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THE PATRIOT PRESS



Park View High School
400 W. Laurel Avenue
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Star-Spangled Wrangle: The Flag Controversy

by Nabeeha Ahmed

The United States is tied with Venezuela as the most patriotic country in the world. The stars and stripes appear everywhere – phone cases, clothing, plates, napkins, office supplies et cetera. The flag has been a part of Americans' everyday lives. We stand for both the pledge at school and work, and the anthem at games and many social events – except not always. On September 1,

Colin Kaepernick, quarterback of the 49ers, sparked a nationwide conversation by refusing to stand for the national anthem. He explained, "I am not going to stand up to show pride in a flag for a country that oppresses black people or people of color. To me, this is bigger than football, and

it would be selfish on my part to look the other way. There are bodies in the street and people getting paid leave and getting away

around the nation – followed. Some of these Americans are students at Park View.
Senior Sean Wesley

our actions of the country. It means that we're proud of our country and support its actions, but a lot of things that have happened,

"There have been times when I don't stand, because I'll hear the sound of the pledge starting and instinctively stand, but as of right now, with only six months left until graduation, and going into a Trump presidency, I don't see a point in time where I'll stand and fully mean it."

Senior Amara Saber starting sitting this year. "The flag and pledge represents America as a whole and who we are," she ex-



Photos by Ms. Nicole Cobb

Student stands for the Pledge of Allegiance during 2nd block announcements.

with murder." Afterwards, he continued his protest, while many others – athletes and other Americans

started sitting during the pledge last year. "I think the pledge represents an unwavering patriotic pride in

I just don't agree with," he explained. When asked if he thinks he'll stand again anytime soon, he said,

plained. "Honestly we've become a nation that even the heartless would feel (for the issues that are) going on. Nobody cares about anyone anymore." When asked why she started feeling this way, she referenced the Black Lives Matter movement, racism, and rise of hate crimes.

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Trump Ripple Effect: Bullying on the Rise

by Weini Obgagiorgis

It is evident that across the nation, in reaction to the election results, there has been a profound emotional response. This has been seen in many different areas such as the

workplace, school, and other environments. People from both sides of the political spectrum had some type of negative reaction towards the outcome. Following Trump's victory of the election there was a sig-

nificant rise in hate crimes occurring in multiple cities across the nation.

Media outlets such as CNN, The Economist, The New Yorker, and many others have reported an increase in hate crimes

since the completion of this past presidential election. There have been vehicles and buildings vandalized with the swastika symbol as well as the occurrence of blacks, Muslims, and many other minority groups being targeted, more than the usual amount. "Since the election, we've seen a big uptick in incidents of vandalism, threats, intimidation spurred by the rhetoric surrounding Mr. Trump's election," Richard Cohen, president of the Southern Poverty Law Center said in a USA Today article.

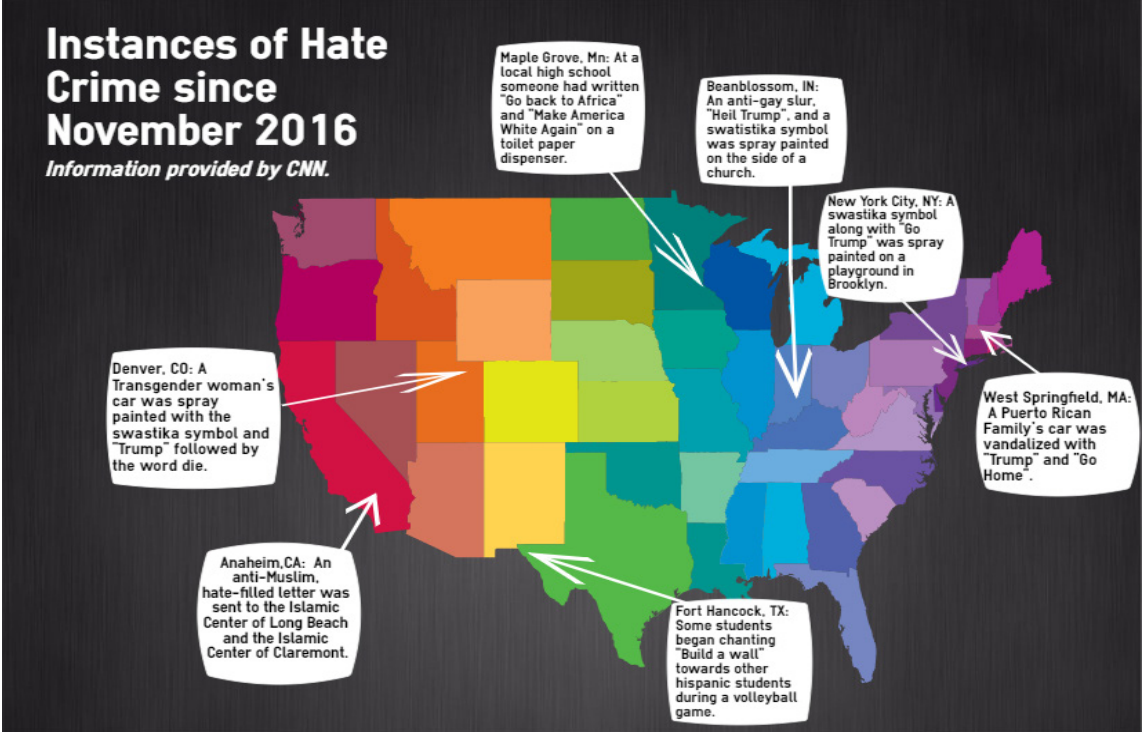
Throughout the entirety of his campaign, the new president-elect had made various comments viewed as unsettling towards Muslims, women, immigrants, and other marginalized groups in society. The combination of these fac-

tors and Trump winning has contributed to the uneasy feelings many Americans have, as well as the rise in bullying and intimidation of many people nationwide.

