an impact as well as Emma Jacobs.

Boys Tennis will have a very successful season led by Zach Fellheimer and Rifat Jaoski. They will be top-heavy with senior talent as their lineup's top six could all be seniors. This is a well-rounded squad that should finish with a high winning percentage. Fellheimer will compete in his sectional with State aspirations.

As for track, the boys and girls have the earliest beginning to the spring season and have already been working hard. Both squads are sure to send individuals to state. These athletes include Nate Durham and Gracianna Dennis. Both rosters are full of young and veteran talent giving them an exciting season to look forward to.



Upperclass Acts



Colin Lakadat

NAME: Colin Lakadat

NICKNAMES: "Col"

ROLE MODEL(S): Steve Jobs and Tim Cook

ACTIVITIES @ PTHS: Yearbook, Student Council, Spanish Club

FONDEST MEMORY OF HIGH SCHOOL SO FAR: My fondest memories during high school were during the football games when I got to spend time with friends.

3 MAJOR AREAS OF INTEREST: Technology, Writing, and Design

PLANS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL: I will be attending the University of Iowa.

FAVORITE MOVIE: Any of the *Harry Potter* movies

MOST INSPIRATIONAL SONG: "Don't Stop Believing" by Journey

FAVORITE TEACHER/CLASS: Mr. Christie

FAVORITE AUTHOR: J.K. Rowling

MOST POSITIVE MOMENT: My most positive moment was when I placed at State for my category in the journalism competition.

PET PEEVES: When people stop in the middle of a hallway and when people chew loudly.

WHAT MY FRIENDS WILL REMEMBER ABOUT ME: My friends will remember all the good times we had and the times we got in trouble for laughing too much in class.

HOW WOULD YOU SPEND \$1,000,000? I would invest most of it, but also spend some of it on my education and personal wants, such as a nice house and car.

IF YOU WERE STRANDED ON A DESERT ISLAND, WHAT 3 ITEMS WOULD YOU WANT WITH YOU? I would take my phone, a lot of cheesecake, and a dog.

LAST WORDS OF ADVICE: "Keep your grades up and get your work done early so that you have time to relax and do what makes you happy."

Upperclass Acts



Olivia Welshans

NAME: Olivia Welshans

NICKNAMES: Liv, Olive, Grandma

ROLE MODEL(S): Lin Manuel Miranda, Sarah Kay, Shane Koyczan

ACTIVITIES @ PTHS: National Honor Society, Thespians, Choir, Madrigals

FONDEST MEMORY OF HIGH SCHOOL SO FAR: Singing in Madrigals for 3 years with my friends

3 MAJOR AREAS OF INTEREST: Writing, Acting, Singing

PLANS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL: Attend the College of Media at University of Illinois

FAVORITE MOVIE: *The Professional*

MOST INSPIRATIONAL SONG: "Rise Up" by Andra Day

FAVORITE TEACHER/CLASS: Mr. Ramseyer for AP English

FAVORITE AUTHOR/BOOK: Oscar Wilde's *A Picture of Dorian Gray*

MOST POSITIVE MOMENT: When I received 5th place in State for the Voice of Democracy Speech Competition

PET PEEVES: One syllable words, popping knuckles, double jointed elbows

WHAT MY FRIENDS WILL REMEMBER ABOUT ME: My quirky (sometimes awkward) sense of humor

HOW WOULD YOU SPEND \$1,000,000? Pay for my college and travel the world

IF YOU WERE STRANDED ON A DESERT ISLAND, WHAT 3 ITEMS WOULD YOU WANT WITH YOU? A lighter, a journal, and a sharpie marker (to draw faces on random objects)

LAST WORDS OF ADVICE: "Take a minute and appreciate the little things. They'll make you the happiest."



THE 2017 GRAMMY AWARDS

By Shelby Jennings & Taylor Ritter

The 2017 Grammy Awards aired on CBS on February 12th, with The Late Late Show's James Corden hosting for the first time. In our opinion, this was one of the best Grammy Awards yet. Adele defeated Beyoncé to take home the prize in three of the four biggest categories of the night, Song of the Year, Record of the Year, and Album of the Year, while Chance the Rapper won Best New Artist as well as Best Rap Album, making his *Coloring Book* the first streaming-exclusive release to win a Grammy.

Beyoncé wasn't without a win, however. The pregnant artist won Best Urban Contemporary Album and Best Music Video. What was perhaps more interesting than her two wins was her performance. The artist's dreamlike performance was whimsical as she wore an angelic halo while singing.

