Volunteers join together to help with track and field events. (Photo by Thuy Pham) Special Olympics Games. (Photo by Anika Akbar)

SPECIAL OLYMPICS OPENS HEARTS

By Thuy Pham, Managing Editor

When Eunice Kennedy Shriver saw the neglect and limited justice in the way people with intellectual disabilities were treated, she began to pioneer the path for acceptance and equality for all walks of life. As indicated by the stigma around those with intellectual disabilities, people often excluded and routinely misplaced them in custodial institutions. Their adversity, left unnoticed by most, propelled Shriver’s mission for people with intellectual disabilities to recognize their capabilities became the world’s largest sports organization for over 5.3 million intellectually disabled athletes in approximately 170 countries. Athletes can compete in sports competitions catered to their abilities at local, state, and national levels. In order to offer everyone reasonable opportunities for success, the Special Olympics accommodates competitors at all levels of aptitudes in over 500 events such as basketball, floor hockey, gymnastics, volleyball, tennis, and bowling. Special Olympics Georgia provides year-round athletic competitions in a variety of Olympic-type sports that provide people the opportunity to develop their physical fitness, endurance, and skills while also experiencing the sense of being involved in a larger community. This acceptance and respect for those with intellectual disabilities further accentuates a goal to promote success off the field. With triumph, athletes can recognize their inexcusable and extraordinary potential despite the health issues they face on a daily basis.

Gwinnett County Schools offer Special Olympics for students with disabilities to participate in four events per year. On April 21, Parkview hosted track and field for over 100 athletes across Gwinnett. Most schools in the county sent at least two from their classes to participate in the track and field competition which encompassed events such as the 100 meter dash, shot put, and long jump. “A lot of communication is involved in the Special Olympics,” said coordinator Ann Marie Reynolds, “We have to coordinate all the logistics, volunteers, and T-shirts.”

In addition, over 100 student volunteers from various extracurricular organizations and athletic programs helped students with disabilities participate and transition from each event during their 2nd through 6th period classes. Approximately ten Gwinnett County ADAPT (Assisting Developing Adults with Intellectual Disabilities) TEAchers assisted with running the competition. The AP department has also contributed by starting a donation program for every school to challenge the students and faculty to raise a few hundred dollars for registration and the funding of essential equipment in the Special Olympics.

Despite the rigorous process of coordinating the Special Olympics, the competition empowers people with intellectual disabilities to build their self-esteem and confidence in a safe environment for peer interaction. This event has changed people’s perceptions about those with intellectual disabilities and inspired them to share the enthusiasm of Special Olympics. “I can’t explain the feeling you get from watching the kids laugh and have a good time,” said coordinator David Lockwood, “It’s competition, but just see the fun and have a good time at the event is really what you’re after.”

Odyssey of the Mind qualifies for World Final

Members anticipate the World Final after their 1st place finish at State Competition. (Photo courtesy of Ryan Kern)

Parkview placed first at the Georgia State Finals Tournament on April 1st in the problem Ready, Set, Balsa, and Build. Team members Nathan Walker, Ryan Chu, Nikhil Bhatia, William Wolfe, Toby George, Angela Lee, and Ruhee Deshani built and tested a structure made of balsa wood to support as much weight as possible. Their structure held 918.5 pounds, qualifying them for the 2017 World Finals at East Lansing, Michigan on May 24 – May 27. Please donate to their gofundme (Parkview HS OotM World Final Fund) to help with the trip expenses and allow the students to compete at the World Finals.

Coach Mark Whitley retires

Coach Mark Whitley retires after working at Parkview High School since 1999 and his administrative role since 2008. Whitley was honored at the varsity baseball game against Brookwood on April 19, 2017. Since then, he has announced that he has taken a job as George Walton Academy’s Athletic Director.

Lilburn police officers change homeless man’s life

As a heating and air repair man for more than 25 years. While he lived a seemingly normal life, he struggled with an addiction to painkillers. His wife, worried about the safety of the children, asked him to leave. She wanted a divorce. With nothing left but his truck, he moved in with his father. Soon, Gresham was working at Home Depot and making just enough to live on. Then, his truck stopped working. He was forced to resign because he didn’t have enough money for repairs and had no way to get to work. On top of it all, his father made him move after a falling out. Gresham had nowhere to go.

Gresham, who prided himself on being a survivalist, took his last paycheck to Walmart and purchased a two-man tent for $39.99. But where would he go? He found a patch of woods behind Jade Dragon, a Chinese restaurant in a shopping center at the corner of Lawrenceville Highway and Arcado Road. (Cont. on pg 5)

In June of 2016, Joey Gresham was sitting outside a liquor store bruised and broken, both mentally and physically. With a knife to his neck just moments before, he thought he had nothing to live for when he called 911 for help. What he didn’t know was that the Lilburn police officers who responded would also save his life and give him hope.

The events that led to his 911 call began years earlier. In 2007, he was married with two teenagers and had worked as a heating and air repair man for more than 25 years. While he lived a seemingly normal life, he struggled with an addiction to painkillers. His wife, worried about the safety of the children, asked him to leave. She wanted a divorce. With nothing left but his truck, he moved in with his father. Soon, Gresham was working at Home Depot and making just enough to live on. Then, his truck stopped working. He was forced to resign because he didn’t have enough money for repairs and had no way to get to work. On top of it all, his father made him move after a falling out. Gresham had nowhere to go.

Gresham, who prided himself on being a survivalist, took his last paycheck to Walmart and purchased a two-man tent for $39.99. But where would he go? He found a patch of woods behind Jade Dragon, a Chinese restaurant in a shopping center at the corner of Lawrenceville Highway and Arcado Road. (Cont. on pg 5)

Joey Gresham reflects back on his troubled past. (Photo courtesy of City of Lilburn Staff)

By Marie Stanford, Business Manager

Coach Mark Whitley retires after working at Parkview High School since 1999 and his administrative role since 2008. Whitley was honored at the varsity baseball game against Brookwood on April 19, 2017. Since then, he has announced that he has taken a job as George Walton Academy’s Athletic Director.