Schools have been a distinct location where there has been a tremendous rise in bullying post-election. According to CNN, 90 percent of teachers who took an online survey by Teaching Tolerance responded that their students' dynamic in the classroom has been negatively affected.

"I have heard of different instances at different schools, in Sterling Park and across Loudoun County, of things being said. Students feeling unsafe, harassed or bullied," said school psychologist Charles Barrett.

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Infographic by Weini Obgagiorgis

School Lunches: To Eat or Not To Eat?

by Jackie Morales

School lunches are infamously known as “gross”, but there are different things that affect the coordination of school food. Specifically, Loudoun County has different goals in mind in which they work to fulfill. With Park View having the highest free and reduced lunch, it raised speculation whether this affected the quality of the food.

Loudoun County’s goal is “to provide the highest quality meals at a price families can afford.” With that goal in mind there are a lot of things the quality of the food is affected by. For example, in Loudoun County there is a program called Farm to

School which is funded by the United States Department of Agriculture. Farm to School offers schools with fresh produce grown locally. Park View receives locally grown apples from a farm called “WV- Kilmer Farms.” Dr. Becky Domo-kos- Bay, supervisor and head of school nutrition services, said, “These ap-ples may be from Virginia, New York, or from Wash-ington State-all excellent products. During summer school, Mr. Kilmer also furnished fresh berries and stone fruits such as plus, peaches, and nectarines. He sells these to Loudoun County Public Schools at a reasonable price that we [LCPS] can afford.” In ad-

dition, all schools in LCPS receive locally grown hy-droponic bibb lettuce from Paul Mock Farms. Certain Loudoun County schools must offer different selec-tion of fruits since there are different farms in the area. LCPS claims to work with farms to be able to provide maximum efficiency of fruit and vegetable distribu-tion.

Menus provided in Loudoun County follow the guidelines established by the Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act in 2010. This plan has very specific guidelines for schools. All high schools in the county have the exact same menu plan, but vendors provide different brands and prod-

ucts for each school. LCPS has to pick a menu that satisfies 78,000 students, Doko-Bays said it is a “Monumental task.” LCPS emphasizes the ethnic and cultural diversity of the county, and takes that into consideration when select-ing a menu. Doko-Bays said, “The free and reduced percentage of a school has no bearing on the menus or the food purchased.” Loudoun County has been working with schools to re-ceive feedback on the qual-ity of the food. Doko-Bays stated that, “We get student input through taste parties. We have had two at high schools this year-one was at Park View in October. We take the evaluations

from these and determine what is acceptable before a product goes on the menus. We also conducted an online survey of all middle and high school students last spring with only 103 students from Park View responded.” In order for school food to improve, students need to engage in forums where they are al-lowed to state their opin-ions. These opinions are taken into consideration by the county, who work for the improvement of student’s meals. In conclu-sion, Loudoun County tries their best to make a meal plan that fits their budget, pleases students, and sticks to the guidelines.

(Continued from front page - Flag/Pledge story)

According to the Loudoun County Public School Student Rights and Responsibilities, students are expected to stand for the pledge unless the student, their parent or guardian objects on reli-gious, philosophical, or other grounds. In that case, they must remain quiet and shouldn’t be disruptive.

There are several teachers at Park View who are veterans. Many people say that a good way to show appreciation for the sacrifices of veterans is to do things as simple as stand for the pledge. However, the flag represents different things to different people. “It represents what we hope our country can be, where we’ve been, where we are now, and where we’re go-ing,” explained Mr. Mat-thew Poth, a former marine who served in Iraq. “The national anthem represents one moment in time that encapsulates everything.” To Mr. Gerritt Peck who served in the Army, the flag represents our values and ideals. “The founding fathers wrote the constitu-tion, and we expanded op-portunities. It’s about what we strive for. It’s about what our service members sacrifice. The people that serve our nation come from all walks of life. One thing I liked about the military is that it doesn’t matter where you’re from or who you

are, you’re in the uniform, and you’re there for the same reason.” He does not think that people should use the flag, pledge, or anthem to protest. “The flag is a symbol,” said Mr. Mick Mullins who is a veteran himself. “The more important aspect is people’s

That’s the greatest thing about this country.” Sean Wesley does not believe that not stand-ing is dishonoring veterans. “My mom is a disabled vet-eran herself,” he explained. “I’ve talked to her about my views and reasons for not standing and she fully

ell, who served in the Navy, doesn’t find sitting respect-ful. “I feel like people who do that kind of look at things vertically. But I don’t judge, I may find that disrespectful, but people do have the right.” He recalls not giving thought to any of it as a child, and likes that

taught to respect and revere the flag. “I think it’s impor-tant to respect each other’s viewpoints and hear each other’s voices. If I had a student who was sitting I wouldn’t call them out in front of their peers. If they want to share with me as to why, I would me more than willing to listen and give my viewpoint as well. I respect everyone no matter what their viewpoint is on the pledge, flag or anthem.” Mr. Peck stressed the importance of making a difference. “There are lots of people who like to talk about freedom, lib-erty, and our values, yet are disrespectful to people who aren’t like them. I understand Mr. Kaep-ernick kneels, but he does a lot to make a difference, like donating to charities for example. If you want to make the world a better place, start with yourself. There are a million ways to make a difference right here in Sterling.” All the staff members asked agreed on one thing: If you stand or sit, do it to make a state-ment.