Tim McGraw and Lori McKenna for "Best Country Song," but the moment that caught the world's attention was the Grammy given to "Best Pop Duo/Group Performance." Twenty One Pilots dominated this category for their hit single "Stressed Out," against Lukas Graham and Rihanna. All seemed normal until the duo walked up on stage - pantless. They explained themselves with a story that dates back to before they were popular, saying that long ago they sat on the couch watching the show in their underwear and told each other that if they ever won a Grammy, they would accept it the same way. The two from Ohio ended their speech by saying, "anyone, from anywhere, can do anything." With this moment alone from Twenty One Pilots, the 59th Annual Grammy's were one to remember. Another of the night's most anticipated moments, however, was a swing and a miss. Bruno Mars had seemed like the clear choice to pay tribute to the late artist Prince, as his new album *24K Magic* was recently released. However, Mars turned what should have been a touching tribute into a tacky spectacle.



By Stephanie Davies

The Day we call Saint Patrick's Day is a historical day marked to celebrate an Irish saint. Saint Patrick is a man who lived during the fifth century. He is a patron saint and a national apostle of Ireland. Born in Roman Britain, he was kidnapped and brought to Ireland as a slave at the young age of 16. He then escaped and returned to Ireland and was credited with bringing Christianity to the people of Ireland. He was believed to have died on March 17, 461. Following his death, March 17 was announced as St. Patrick's Day. Even though this holiday was created by the Irish, the first St. Patrick's Day parade wasn't started in Ireland. The first parade was held March 17, 1762, in New York City. Irish soldiers serving in the English military marched playing their music; the parade helped the soldiers reconnect with their Irish roots, as well as with fellow Irishmen serving in the English army. In modern-day Ireland, St. Patrick's Day has been and still is a religious occasion. Up until the 1970s, Irish laws required that pubs be closed on March 17. In 1995, the Irish government began a national campaign to use interest in St. Patrick's Day to drive tourism and showcase Ireland and the Irish culture to the rest of the world. Today, about a 1 million people annually take part in Ireland's St. Patrick's Festival in Dublin. The multi-day celebration featuring parades, concerts, outdoor theater productions and fireworks shows. Not only is it celebrated by the Irish but people of all backgrounds celebrate St. Patrick's Day, especially throughout the United States, Canada and Australia. Although North America is home to the largest productions, St. Patrick's Day is celebrated in many other locations far from Ireland, including Japan, Singapore and Russia. This widely known Holiday brings joy to many of its participants. So enjoy this holiday going green and join in on the festivities!

ME Poems

Abby

Who wants to become a nurse
Daughter of Janna and Armando
Funny, shy, outgoing
Playing my clarinet, hanging with friends,
going to the races
Friends with McKenzy and Kiara
Resident of Grant Avenue
Valenzuela

Kaitlyn

Who wants to become a teacher
Daughter of Tracy and Kevin
Friendly, caring, nice
A writer, baritone player and a reader
Friends with Makinzi, Lizzy and Angelina
Resident of Pontiac, IL
Bromley

Robert

Who wants to become a Security Analyst
Son of Robert and Tammy
Funny, friendly, and loud
A video gamer, a bike rider and a TV watcher
Friends with Jake, Cole and Kole
Resident of Saunemin, IL
Hull

The Memory

Kaiti's P.O.V.

I roll onto my back and stare up at the ceiling. My head aches trying to remember something. This has been going on since I woke up the other day at Doggeh Studios. I can't remember any images. Only a feeling and a desire. Sometimes remembering this feeling makes me feel whole and good. Other times it makes me very sad. No, not sad, more like I long for something. I keep trying to pick anything out of this memory or feeling or whatever it is. But I can't and trying just makes the ache grow. So I move to the desire, it's a strong one. But again, I can't pick anything out from it. Not what the desire is for or where it comes from. I lift my head and then throw it back against the pillow. Taking a deep breath in, and then slowly blow it out. That's when I hear a knock on the door.

"Come in!" I say. In walks Doggeh with a big grin, she walks to the side of my bed. I sit up and pat the spot next to me. "You can sit down."

"Thank you, how are you feeling?" She asks as she sits next to me.

"I've got a headache, I've got this memory but I can't remember any details about it." I reply.

"Oh. Can I take a looksie?" She asks, her eyes soften from excitement to concern.

"Sure." I close my eyes and I can see a blue glow behind my eyelids. My head starts to feel heavy. This only lasts a moment because she quickly sees what I'm talking about and then leaves. When I open my eyes she's back to on surface level looking excited but I can feel her confusion.

"That is a pretty closed off memory, it's nothing terribly important though so I can make it go away if you'd like. Then your headache will go away." She says. Just as I'm about to decline the pain gets sharper.

"Yes please."

The Chief Staff

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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.**