Whitley was the PHS Athletic Director for nine years. (Photo by Joshua Farber)

A football Director Mark Whitley retires after working at Parkview High School since 1999 and his administrative role since 2008. Whitley was honored at the varsity baseball game against Brookwood on April 19, 2017. Since then, he has announced that he has taken a job as George Walton Academy’s Athletic Director.
“Learning to Lead in a Technical World.” These are the words heard at the opening session of the 2017 Georgia TSA State Leadership Conference which reflect its mission to prepare its members to be successful leaders in a technological society. Parkview’s Technology Student Association (TSA) is comprised of prospective students, passionate in applying STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) concepts through co-curricular activities. Thirty-seven students were carefully selected in September to attend the Georgia TSA State Leadership Conference which was held March 9-11 at the Classic Center in Athens, Georgia.

Their mindset for success, competitive spirit, and interest in making new friends with similar interests motivate them to engage in the competition as well as create a meaningful experience outside of the classroom. Students were exposed to learning experiences as well as an opportunity to develop their leadership and communication skills through competition and sessions. “I think it brought the best in all of us, aspiring us to become better and greater in every aspect,” said TSA officer Frank Tang. Ultimately, their hard work and dedication was recognized at the award ceremony when Parkview emerged as runner-up in the state at the 2017 Georgia State Conference.

In addition Parkview placed 2nd in Animatronics, Digital Video Production, Fashion Design and Technology, System Control Technology, VEX Robotics, and 3rd in 3D Animation, Electrical Application, Music Production, and Promotional Design. Additionally, Parkview scored team points in sixteen other top ten finishes.

“TSA was another year to mark in the books,” said TSA President Josh Walker, “We could not be more proud of our state attendees and all their effort to maintain Parkview’s TSA legacy of excellence.”

The Parkview High School TSA chapter will continue to demonstrate their excellence in their competitive events at the 2017 TSA National Conference. The conference held in Orlando, Florida from June 21–25, 2017 will foster personal growth within these TSA members and offer leadership development opportunities. Congratulations to Advisor Mr. Terry Cotton and the Parkview TSA students for a job well done at the Georgia TSA State Conference.

### Recyclers make a difference

**By Heremela Assefa, Staff Writer**

The environment and how to care for it is an issue generations to come will have to address. Admittedly, one doesn’t always have the environment as a priority; however, there are students here at Parkview who are truly taking this to heart and taking action. After the previous teacher sponsor Mrs. Tolich stepped down, President Grace Hu noticed the lack of the Environmental club’s presence. She, along with Vice President Frank Hu, took to revitalizing Environmental Club since “they recognize how the environments important,” according to Ms. Potter.

This has certainly been achieved, considering how Environmental Club does outreach programs and has a membership over 160 people. The outreach isn’t all external, though; currently, the club’s goal is to recruit more underclass as the majority of members are seniors. Vice President Hu said, “We’ve grown a lot, so this small goal is feasible.” Club sponsor Carol Potter is exceptionally proud of the club’s outreach. “We’re teaming up with Camp Creek to teach the kids and show them what we’re passionate about,” said Ms. Potter.

A main aspect of what they do is collecting recycling, from teachers excess papers to cardboard boxes in the cafeteria. However, they also have started a community garden. This may be the inspiration for the outreach to elementary schools from donating supplies to other school, to collaborating on the community garden with Camp Creek Elementary. There is currently a program with the Heritage Center working to keep the space clean. Along with this there are plans to start an “Adopt a Road” program through the club, which would entail visiting a road monthly to clean up litter.

## Senior News

**$DON'T MISS YOUR OPPORTUNITY.$**

The SENIOR BREAK-FAST is Thursday, May 18 in the old gym from 6:45-7:15am. Seniors will receive their seniors letters at that time.

**ALL SENIOR DUES MUST BE PAID BY MAY 11TH!**

**SENIORS:**

Graduation is almost here! The ceremony begins @ 8pm on May 24th. Congrats to the class of 2017!
International Night celebrates diversity

By Sarah Khorasi, Staff Writer

International night was a student council sponsored event on March 9 when cultures around the world joined together to celebrate their nationalities and differences. International night consisted of an ethnic display for countries and cultural dances. In these displays, food and posters explaining the culture were shown. People from different cultures within the halls of Parkview gathered together to see numerous dances, try different foods, and read up about different cultures together.

The dance groups for International Night were exceptionally performed from countries such as India, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Haiti, Nepal, and Vietnam.

“I think it’s really important to celebrate other cultures in America where there are a lot of foreigners and no American culture. People should be exposed to different things to see how beautiful everything is,” said sophomore Yokie Albera, the lead person in putting together the Ethiopian and Eritrean dance group. Albera’s group practiced every week up until the performance. She was proud of how her performance went and enjoyed the celebration of cultures.

Another student, junior, Anish Rangan, in charge of one of the many Indian dances of the night. “We were one of the dozen Indian groups that wore American clothes.” Rangan believes it’s important to celebrate cultures but also enjoy the mix of cultures in America. Rangan said, “It took me two weeks to get the jump perfectly on beat, yet I still messed it up on the stage.” He believed preparation was stressful, but he’s glad he performed and made new friends.

International Night was certainly an enjoyable experience. People showed up to represent their country and had fun while doing so. Matthew Binny, a junior who spectated the event, said, “It was really cool seeing everyone come together and show support for their culture. I actually learned a lot, and I’m considering performing next year. It looks like a lot of fun.” Overall, International Night brought a lot of excitement and pride for the many cultures of PHS.

Georgia mosques latest targets of Islamophobia

By Anika Akbar, Opinions Editor

Within the past few months of the new year, the idea of Islamophobia has taken a more malignant turn, as three Georgia mosques—Masjid Omar bin Abdul Aziz in Lilburn, Greenview Madani Center in Lawrenceville, and Al-Faroq Masjid in Atlanta—were sent emails enclosing daunting intents.

On February 18, Imam Abdullah Jaber of the Lilburn mosque explained the email he received entailed a reference to the Ieeds of March where Roman history inevitably took a turn, and Muslims, Jews, Blacks, and Mexicans should take the threat as a “kind warning” to leave before “the purge of the U.S. begins.”

“It’s as if a veil had been lifted off America of a feeling that was inherently there, but was just covered momentarily…” Jaber expressed.