Photo by Ms. Nicole Cobb

Flags hang in every classroom in the school. To which, student pledge their allegiance on a daily basis.

ability to have freedom of speech and expression. That’s more important than the actual piece of cloth or song itself. Personally, as a veteran, I wanted to protect people’s right to speak out when things aren’t the way they think they should be.

supports that it’s my right.” “I don’t agree that the flag and pledge represent the troops,” said Amera Saber. “It represents hardships many went through and still go through for this country. Look at what we’ve come to.” Mr. Matthew Hollow-

people are thinking about it. However, he believes there are other methods that should be used to show displeasure. Mrs. Victoria Wu isn’t a veteran, but has many family members who are. As a child, she was always

Advanced P.E. Soccer Championship Tournament

by Jordan Landrum

The Advanced P.E. indoor soccer tournament came back on Friday, December 9th. Only the top team from each block was chosen to compete for the indoor soccer champion title. A week before the championship tournament, there were two games held before school in the gym at 8 a.m. These games were held to determine what two teams would be moving on to play in the championship tournament against the already seated six teams.

Out of the Play-in games on December 2nd, Mr. Webb’s fifth block and Ms. Horton’s 7th block class came out on top, then going on to play in the tournament. Game one was played between Mr. Jimenez’s fifth block and Mr. Webb’s fifth block, the end score was 2-0, resulting in Mr. Jimenez’s class coming out on top and on to the next round. In the second game, Mr. Jimenez’s eighth block class was successful in shutting out Mr. Yurish’s fourth block class, the final score being 4-0. Game three was between

Mr. Webb’s first block and Ms. Horton’s 7th block, in the end, Ms. Horton’s class came out victorious with a win of 4-1. The fourth and last game in the first round was played between Jimenez’s second block and Yurish’s 6th block, this game was very close with end score of 1-0.

Two games were played in

the second round between the remaining four teams. Jimenez’s second clock and fifth block classes were eliminated, and Horton’s 7th block and Jimenez’s eighth block were set to play in the championship game. In the end, Mr. Jimenez’s 8th block team won, 2-1.



Photo by Mr. Arturo Jimenez
2016 Indoor soccer champions Juan Araujo, Melvin Guardado Kevin Nunez, Bryan Romero and Kaleb Morris.

Winter Sports Update

by Aliyana Raja

‘Tis the season for winter sports! There are a variety of winter sports offered at Park View, including, boys’ and girls’ fresh-

man and junior varsity (JV) basketball, boys’ and girls’ varsity basketball, varsity gymnastics and boys’ and girls’ varsity swimming.



Photo by Emily Lara Vargas
Naomi Deramus competes at the home Park View gymnastics meet on December 14, 2016. Overall, Park View placed 5th.



Photo by Victor O’Neill
Sophomore Feras Alsaiairi swims freestyle during a meet at Claude Moore Recreational Center.

Dance Team: Back and Better Than Ever

by Ben Linde

Last year, in one of the biggest pep rallies of the year, the JV cheer team did something new instead of their normal cheer routine. They decided to do a full on dance routine with special outfits. Everyone was intrigued by this idea, so they started a dance team.

The dance team may be new but lots of students are already so excited to join and take part. Even the 8th graders at Sterling Middle School have expressed their love and excitement for the new dance team throughout various social media outlets such as Instagram, Twitter, etc. 8th graders have been allowed to participate and some have been showing up to many practices.

Sophomore, Jackie Villanueva said that she and a few other girls from the winter dance team wanted to start an actual dance team opposed to having

separate dance routines in cheer. They are excited to compete and be a mentor to the 8th graders and says she wants to show her positivity.

hundred voters saying yes,” said Jackie Villanueva. She added that teacher, Jeffery Marsh helped them in order to get the team. According to Villanueva,

Villanueva expressed that many people went to the dance team interest meeting and everyone is locked in and looking forward to the season.

helping out the dance team this year.

“The people from last year’s winter cheer had dance routines, but we wanted to make the dance team more of our own thing so the choreographer and some other people decided to make it,” said Gwen Martinez.

Martinez added that the dance team is not a follow up to the Latin dance club at Sterling Middle School, “The dance team will have Latin dance in it, but it also has a whole bunch of other dance genres as well. It is very diverse,” said Gwen Martinez.

Gwen also said that social media outlets played a significant role in assisting with the start of this new team. She said that the team was started and is also very excited to be a mentor to the many 8th graders ready to participate in the dance team next year.



Photo by Jackie Villanueva
Sophomores Gwen Martinez, Jackie Villanueva and Senior Kevin Armas Rodas participate in dance team practice.

“I just went for it and asked everyone if they wanted a dance team at Park View and we got one

social media outlets such as Instagram and Twitter helped them get the team started

Sophomore, Gwen Martinez added that the choreographer from last year’s winter cheer is also

Freedom of Speech: a Privilege or a Right?

by Hibba Khan

You grow up learning about the Bill of Rights and the first amendment; you are taught that every American citizen has the right to the freedom of speech. It's not common knowledge that less than a hundred years ago, students were still being punished for speaking their opinion in schools. The Wisconsin Supreme Court ruled that it was acceptable for the school to suspend two students who wrote a poem ridiculing their teachers in a local newspaper. In another instance, the California court of appeals validated that a student can be suspended for speaking "critically" of his teachers in a student assembly. The students were punished for speaking their mind. It was not until 1943 that the United States Supreme Court ruled in favor of the first amendment, upholding that due to the freedom of speech and freedom of religion, students are not required to salute the flag during the pledge of allegiance.

Before 1943, the supreme courts defended their actions by saying

that "national unity is the basis of national security." People commonly equate being critical of schools, the government, and the system as being unpatriotic. Colin Kaepernick flustered the nation when he took a knee during the national anthem, but would he have gotten the same attention if he did not protest? In return, would he have gotten the same media coverage if he did not protest? When you get a test back from your math teacher, the teacher does not just give you a letter grade. He or she gives you feedback and marks what you got wrong. The student may go up to the teacher and ask questions. They communicate with each other. It is the same concept with free speech: something happens, you dislike it, and to change what is going on, you must speak out.