The Lawrenceville and Atlanta mosques received threats in a similar manner. The Greenview Madani Center’s, in particular, included a hand drawn rendition of the “Slayer” killing a Muslim man, captioned, “Death is waiting for you and your kind.”

As the first mosque in Georgia to receive these threats, the administration of Masjid Omar bin Abdul Aziz decided to keep the information from the community to prevent an uproar, following contact with the proper authorities. “Islam teaches us to be hopeful and to be vigilant, not fearful,” Jaber continued, “because it’s usually in a state of fear that we can’t think straight and make silly decisions.”

Nevertheless, the committee still took measures to ensure the safety of daily worshippers and finally went public as a result of other Georgia mosques coming forward.

However, Masjid Omar attendant, sophomore Kasia Kazi, does not believe the issue will dwindle anytime soon. “There’s always going to be religious tensions between people, and people will always hate on others because they express their religion freely.”

Regardless, Kazi keeps her devotion to her faith, “Every time I do dua, or prayer, it helps me think about what I have to be grateful in life and how it’s helped me through the years because it really is such a hard time.”

This form of Islamophobia will not be the last and surely not the only type as seen by the various violent attacks against different places of worship around the world just this year. “You have a country that was founded on religious freedom,” Jaber said, “It’s really sad that we figured out history, and now it’s as if, although we’re in 2017, we are traveling back in time.”

Currently, the District Attorney, Federal Bureau of Investigation, mosque officials, and the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) are all working to find the perpetrators. So far, it was discovered that the threat was not domestic. Remarkably, though, Jaber explained he felt no animosity towards the culprits and instead advised, “Get to know us. To have that conversation is very important. Because once we sit down and give a chance to get to know one another, we realize we cry the same, we bleed the same, we have the same pain.”

Reflections on Foreign Affairs

I believe it is only appropriate that I offer my final reflection on foreign affairs on the world as a whole rather than a particular focus in the Middle East, the Far East, or South Asia. More important, I must admit my fears for the world which we all inhabit and have to share with such lovely people as Bashar al-Assad and Vladimir Putin.

Oh, the world only grants me bounties, it seems! Let us begin with the Syrian Civil War. If ever there were a situation in which virtually all sides have demonstrated their total unworthiness of aid and abetment, then I would say, “Welcome to Syria!” The Syrian government forces routinely attack and torture civilians, as they so callously demonstrated in cities like Aleppo, Daraa, Hama, and Homs, by reducing virtually all of civilized Syria to rubble. Of course, it is not as though the so-called freedom fighters are innocent, either. According to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, both belligerents routinely violate the human rights of the Syrian people, further exacerbating the already tenuous situation that is the refugee and migrant crisis. Couple that with the forces of Islamist terrorist organizations like al-Qaeda and ISIS, and one has oneself a recipe for hopelessness.

In case one may have forgotten, the conflict in Ukraine between the former Soviet Republic and Russia is not over: Russia is still illegally occupying the Crimean peninsula for itself; it is still funding Russian separatists in Eastern Ukraine. Over 8,000 people have died since the war began in February 2014, according to the United Nations Human Rights Office. Putin’s imperial ambitions will not be sated in just Ukraine: the Baltic Sisters (Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, all of which were former Soviet Republics like Ukraine) look on in nervous fear, hoping Putin will not attempt to invade them too. The worst part is that there seems to be nothing and no one willing to restrain him without also looking like a Russophobe.

It is easy to feel hopeless in this day and age when freedom itself is on the sad decline, according to Freedom House’s annual report, Freedom in the World. The combination of the renewed strength of autocratic regimes in places like Egypt and Venezuela and the rise of right-wing populists in countries as disparate as France, the United States, and the Philippines have both contributed to the eleventh straight year in which the world saw less freedom.

Freedom was such a hard-won blessing for so many countries, and to see it slip away and do nothing to stop that slipping away would be a tragedy without compare. In these times, it is the duty of free people to deny tyranny a chance to rise again.

Trump’s first 100 days

by Danielle Franklin

Click on the link to read this article online.
It’s not something you try to be, it just happens. There’s been a lot of all-nighters, but it all was worth it.”

-Pradhan on being 2017 Valedictorian

“I’ve done a lot with business here, like FBLA and CTSO, but my goal is really a medical career.”

-Liu on her achievements

“I just do it. I really enjoy making people laugh and making loud noises. I guess that’s why I’m known.”

-Ly on his label of “Party Animal”

“I used to write my essays in crayon and highlighter. I don’t know, I just wouldn’t have a pencil sometimes.”

-Lee on his career at Parkview

“I’ve probably gotten some people sick. If I did miss a day, I’d probably watch anime on my computer, but that never happened.”

-Nguyen on his K-12 Perfect Attendance

“Honestly, I prefer Salutatorian. I’m the type of person who prefers to be Vice President. There isn’t as much pressure.”

-Harding on being 2017 Salutatorian

Tanish Pradhan

Judy Liu

Nathan Lee

Frederik Ly

Kiara Harding

Albert Nguyen
Senior Adele Henderson is the receiver of the NROTC Marine Option Scholarship (photo by Danielle Franklin)

By Danielle Franklin, Staff Writer

Scholarships can come in an array of forms: academic, athletic, artistic, leadership, and many more. While every scholarship is different, what they all have in common is the hard work and outstanding achievement it requires for students to obtain them. One outstanding Parkview senior, Adele Henderson, has been awarded the distinguished NROTC Marine Option Scholarship. The scholarship includes all of her tuition and expenses while she attends Auburn University. “Auburn is paying for all my school,” explains Henderson. “It’s a $260,000 scholarship, so they invest in you and give you an education, and you pay it back in service after you graduate.”

Given the option of the Navy or the Marine Corps, Henderson decided to go through the Marine Corp. She explains, “I go to school for four years at Auburn, and I’ll be ROTC while I’m there. Each summer, I’ll go on what is called a cruise, which isn’t really a cruise, but it’s where you get to go out into the fleet and meet real Marines. Each summer, I’ll focus on something different like flying or being on the sea or recon land to learn exactly what it is I’ll want, to do when I commission,” said Henderson.

After Henderson’s junior year in college, instead of going on a cruise, she’ll go on what is called OCS, or Officer Candidate School. The OCS is like a boot camp for officers. When she graduates from Auburn, she will also be graduating as a commission Marine Corp officer. “As of right now, I want to get into the aviation program, which means I’ll be flying jets, planes, and stuff like that,” explained Henderson.

This amazing opportunity definitely was not just handed to her. Over the past four years, Henderson put a lot of time and effort into not only her academics but also ROTC. “It was a lot of hard work and a lot of dedication, but I definitely am glad that I joined ROTC,” said Henderson. “Otherwise, I wouldn’t have had the credentials I needed to get this scholarship.”

Like many other scholarships, the NROTC Marine Option Scholarship is very competitive among ROTC students. “This year, I was the only student from Parkview to get the scholarship. Out of our substration, RS Duluth, only myself and another student from Duluth High School got the scholarship, so it’s pretty competitive,” Henderson said.

Senior Mitchell Boles was working as a police officer for the city of Lilburn. “I had to take it off and crawl to dry land.” He laid on his beach towel for a few days, too sore to get up. He didn’t realize that he had a broken arm and hip and a bad concussion. This is when he wanted to take his life. Something changed his mind. He isn’t quite sure what. He stumbled out of the hospital, Gresham went to a nearby liquor store, sat on the curb and called 911. Lilburn police Sgt. Keith Boles was the first to the scene. He was off duty. Boles and several other officers didn’t hesitate to get Gresham food, a drink, and help at a local hospital.

After being released from the hospital, Gresham went back to his campsite, Boles, knowing Gresham lived in the woods, would check on him occasionally to see how he was doing. “He had just been going through some hard time,” Boles said. “He just needed some help and some direction.”

After one of his visits, Boles remembered a part-time job opening as a maintenance street worker for the city of Lilburn. Realizing how much potential Gresham had, Boles got him the job within three weeks.

Starting to work, Gresham entire life changed. A prominent Lilburn resident suggested Gresham set up his tent on his property, within walking distance to his job. Another citizen eventually donated their old SUV. Various people would bring him blankets and co-workers would give him spare food. Everyone saw the same potential that Sgt. Boles did. A deeply religious man, Gresham attributes him turn around and his relationship with Boles to God.

In a matter of time, he was offered a camper set up like an apartment that he could rent. He continued to work hard and got promoted to full time almost immediately, and just last week he got offered the position of the facilities manager for the city. “Honestly, hard work, and work ethic, will carry you a long way,” Gresham said.

Reflecting back on everything that has happened and what he has learned, he comes back with one important message: “Respect your police officers, stay away from the police of Lilburn and enjoy the show.”

Seibles was working as a police officer 25 years ago when he was asked to help fill the then-budding Gwinnett County Public School’s Student Resource Officer Program. “I don’t think it’s like kids, and if you like kids, it’s a great place to be. If you don’t like kids, you need to go somewhere else,” joked Seibles, displaying his sense of humor, which will be sorely missed.

Mckenzie’s path to Parkview was less direct. “I came back to teaching after chasing the brass ring and just trying to make money for two decades, and I finally realized that it was more important to me to be connected to teaching and to be in a job where I was working with students again,” explained Mckenzie.

Junior Alneta Whitehead, one of McKenzie’s students, reflects on his influence. “Mr. McKenzie shows his students different techniques to learn, and he is really knowledgeable and passionate about history. Both teachers cited their students’ success as influential to their passion in their work, which has positively impacted “I had a brand that consisted of a statement into a brand, it encourages being different and standing out from everyone else,” Crawley said. While being a very unique brand, END THE TRENDS creator Crawley has gotten much inspiration from being true to himself. “I wanted to create something that everybody could wear, but still staying true to the brand and making it unique,” Crawley said. “I am an outlier and I am planning things photography and videography wise, so stay tuned. My unofficial graphics designer, Elizabeth Veres, and I are planning big things, so I expect people to sit back, relax, and enjoy the show.”

By Catie Gelting, Staff Writer

As seniors approach their graduation, they grow increasingly excited about the prospect of graduating and leaving the buildings from which they have spent so much time over the past four years. However, as that deadline approaches, there is another group of people who are approaching their end at Parkview as well.

Seniors begin to reflect on their times at Parkview, and key staff members who played an important part in those influential few years quickly come to mind. Similarly, the faculty begins to reflect on their time at Parkview as well. This year, Parkview will say goodbye to Social Studies teacher Craig Mckenzie and Student Resource Officer David Seibles, who are both set to the outgoing senior class.

Mckenzie, who has been teaching at Parkview since 2009 and also served as the boys’ varsity tennis coach from 2009 to 2012, will be joined in retirement by Officer Seibles, who has served at Parkview for 23 years. Neither began their careers directly within the school system; however, both found joy within the school.
The world draws nearer to commercial space travel

By Karen Ye, CEC Layout & Design

Only a few decades ago, space travel seemed like an impossibility. Even after Buzz Aldrin and Neil Armstrong took their first strides on the surface of the moon, conspirators were still skeptical of the event’s veracity years later. Since then, over 500 astronauts from all across the globe have been sent into orbit to conduct research and perform experiments. Due to the high cost and limited budget of space travel, commercial space travel has been almost exclusively scientific expeditions with trained professionals from organizations such as NASA; however, thanks to the plans of several new organizations dedicated to commercial space tourism, it appears that even the layman will one day be able to travel to space as well.

Commercial space travel is a new concept. Not only does the tourist industry have massive potential for corporate profit, but the ideal of being able to collect otherwise finite resources from extraterrestrial sources is also quite attractive. Unfortunately, the combined cost and lack of technology has stopped many of the fledging plans in their tracks. This has not stopped thrall to other companies from pitching their ideas. Moon Express, a Florida-based company who plans to harvest extraterrestrial resources, was the first private company to be approved to land on the moon last August. This development could set the stage for future deep space exploration endeavors. According to space.com, Moon Express CEO Bob Richards commented, “ Nobody’s had [such a] voyage before. We’re still charting those waters. Someone has to be first.” The technical and economic viability of the plans are still in progress, but Moon Express representatives are confident in the company’s ability to “help launch a new era in space travel.”