Today, censorship continues. Students' first amendment rights are filtered and cherry-picked. Being a staff writer for Newspaper and an editor for Yearbook, I am very involved in Park View High School's publications and I have noticed a lot of situ-

ations that other students may not have noticed. A problem that plagues the journalism outlets in our school and many other schools across the nation is prior review. Prior review occurs when administration must review everything that the publication staff has created before it is published. This may not seem very controversial, but what's bad about administration reviewing our material before it goes for print is prior restraint. It is the aftermath of prior review; this occurs when the publication staff is forced to change or remove specific content. Often, students may have something to say which is deemed as "inappropriate" and it is cut out. I am not referring to vulgar language or violent graphics, but often politics is deemed as "bad."

Keeping politics out of school can get very controversial. A prime situation is one that occurred right in our own school. Due to the election, many students have reported feeling unsafe, unwanted or fearful. School is made to be a safe place, where all students feel accepted regardless of

who they are. Unfortunately, outside events do affect students in school. Politics affect us. In response to current events, Student Power, a social justice club, put up posters in solidarity of people who may have felt victimized. A few days later, administration had the poster taken down. One of their reasons being that it was a "political poster" and it did not respect all students' views.

This poster was in support of the people who have been dehumanized not only due to the election, but for years. The normalization of racism, sexism, xenophobia, and homophobia is on the rise and it is crucial that we recognize this and put an end to it. Moreover, according to Tinker V Des Moines, a Supreme Court case in 1969, states that unless it is interfering with education substantially, "students and teachers do not shed their constitutional rights of freedom of speech at the schoolhouse gate." The matter is not so much that Student Power was not allowed to put up their posters, but the fact that our voices were being closed off. Censorship is

on the rise, in a time where it is crucial that our voices are heard.

The posters dealt with stereotypes many students in the Park View community must deal with in their lives. One poster said, "Dear Mexican students, you are not thugs... Dear Muslims, you are not terrorists." I understand politics must be kept out of school, but since when is racism a platform in politics? It is a matter of ethics. It takes being uncomfortable to reach comfort, and conversations about racism and islamophobia should not be kept out of high schools. The conversation should not be shoved under the rug, instead it should be openly discussed.

We are often said to be the leaders of tomorrow's world- but I find that to be flawed. High school students are the leaders of today's world. Our voices deserve to be heard. It has been around a hundred years since the Wisconsin Supreme Court ruled that it was acceptable to punish students for their expression, how much have we grown as a nation since then?

Model United Nations Club

by Meagan McDaniel

Park View High School's Model United Nations club (Model UN) encourages students to explore issues that affect people globally, such as crime, human rights and drug addiction. Students work in pairs and are assigned countries. They speak passionately about the issues that their country is facing at conferences against other high schools, where they attempt to win awards. "The whole goal of Model UN is to pass these little papers called resolutions or working papers and that is the whole point of how we select our ideas and basically try to debate your way through to problem solve," said Model UN's club president, junior, Kent Nguyen.

Students learn

public speaking skills from being a part of Model UN. This club helps them learn how to speak boldly in front of a group of people. Public speaking skills help students feel confident about themselves and be able to portray any subject with a clear message. "I would be scared. I started shivering; I had cold sweats all over. Any time I would stand up, my knees would start wiggling. I would grow weak. I was completely terrified," described Junior Stephanie Mora, defining her public speaking experience before joining the club.

Model UN forms friendships for students. They learn new things from each other and believe that the stronger students are as a team, the more likely the team can succeed in

passing their resolutions "Last year, however, I got to get close to a few of my friends... In a way, it does kind of create a strong friendship because... we're both inexperienced and we can learn from each other," said Mora.

The upcoming conference, Taemun IV, is December 9th and 10th at Thomas Alva Edison High School in Fairfax County, Virginia. Combatting drug addiction and crime and the rights of LGBTQ citizens will be discussed. Model UN hopes to bring back the gavel award from Taemun IV. This conference was different from the ones the club had previously went to. "It was informal and I actually liked it," said Junior Megan Wu.



Photos by Jackie Morales
Junior Kent Nguyen competes at Model United Nations competition with students from other schools.



On The Path to Making America Great



Ibtisam Tora

Associate Editor

November 8th, 2016 was the day our 45th president, Donald Trump, was elected into office to present the United States of America. To some, this was great news and that meant that their country was going towards the right path to resolving most of the issues we have today. For the rest of the population that did not vote for him, they were upset and astonished by the polls.

From Pennsylvania

to California, Oregon and Washington State, hundreds of people hit the streets. They were angry and afraid that Donald Trump will be their president. Thousands of people have taken to the streets nationwide. Demonstrations surged in the days after Trump’s election, though now they seem to be ebbing. Police say that the demonstrations have been largely peaceful, though there have been outbursts of violence in Portland, Oakland, and Indianapolis. There were even acts of violence taking place in Richmond, Virginia. Over one thousand people attended the first night of the protest in Richmond, causing the streets to be closed from the number of people protesting. Some states’ protests lasted more than three to four days,

with many people chanting out their hate towards the newly elected president.

With the influence of the media and with the way Trump has presented himself, countless lives have reported multiple reasons as to why they have decided to live on the streets for multiple days to express their anger to the world. People have reported saying that they refuse to have a, “sexist and racist man” be their president and that the country does not need a man that will make the country that they live in look bad. Protesters dispute against Trump’s immigration policies since they believe that the United States was founded and created by immigrants, that they should allow others to experience true freedom.

It was also said

that celebrities had joined the protests such as singer and actress Lady Gaga and singer Katy Perry. Both had fully supported Hillary Clinton to be in office, tweeting several times to remind their fans to vote and to vote wisely. All three of these ladies would attend dinners and spend time with one another, especially Ms. Perry, who did not hide her love for Hillary Clinton. The level of disappointment that had been presented to the public showed that they were truly worried for the outcome of their country. With the roles that both these ladies had in social media and the music industry, it could have influenced most of their fans to support their beliefs politically.



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Putting the “Giving” Back into Thanksgiving



Liana Jackley

Editor-In-Chief

I was so excited at the thought of Thanksgiving break: no school, limited homework, sleeping in, and free time. What more could a senior in high school want? It was the last day before the break when I watched Living on One Dollar in personal finance. My teacher showed us the short, one-hour documentary in hopes that it would influence our reality on how fortunate we all are for the lives we were born into. Her hopes were met. The

film, made by four college students and released on April 22, 2013, had a way of humbling the soul when you saw how the people of Guatemala lived. They, families of four or more, were living on a dollar a day. It was unimaginable. These four students decided to live alongside the residents of Peña Blanca and mimic the reality their Guatemalan neighbors faced. For two months these twenty year olds simulated daily life as a native; there were days that they did not eat, receive medical assistance when they were infected with parasites, and had no access to clean water. Despite these unthinkable conditions, the local Guatemalans carried themselves with pride and beamed with resiliency throughout the film. These students lived below the poverty line for

weeks in an effort to put the issue of poverty into the spotlight; they did not need to take such drastic measures but they chose to because it was their way of calling the rest of us, sitting at home watching their documentary on Netflix, into action. And they succeeded. This is my calling to you: it is time for those capable of making a difference to match the brevity of these reformists and do something.

Thanksgiving has come and gone and the holidays are just around the bend. A majority of students can look forward to rich, elaborate meals, shiny wrapped presents under a tree, and cozy nights-in during winter break. But what do the holidays mean for the 4,626 students under the age of 18 in Loudoun County who live in poverty (U.S. Census Bureau, 2014)? These students are not receiving their free lunch they normally would get while in school, nor are they guaranteed to have access to heating and electricity. They are a very small portion of the 14.5 million children under 18, living at or below the poverty line in the United States. Ninety percent, 13.1 out of 14.5

million, of those kids live with a low food security. Most of these students live in households that rely on food stamps, donations, and the works for a source to nutritional food. We do not always “see” these students, we forget that they exist because at school we see them being kids, but at home they are adults and they are here in our community – in our own school.

We often take for granted the luxuries we are surrounded by. Take away the materialistic objects and all we have is each other. A lesson to be learned from the Peña Blanca residents is that kinship is everything. The posters you see on the walls at school or the morning announcements for Can The Teacher, Park

View’s Winter Coat Drive, Toys for Tots, etc. do make a difference. These organizations are possibilities for both participants and recipients: participants can improve the lives of those around them, whether it be in the form of a can of peas or a jacket that does not fit anymore, every action matters and recipients can go to bed with food in their belly or receive the rare surprise of a gift on the evening of their chosen holiday to celebrate. The little things like this might not change the world but it could change someone else’s world. “We were born with the ability to change someone’s life; don’t waste it.”

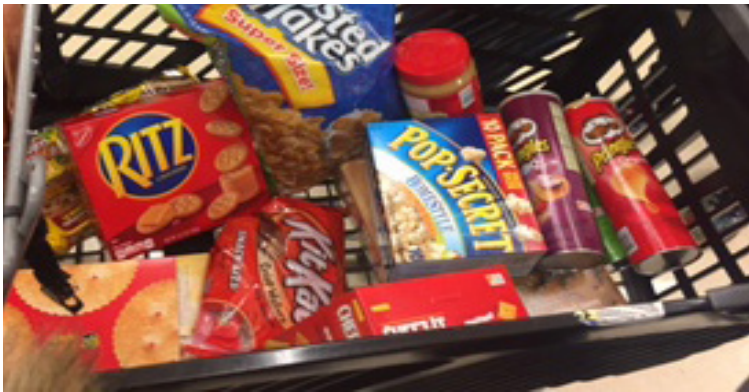


Photo by Liana Jackley

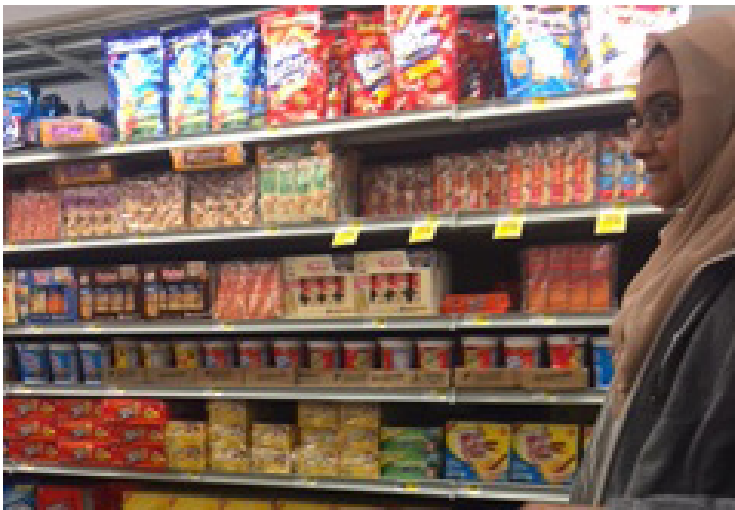


Photo by Liana Jackley

Senior Samiyah Ahmed shopping for groceries for First Fruits.

Park View's Cultural Corner

Park View High School students come from all corners of the world and our school contains different cultures, and religions. As a staff we wanted to dedicate a section in our newspaer to highlight the abundant amount of rich diversity and culture that PVHS is made of. Each edition in this section you may find articles about students journeys, recipes of traditional dishes, and many other cul- tural aspects of our school.