American aerospace company Space Exploration Technologies, also known as SpaceX, ultimately aims to colonize Mars. Founded in 2002, SpaceX has since been contracted by NASA to fly supply missions to the International Space Station as well as send satellites into orbit. “What I’m trying to do is to make a significant difference in space flight and help make space flight accessible to almost anyone,” noted SpaceX CEO Elon Musk. SpaceX is currently developing the Falcon Heavy, predicted to be one of the most powerful rockets in the world. The company also hopes to construct a fleet of reusable rockets which will allow for spares and transport at massively reduced transport costs.

Many other corporations are hoping to stake their claim in deep-space travel. While their efforts have yet to come to fruition, only time can tell whether Moon Express, SpaceX, and many other companies can prove they can innovate a future of commercial space travel.

NASA’s exoplanet findings revolutionize astronomy

By Jenny Nguyen, Copy Editor

Much to the elation and surprise of many, NASA had announced its radical discovery of seven new exoplanets at a press conference last February 22, publishing these findings in the journal Nature. Through the aid of various telescopes these seven exoplanets were discovered to orbit around an ultra-cool dwarf star in an exoplanetary system known as the TRAPPIST-1, named after the Belgian-operated telescope in Chile. With the assistance of several ground-based telescopes, NASA’s Spitzer Space Telescope was later able to discern five more planets in the system, forming the largest collection of habitable-zone exoplanets around a single star to date. A sizable 40 light years away from Earth, these planets are located outside of our solar system in the constellation Aquarius. Under the right atmospheric conditions, they may even have water. Although the system’s sun, respectively named the TRAPPIST-1, is quite small and cold in comparison to the Earth’s own sun, the tight orbits of the seven planets allows for the potential existence of liquid water on their surfaces.

Even more intriguing, the TRAPPIST-1 system has renewed the hope of alien life with three of its particular planets, which firmly reside in the habitable zone of the system. Thomas Zurbuchen, associate administrator of NASA’s Science Mission Directorate in Washington, D.C., commented on the importance of these exoplanet findings to debunking the ancient mystery of life beyond Earth, “This discovery could be a significant piece in the puzzle of finding habitable environments, places that are conducive to life.”

Within the next decade, astronomers are hoping to confirm the existence of life on these exoplanets. Scientists are currently anticipating a launch of the James Webb Space Telescope in 2018 which, according to NASA, “will be able to detect the chemical fingerprints of water, methane, oxygen, ozone, and other components of a planet’s atmosphere” as well as “planets’ temperatures and surface pressures”—all of which are significant details in verifying the habitability of these newly-found planets.

Regardless, the discovery and further exploration of these planets will irrefutably revolutionize the field of science.

Nintendo Switch: transforms the gaming platform

By Hermela Assefa, Staff Writer

The gaming community is reveling in the wake of the Nintendo Switch release, a console that has revolutionized gaming by being a portable console. It’s playable at home and on the go. The Switch, developed primarily as a home console, has a docking station on the unit that can be connected to a TV, allowing players to enjoy traditional console gaming. The portable aspect allows for it to be unplugged from the TV and played through the touch screen, similar to tablets. Another notable feature is the Joy-Con, two detachable controllers that can slide onto the side of the Switch, allowing for a unique multiplayer experience. Multiple Joy-Cons allow multiple players to experience the Switch in person, as long as they don’t mind sharing the 6.2 inch screen.

The Joy-Con has been hailed as one of the newest advances in gaming; however, advances in technology don’t come without bugs. Many users have reported that half of the Joy-Con becomes unresponsive, losing connection to the Switch and TV. This causes the other half temporarily to lose connection for upwards of 10 seconds. Nintendo has released a statement saying, “At Nintendo, we take great pride in creating quality products, and we want our consumers to have a positive experience.” The statement continues, but sheds little light on how they plan to fix this problem. This is quite disappointing to consumers who were promised a new multiplayer experience through the Switch.

However, the single player experience is still playable, and one of the games released to the Switch is The Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild, revitalizing the classic Zelda series. Senior and Nintendo fanatic Nathan Lee said, “It’s great having a new Zelda game; it’s like revisiting my childhood, and it’s a great addition to the Zelda series.” The Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild isn’t the only release to the Switch; other classics like Skyrim and Mario Kart Racing are also available for purchase.

So far, it has received great reviews from players; however, once a player has downloaded the few games that are out, there’s no storage room left in the device. A simple memory card will fix this, but most players are seeing it as an annoying additional cost. Sophomore Timothy Hunt said, “I’ve been saving up for a Switch, and considering they’re pretty darn expensive, having to buy a memory card seems like a waste of money when memory storage is what you’d thought they’d be concerned about.”

The Switch is quite expensive, sitting at $300 at GameStop and Best Buy. However, many retailers have sold out of consoles, and in this stock period, Switches are being resold for upwards of $400. Regardless of price, the Switch is projected to sell 5 million units by the end of the year, according to GameSpot, a popular gaming site.

Whatever the expenses, it still is an overall hit in the gaming community, and many are hailing it as the product that will revitalize Nintendo. This is certainly true, as their stocks have significantly since the Switch’s release.

Even disregarding the profit, the Switch is providing a new experience that is exciting and captivating to gamers around the globe.
The perks of living in a tiny house

By Catie Getling, Staff Writer

On and off for the past few decades, a fad has been threatening the housing market—a movement in which community members build their home or buy real estate that is under 400 square feet, usually on a flatbed trailer. Owners of these tiny houses buy or design plans for their new homes, and then they use their savings for equipment to help with their houses, which they hope will save them money in the long run. Many are attracted to the tiny house movement because of the prospect of saving money and becoming homeowners. According to a study done by CEC Tiny Life, 68 percent of all tiny houses owners have no mortgage, and 78 percent own their tiny homes.

Many cite the community that they are initiated into during the building process as a key reason as to why they joined or remained dedicated to the movement. Much like minimalism, the tiny house movement values downsizing and living individually rather than for large, meaningless luxuries. Despite popular opinion, many people begin their journey to build their tiny houses with little to no experience. In areas where increasing in popularity, there are shops set up with experts to give advice and help with first time tiny house builders. Merete Mueller, who built her tiny house with her partner Christopher Smith, says that the help she received from such experts was “just enough to struggle and get through it.”

Most tiny house builders are inspired to build a tiny house by wanting a drastic change in their lives or the need for a change within their lives. All agree that the process of building a tiny house, figuring out the logistics of living in a small, usually mobile, and unusual space, teaches them about themselves in invaluable ways. Living in a small space, especially if there are multiple people living within the space, tests boundaries and reveals lifestyle habits.

Prom hacks to save money

With prom just around the corner, it can be easy to get stressed out about dresses, hair, nails, makeup, and everything else revolving around the big night. For most girls, prom night means spending hundreds of dollars to make themselves look perfect. What they don’t know is that one can achieve the perfect look cheap and make it look professional. Here are four beauty tips to have the best (and cheapest) prom look that will blend right away.

One of the most expensive parts about prom is hair, nails, and makeup. All these things together can cost hundreds of dollars to do, and unfortunately, they are essential. The good news is that there is an easy and free way to get the exact product that one would get professionally. Everyone has at least one friend who always has their makeup or hair looking perfect, and these are the exact candidates to ask if they would be willing to do yours for the big night. Just show them a picture of the look that is trying to be achieved and see if they can recreate it. The good thing about having a friend do it is that there’s always opportunities to get together before and practice and make sure it’s perfect for when they have to do it for real.

My favorite prom hack is surprisingly consignment and thrift stores. One might think that consignment stores are filled with old ugly clothes from the 50’s, but if one’s look’s hard enough beautiful hidden treasures can be found. Consignment stores like “Back by Popular Demand” and “For Ever Young” in Lilburn have a wide variety of accessories, handbags, and shoes that are cheap and look brand new. This also makes it easier to find something that matches your dress because there are so many options. Quirky thrift stores are also a great place to be successful with great finds. These hacks save money most of all because of the actual clear rooms that are one of a kind and affordable.

Everyone hates it when they find a dress they love, but it doesn’t come in their size: it’s too long or has sleeves they aren’t a huge fan. If one is caught in this situation, there is an easy fix to this: take the dress to get altered. Altering is easy to get done and is cheaper than buying an expensive dress that fits perfectly. This hack can also come in handy if the dress isn’t exactly what the person is looking for and it just needs some revamping.

The last hack is all for the artists and creative minds. Lately, there have been many trends revolving D.I.Y prom dresses and accessories. Although it sounds crazy, the cheapest hack is just to create items yourself. Duck tape dresses might be extreme, but it’s definitely possible to make jewelry and handbags out of household items. The best part about this is that it’s 100% free!

Use these hacks to rock prom night and still come out of it without spending a huge amount of money.
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A struggling endgame?

Have you thought about dropping out of high school?

"Classes are hard, college acceptance rates are lower, and club activities are hard to take part of, and AP exams get harder." -Sophomore

"I need to accomplish something in my life... then I can quit." -Junior

"I want to be able to get rich enough one day so that people will overlook my ugliness and be friends with me anyway." -Junior

"My grades have fallen, and I don't think I can pull them up." -Junior

"Too much stress; sports and keeping up grades is challenging." -Sophomore

"Although school is very stressful and there are many things to worry about, I am able to stay motivated and keep trying." -Junior

"I know high school is hard, but it's a foundation for your career in the future. Why not just push through 4 years and get it over with?" -Sophomore

"I want to be able to get rich enough one day so that people will overlook my ugliness and be friends with me anyway." -Junior

"Education is the key piece to the puzzle of life. Without education, we are like flightless birds. They are useless animals with no reason to be called a bird. Gosh I hate them." -Junior

"As a teenager, a minimum wage job may be good because they're not having to pay for everything." -Bronnun

With their counselors, who then present additional choices they may not have even considered, such as Gwinnett Online Campus, Phoenix High School, and GIVE East New Hope Academy. Students who had not made use of the opportunities may also explore others, such as obtaining their General Educational Development (GED), re-enroll (given they do so within a certain amount of time from their withdrawal), or even Project Reconnect.

Through Gwinnett County Public School’s Project Reconnect, the school system provides another opportunity to receive a high school diploma, given a former student between ages of 16-19 obtained at least 16 credits before their departure. “We try to keep them in high school somewhere just for their benefit,” said Salo.

However, just because a student has alternatives to a high school diploma does imply a student should withdraw for reasons other than transferring schools. According to the Alliance for Excellent Education, high school dropouts face higher unemployment rates as well as a significantly lower income compared to those who at least earn their diploma. As a result, the counseling department tries to prevent students from withdrawing with yearly goals fitted around specific trends noticed from the previous year. “We got our [rates] last semester, and the groups that we targeted had an increase in staying in school,” explained Salo.

Remarkably, the 91% graduation rate for Parkview’s class of 2016 was significantly higher than Georgia’s 79.2% and Gwinnett County’s 79.6% rates, according to the Atlanta Journal Constitution. These rates account for students who are able to complete their high school education within four years. The remaining 9%, which faces a continuous cline, alludes to students who receive their high school diploma in more than the traditional four years and those who withdrew, be it from transferring schools or taking advantage of another secondary school option. In truth, the dropout rate is quite low.

However, Salo, Dermid, and Bronnun all agree that the age requirement to drop out of high school should be raised from the age 16 in Georgia. “I think the [age] should be raised to at least 18 because you’re more mentally prepared to understand the lasting effects of dropping out.”

Even so, student will go through the difficulties of high school and contemplate dropping out. “Look at statistics,” Bronnun advises, “Numbers don’t lie about where your opportunities are.”
Test corrections being abused

As we make our way from adolescence towards adulthood, we find that we always learn from our mistakes, and owning up to these mistakes is the only way to succeed. This ideal applies to all aspects of our lives, be it social, professional, and even academic. Ultimately, our goal is to triumph over the bombardment of tests, but we cannot achieve this without learning from our mistakes first, which is why test corrections provide the utmost aid for a favorable outcome.

Test corrections are administered following a student's assessment over a unit to find what they missed, why they missed it, and how to correct their answers to prove mastery. Usually, teachers such as AP U.S. History teacher Jon Aldrich and AP Physics teacher Phil Heier permit partial credit for each question missed.