Immigration Stories: Students Share their Journeys

by Kashmala Mahmood

“The seat began to feel like stone, my head started to hurt, this is not good. I tried to calm myself by chewing gum, but nothing changed. I started to feel dizzy, I covered my ears to avoid the pain. I did not know what was hap- pening, I pushed the seat in front of me and closed my eyes. Then it all stopped, with a sigh of relief I looked up and realized that we had arrived.”

Park View High School is a diverse com- munity, 76% of the student population are minorities, many of which faced huge

Afnan and her sister took a plane from Sudan to Saudi Arabia before heading over to the United States. Their



through the day without talking with them. Howev- er, the Juniors have differ- ent opinions about which

patriot wants to become a Medical Engineer after she graduates, while Afnan wants to become a nurse.

about America, Starbucks coffee.

Freshman, Carla Salazar immigrated from Guatemala in March to get away from the violence of the country. “I traveled with a group by foot from Guatemala to America.” said Jamie, a freshman who restated the questions to Salazar in Spanish. Her mother already lived in America, so when she told her to come, Carla im- migrated. The freshman believes that it was a good idea to come to America. However, Salazar does not know which place she would want to live in; in America she has her mom

obstacles that helped them get to where they are now, one of thembeing immigra- tion.

Juniors, Afnan Ab- dou and her sister Rawdah Abdou immigrated from Sudan in April to get a bet- ter education in America. “Our Dad worked in an American airport, so it was easy for us to come,” said Aeysha, a Junior who trans- lated the questions to Afnan and Rawdah in Arabic. During their immigration,

mother came later due to her passport coming late. “When we arrived, our Dad was waiting for us, he took us to D.C. and later showed us his home.” explained Aeysha.

The sisters ex- plained that America is very different than Sudan, they claimed that people in Sudan knew everyone, it was like an open neighbor- hood, you could not get

Photo by Destiny Colbert
Junior Rawdah Abdou immigrated from Sudan in April

place they would choose to live in, “It would be hard to choose, Sudan had all my old friends and family, but my Dad and education are here in America.” Afnan said, however Rawdah’s views contrasted “I would want to live in Sudan be- cause that is where I grew up.”

Rawdah, although immigrated with her sister, has different opinions. The

She also liked the District of Columbia. but says it is not so different than other places. However, both sisters agreed that they felt out of place when they arrived. “America, well, it’s different than Sudan, different clothing, different foods and different ways; it was hard to figure out how to get used to it.” Rawdah explained. But there is one thing that both juniors love

and her education, while in Guatemala she has her culture and the rest of her family. Salazar hopes to pursue her dream career to become a doctor and help heal the sick.

Overall, these stu- dents and many more faced the idea of not having their dreams or goals happen. Now, they are a few steps away from making their mark in history.

Holidays at Park View

by Destiny Colbert and Darlin Gonzales

Winter Break is a time for family, friends and fun. The holidays at Park View is a loving time filled with selflessness and gen- erosity. In a diverse envi- ronment, all students get to experience and learn about the different holidays and traditions. Christmas, Ha- nukah, and Kwanza are the main holidays celebrated at Park View; but everyone celebrates each holidays differently.

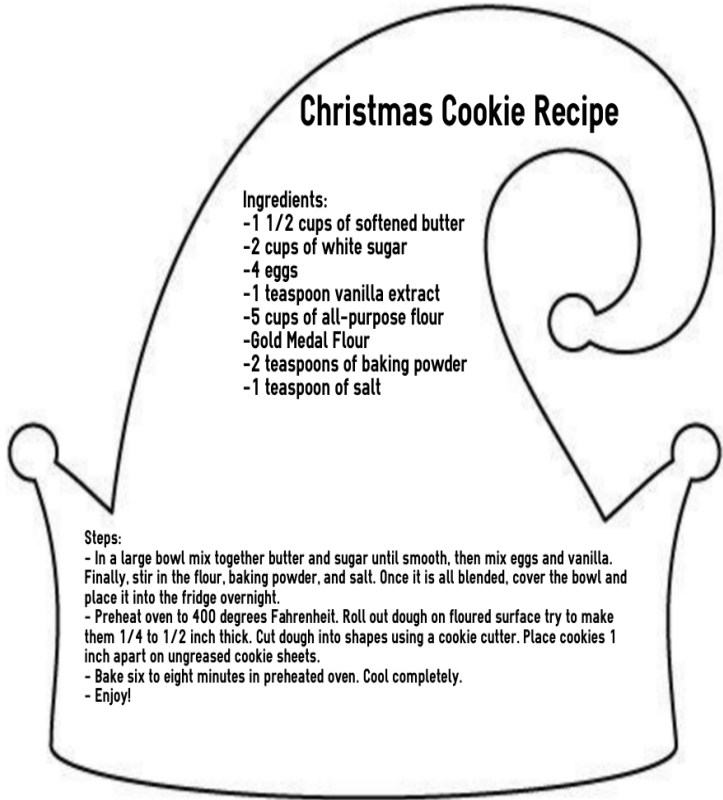
As a diverse school, many students get to learn what exactly others do over the holidays. The two main holidays celebrated are the different types of Christmas, the more American based Christmas

and Hispanic Christmas. American Christmas usu- ally surrounds all of its festivities on the night of the 25. Senior Colin Mills describes his winter break as eventful. “I spend the holidays surrounded by family. I am always doing something and it all leads up to the morning on the 25”. His favorite thing is simply being with family. “I wouldn’t say we have any traditions because we always do something dif- ferent, but we do always make Christmas cookies.”

The difference between an American based Christmas and a “Latino” Christmas is that presents are not opened Christmas

morning. “We usually gather around six and have dinner. The kids go their way and the parents stay in the kitchen. At 12 we gather back together and begin to open presents and take pictures,” stated junior David Rivera.