“You’re studying really hard, but sometimes, you’re just going to miss stuff,” Aldrich explained. Aldrich initially began test corrections in his first year of teaching in 2005, following abhorrent scores. Instead of throwing blame on his students, he believed it was his own amateur teaching that caused the scores, so the advice of a student to begin test corrections allowed him to fix his own mistake as well as granting his students the ability to achieve mastery. “I think it makes me a better teacher because I can see if kids are missing certain questions and go ‘did I teach that right?’” Aldrich said, later adding that AP exam scores and classroom grades escala-te, while levels of stress a student endures deteriorate. However, test corrections may often be abused by a student, thus providing no benefit. The result, to the dis-taste of students, is a repeal of test corrections, as seen by AP Physics I students. Prior to the current school year, both AP Physics I and AP Physics C students had the privilege of test corrections. However, students from AP Physics I began to neglect the possible benefit and ceased to study enough for the unit.

As a result, Heier decided to eliminate test corrections for that level and found they try harder on tests in the absence of the aid. “If a student truly wants to learn from their mistakes, [test corrections] are helpful, but too often they use [them] as a crutch [to do poorly] on the test,” Heier said. If done responsibly on the part of a student, test corrections have a myriad of gains and may receive the “college readiness” that the standards enforce, but it is up to the entirety of the classes to prove their trustworthiness. Also, a teacher must have enough trust in their students to administer the support. The outcome produces better grades as well as the proof of mastery that the curriculum so desires to achieve. The evidence is within the impact. “It gives a lot of kids confidence, and that’s what I think is the name of the game,” Aldrich concluded.

Seniors exempt finals

Hardly anything causes quite as much stress to seniors as the final exams (besides whether their dream college accepts them or not), even if they are the highest performing students in the school. Naturally, most school districts have final exam exemptions—with some strings attached, of course (e.g., no more than five excused or unexcused absences, a 90 or above in a particular class to exempt from that class's final exam, etc.)—and Parkview is no exception.

One ought to be grateful that Parkview High School has such a generous policy: few schools allow up to five absences in one's class to be exempt from finals. In most schools, that policy (if it exists, as not all schools even have final exam exemptions) is stricter — two or three days, not five.

There was a time when Parkview, too, also allowed up to three absences, but that changed a couple of years ago.

As for the necessary grades to exempt oneself from final exams, it is entirely fair as it is: 90 or above is achievable yet still requires effort, so it motivates students to work hard to arrive at this goal. As far as I am aware, I have not heard any whispers of change in the air concerning this policy. Not everyone is satisfied with it as it is, even the administration (though some do admit that if they "had it their way," as Ms. Wach put it, the only change would have been the number of allowable absences from five back to three). With all these facts in mind, is there the need for all that stress? Change is not coming anytime soon, and even if it did, the only difference would probably be more students sitting at a desk for an hour after finishing a fairly simple final.

Punishments for senior pranks are too severe

The senior prank—it's a story as old as time. Each year, students of the graduating class try their best to outdo the prank of the one before them. In the past, pranks have been harmless. There has always been the tale of the cow in the upstairs bathroom, which everyone knows is a giant hoax. However, senior pranks seem to be getting worse and worse as each class graduates. Why?

Administration and teachers are who senior pranks have been battling since the very first prank. Pranks are all supposed to be in good fun, a way to say goodbye to the school they've known for the past four years, but it's been made pretty clear: senior pranks are punished more often than not.

Seniors caught are often denied the right to go to their picnic or to walk across the stage the night they finally get to leave the hallowed halls of Parkview High. In short, it's entirely unfair.

The harmless pranks are being punished as severely as the bad ones—we all remember the spray paint incident, a present from the class of 2016—and it's made senior pranks more and more boring each year. What's so wrong with throwing some glitter in the halls?

The rule of the senior prank is to not vandalize property and disrupt the normal flow of school. I understand the rule against vandalism—only a stupid person would consider that a prank—but what's the point of a prank if it's not disrupting the flow of class? A prank is meant to have a laugh and throw everybody off a little bit. It's just not right to punish the seniors who are willing to participate.

LGBT students deserve rights for prom

Everyone dreams of their perfect prom—a stunning outfit with either their friends or their high school sweetheart. No one would turn an eye to this; however, with same-sex couples things are a bit different. Now that it is 2017, gender roles and genders don't matter so much. Many people disagree with this, claiming that it goes against the Bible, or their religion, everyone has their own opinion about if gay people should go to prom or not.

There is a heavy stigma around LGBT people going to prom. Each state and local community has different traditions and it seems there are so many. LGBT people will not want to go to prom, in fear that they would be judged. Most people believe that there isn't stigma against LGBT people anymore. “Yes, I believe that there is still discrimination against gay people, especially in the US. A lot of people sweep it under the rug and pretend that it doesn't exist. I feel like we’re moving closer to equality but there still are some issues that haven’t been addressed” says Keyera Coleman.

The amount of LGBT people going to prom is now much bigger than previous years. Now kids are feeling more confident coming out and going to prom with their sweethearts. This is very important for the future generations of LGBT kids, because it is paving the road for LGBT kids to enjoy their proms without any fear of being discriminated against.
The provocative Milo Yiannopoulos

By Miro Georgiev, Columnist


Who is Milo Yiannopoulos?

Milo Yiannopoulos is a controversial British public speaker, media personality, political and social commentator, and former tech editor of the proudly conservative news website Breitbart, of which Stephen Bannon was once the chairman (before becoming Chief Strategist and Senior Counselor to the President of the United States).

Milo is no stranger to controversy: He is an out-spoken critic of third-wave feminism (the modern-day feminist movement) and “social justice warriors” (or, SJWs, for short—they are, admittedly, particularly sri-dent leftist activists). He has to have a significant security detail every time he enters a college campus, for there are some people who insist on denying his freedom of speech. (Look no further than UC Berkeley, and you will see why.)

These facts and more make one consider, “Why him?” What is so controversial about him?

In February 2017, clips of videos from two podcast—The Joe Rogan Experience and the Drunken Peasants Podcast—surfaced on Twitter, wherein Milo expressed disconcerting views on pedophilia and homosexuality, for which he later had to apologize publicly, a first for someone who is ordinarily unapologetic about anything he ever says.