Everyone has differ- ent traditions, but at the end of the day the only thing that matters is spending it with loved ones. Happy Holidays from the Patriot Press.



by Darlin Gonzales

A Day in the Life of Sterling Supervisor Koran Saines

by Samuel Gardner

As the general population does not immediately partake in government affairs, the idea of a government official can be transformed into a picture of one person above the rest. But in fact, most are normal people who have the privilege to serve the commonwealth. On Tuesday, November 29, I was given the chance to shadow Sterling Supervisor Koran Saines at the Government Center in Leesburg, Virginia. I witnessed Supervisor Saines performing tasks that you or I might do as well- such as fiddling with a Keurig machine. However, Supervisor Saines, I also observed Saines fighting for the welfare of the residents of not only Sterling, but Loudoun County as a whole. These supervisors- while managing the lives and welfare of many- also

have the same desires, issues and goals as those they serve.

Supervisor Saines arrived at the Government Center at 9 AM on Tuesday morning. Saines had arrived back from celebrating Thanksgiving with his family in Michigan at 1:30 AM that very same morning. But Saines was on time, and immediately went to work. First, he retrieved his four different technological devices that he had with him wherever he went during the day. Saines carried around two cell phones, a laptop and an iPad, and he was constantly answering calls or sending emails. Saines and the other supervisors were constantly conversing, creating an interestingly casual environment. At one point, Saines took me on a tour of the office. The familiarity and friendship between the aides of the of-

fice and the supervisors was obvious. Constantly friendly, Saines asked each person how their holiday was, and how their family was. It was clearly a close-knit group.

Saines said he ran for office because, “We weren’t being properly represented... things were not improving... things were not getting taken care of.” Saines said that he hopes to do better, and be an “advocate for Sterling.” Saines said that when he makes a decision, he thinks, “How is this gonna impact Sterling, and then Loudoun, then Virginia and then the United States?”

Saines demonstrated this thinking in a meeting with DuPont Fabros Technology, a company spearheading the development of properties near the new Silver Line Metro system, which is currently being expanded into Lou-

doun County. For an hour, he listened to their pitches, evaluated them, asked questions, and proposed new ideas to improve those who might one day live on that property.

At 10:45, the meeting concluded, and Saines returned to his office. Saines worked on several different projects for both the County and his normal job until 11:30, when he left for the Loudoun Delegate’s Luncheon. This meeting lasted until 2 PM. During this meeting, delegates from the General Assembly in Richmond, Va. listened to the needs of the Board of Supervisors. The guests kept a formal attitude, however, the air was still lighthearted. When talking about a budget deficit, and how the increased shopping of the holiday season might help this issue, a board member said, “Buy me a Christmas

present, but don’t give it to me, that’s an ethical violation.” This sort of humor and pleasantness was seen throughout the day.

This day was packed with work and constant meetings. However, Saines said that he was only at the county office for full days once or twice a month. The amount of work Saines was able to complete was impressive to me. For a man who is not known by many, he makes quite a few decisions. He decides where people will live, what they will live in, and what they live around. I saw him shaping the future of Sterling, and shaping the future of the residents and the families who will live here. Saines is developing the future of Loudoun County, and he takes this responsibility very seriously. Saines said, “We’re building Loudoun’s future, and that’s my duty.”

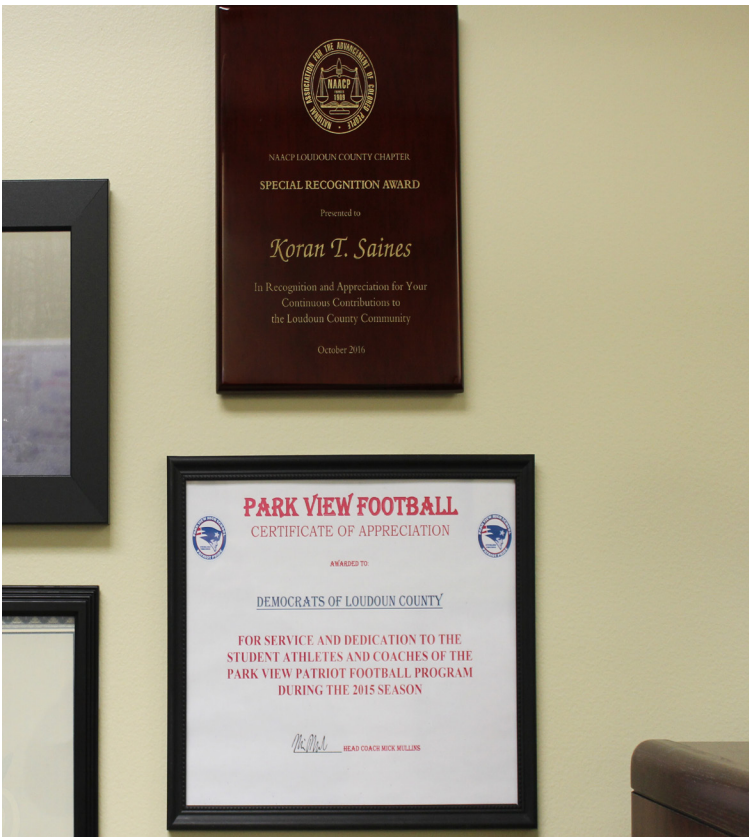


Photo by Samuel Gardner

Koran Saines working, behind him Park View High School acknowledges his involvement with a plaque from PV football.

Continued from first page: Post-Election bullying

Locally there also have been incidents of students throughout the school system being affected. Barrett also expressed that, “The whole election process was very much emotionally charged from all sides. There was a lot that was said throughout the election that contributed to people’s feelings.” It was evident early on that this election hit home for many Americans because of how resolutely people felt about the major issues discussed throughout both candidates’ campaigns. Supporters on both sides of this elec-

tion felt passionately about the major issues. In the end one side was going to have to accept that the new leader of their country did not view the issues, which affected their lives significantly, the same way they did. This alone is enough to arouse emotional unease and even tension or resentment towards the opposing side because of the fact that this election was personal on many levels to many Americans.

Park View High School has also dealt with some of the negative impact that followed

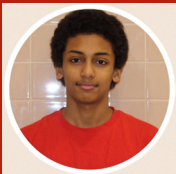
this past election and in response to that Principal Kirk Dolson said, “If a student is being called a name or being referred to in a derogatory manner we would go through an investigation process just like we would for other disciplinary manners. It may result in something called restorative practice where the students have a circle talk and it allows them to express what they did not like about a certain person’s actions.” This would be the plan of action dealing with this kind of bullying here at Park View

High School. The ultimate goal is ensuring safety for all students regardless of political beliefs or any belief. He further explained how the education system needs to lead teachers, students, and parents to a better understanding when it comes to implicit bias. “There needs to be a lot more education on the sentiment behind people’s language,” expressed Dolson. This can in turn help minimize the situations that are being seen currently. “Listen first and then speak. Try to understand

where the other person is coming from. You might not agree with it, but on both sides if they can at least agree that what you’re saying has value to you then they can disagree about their different points of view. Arguing without hearing each other first is not productive,” stated Barrett. This is another solution, more specifically relating to how to cope with mistreatment, that can lead to a less hostile environment and solidarity not just as a school but a country.

New Year, New Patriots

Freshmen



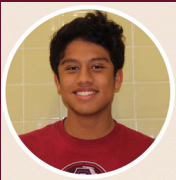
- “Make Varsity Basketball next year.” – Amro Karaar
- “Work out a lot more and get a bigger butt.” – Lauren Belt
- “Get good grades.” – Julie Nguyen
- “Do more homework and pay attention in class.” – Anthony Terrado

Sophomores

- “Stop eating fast food and stop drinking soda. I’m trying to be healthier.” –Ashleigh Gertig
- “Create better outfits every day.” – Logan Roach
- “Be a better version of myself.” – April Lemus
- “I want to start to travel the world.” - Keivan Malhani



Juniors



- “Eat healthier.” – Fernando Rivas
- “Focus on family time. Especially my younger brother because college is approaching soon, and I don’t know how often I’ll be able to see them when I’m either away or busy.” – Lisbeth Ramirez
- “Help out in the community and give to people who need it the most.” – Jennifer Nuñez

Seniors

- “Get into college and find a way to pay for college.” – Haydee Portillo
- “Get to bed before 11 p.m. every night, even on weekends.” – Iris Le
- “Get involved in school and meet new people.” - Ryan McCarthy
- “Do better in my Advanced Placement (AP) classes.” – Kevin Kordish



Infographic by Kisha Lim

Job for a Day

by Rebecca Thlang
On Wednesday, November 16, 11th and 12th graders were invited to participate in a job shadowing program for one day called “Job for a Day.” This program gave upperclassmen at Loudoun County High Schools the opportunity to spend a day at a business that relates to a career that they might be interested in in the future. High Schoolers shared their individual experiences of how the program affected their decision in their career paths. Senior Christopher Ulloa participated in the program, “It was so fun. I got to go to Beaver Dam and see water treatment center.”

Senior Kevin Nuñez Diaz participated in the career field of Business Management. He was able to go to Jerry’s Automobiles in Leesburg and oversee a car sale. “It was a good experience. [Jerry] really shared with us a lot of what he had to do for his every day job. He also

gave me a recommendation of what I should do to pursue that career,” said Nuñez Diaz. He said that the program gave him more reasons to pursue that career.

Junior Emily Moore, interested in pursuing a teaching career, provides some insight on her experience overseeing Belmont Station Elementary School in Ashburn. Moore said, “I was always really interested in teaching, but I never thought of teaching middle school.” She learned that she was more interested in teaching special education children instead. “I do want to participate [in the program] next year,” said Moore, “but I will specify [the career field] as special education instead.”

The “Job for a Day” program has unquestionably aided upperclassmen in deciding what career path they are interested in taking in the future.

Park View Goes Virtual

by Josselyn Rodas
Park View High School students got the opportunity to experience Virtual Reality. VR is a software with computer generated graphics capturing three dimensional images that can be seen realistically to a user by wearing a headset. The headset covers the eyes and the user can view an area of space in complete 360-degree rotation by physically moving their body around to capture the scene. VR involves technological equipment such as a 360-degree camera, a headset, and a phone that connects directly to it.

This equipment was provided to a group of volunteer 12th grade students of Park View High School by Loudoun County. The seniors in the group included: Afreen Ahmed, Weini Ogba-giorgis. Sean Wesley, Liana Jackley, Valerie Knowles, Erin Casey, Jessica Smith, and Daulton Roach. The advisor of the group was Mr. Matthew Poth, who is responsible for the groups and their projects. These students are participating in

a national event across the United States.
The competition

out a system. I’m about to start editing and I know it’ll definitely be difficult.”

Although all of the students faced challenges, they knew the benefits

outweighed the difficulties. Seniors Knowles and Casey’s also chose the prompt “What makes their community special?” Knowles and Casey decided to capture the natural essence of the prompt. They went out to Claude Moore Park and captured scenes of nature. Although, faced with hardships, Knowles was optimistic. “I like trying something new, I had never worked with a 360-degree camera or headset.”

The groups have finalized their projects and submitted them, and are now competing with many other students across the nation.



Photo by LianaJackley
Headset used for Virtual Reality

involves the submission of five minute videos using VR equipment to make the video “come to life.” The groups chose their main idea to revolve around their community. Seniors Smith and Roach’s prompt was “What Makes Their Community Special?” Smith stated that the equipment could be tricky sometimes. “Sharing the equipment was difficult because we had to figure

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