In the clip from the Joe Rogan Experience, Milo claimed to have been molested by a Catholic priest in his teen years but bizarrely insisted that “I [Milo] was the predator.” In addition, he claimed to have witnessed high-status Hollywood types molesting “very young boys” in “five or six” parties. In both instances, he did not provide names of either the priest who allegedly molested him or the Hollywood types.

When the hosts of the Drunken Peasants Pod-cast pressed him on this matter, he made several contradictory statements: that age of consent laws were “oppressive and arbitary,” that it is normal for older gay men to have sex with younger boys, that the current age of consent laws were “probably” about right, and that his earlier comments on same-sex relationships certainly do not apply to every, or even most, gay men. Unsurprisingly, these comments sparked outrage and controversy.

With all these facts in mind, Milo seems like a monstrous and unbelievable figure.

However, Milo is a self-described troll and provocateur, so it is next to impossible to pin down his views based on his statements alone. Indeed, there ought to be a rule concern-ing Milo Yiannopoulos: Not a word of anything he ever says about anything is to be taken seriously. Ever. All those comments above? Take them with a grain of salt.

The worst part is that Milo does not look good no matter what: if he were serious about everything he said, then Milo is nothing short of disgusting and foul; if he were not serious, then Milo looks like a vindictive fool and an embarrassment only to himself, sacrificing his job on the altar of values he may not hold at all.

Trump’s executive orders are discriminatory

By Amy Kim, Staff Writer

On January 27, President Donald Trump released an executive order banning people from six countries from entering the US. These six countries: Libya, Somalia, Iran, Yemen, Sudan, and Syria, are known to be predominantly Muslim. Originally, Iraq was also on the list, but it has been removed. As a strong advocate for equality, I believe that the ban is inhumane. There are refugees in Syria who just want a safe space, but America can no longer provide that due to President Trump’s executive order. Anyone coming from these countries are not allowed to enter the states. Shutting off immigration from predominately Muslim countries is cowardly in the sense that it seems like the government is too scared to step up and show some sympathy for the refugees.

I do understand that terrorism is a threat, but, for one, that can easily be solved with a more strict process from homeland security, and second, not all terrorists are Muslim. Terrorists are radical extremists who can be from virtually anywhere. The KKK exists in our own homeland, and there aren’t any strict government enforcements they are trying to stop them. They call themselves Christians, but anyone who is a devout Christian will know that discriminating, as well as murdering others due to race, is heavily frowned upon. This is similar to the terrorists who have attacked all over the world in the past 16 years. They call themselves Muslims, but are they really a follower of Allah if they murder so many people because of differing beliefs? In some cases, they have killed other Muslims as well. Tying an entire religion to a certain generalization is wrong, and therefore, Muslim countries should not be banned altogether.

Also, banning certain countries because of supposed terrorist activity among them would be a flawed claim, except some of the countries had no involvement with any terrorist attacks that happened throughout the 21st century. There are other countries such as Afghanistan that were involved, and they are not banned from immigration to the United States.

Some people argue that ethnic groups being banned from the country has happened before, such as the Jews during the Holocaust and Chinese immigrants in the 1800s, but it was not humane then, and it is not now. In the eyes of an equal rights advocate, there is no reason for President Trump’s executive order on an immigration ban on six countries.

New Disney movie banned

By Candler Clark, Staff Writer

With the rise of anti-progressive movements and conservative anti-LGBT views represented and reported on across the media, a movie with an LGBT character in it is bound to get some attention from anti-progressive movements.

Beauty and the Beast, a live action adaptation of the 1991 animated classic about the princess, Belle, falling in love with a beast was released in late March 2017 and a scene containing Lefou, a friend of the Beast, is portrayed as possibly being gay. In retaliation to the possibility of an LGBT character being driven from the theatre in Alabama made headlines when they banned the movie from playing in their theatres.

This headline was shared on Twitter days after it was released and quickly went viral. Many progressives and left-wing and liberal activists publicly spoke out against these actions on Twitter, resulting in several arguments between users over the topic.

One of the arguments against the ban was that representation in the media can positively impact the self esteem of people watching. According to a study by CNN, watching TV can boost the self esteem of white boys, because they are so often represented in the media. Not representing LGBT people in popular media can result in degrading queer-identifying people’s self esteem, according to a study done by Victor D. Evans for the American Communication Journal.

Additionally, banning the movie over one singular character’s sexual orientation is orientation-based discrimination. While the film received rave reviews from multiple sites, the drive-in decided to ban the movie over a singular character: an almost petty act.

Even if Disney did not directly hope to accomplish a gay role, the meaning was to boycott an LGBT character, and the Alabama drive-in theatre carried out a discriminatory act by banning this movie.

Sound off

Chris Wagner, World History Teacher

“The United States was built upon the backbones of immigrants... I’m a second generation, born here from Italian immigrants. I can definitely see the thought process you know, protecting our borders.”

John Aldrich, AP US History teacher

“He’s doing what he cam-paigned that he said he was going to do, and he was probably most adamant about immigration issues. He was doing that in large part to get a certain [demographic]. By him going through with these orders he’s signaling to those people, “Hey, I’m doing what I told you I was going to do.”
College Statistics and (maybe not so) Fun Facts

- During the 2014-15 school year, colleges and universities were expected to award 1 million associate’s degrees, 1.8 million bachelor’s degrees; 821,000 master’s degrees; and 177,500 doctorate degrees
- The average cost of tuition and fees for the 2016–2017 school year was $33,480 at private colleges, $9,650 for state residents at public colleges, and $24,930 for out-of-state residents attending public universities
- College textbook prices have risen over 1041% since 1977. It has inflated faster than healthcare, housing costs, and tuition itself
- 60% of all college students receive no financial help from their parents
- International students typically pay double the amount paid by residents
- Only 16% of college students attend nonprofit private colleges and universities
- College Board, as the sole distributor of AP Exams and the SAT/ACT, can be classified as a monopoly. Their profits are around 60 million a year. They are also classified as a nonprofit organization and are therefore tax exempt
- The SAT was created by Carl Brigham in 1926. He was a Social Darwinist who believed the results of the SAT would prove his theory that people of certain races were less intelligent. (Source: Nicholas Lemann/PBS)
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Student journalists are provided with opportunities to investigate, inform, interpret, and to evaluate all traditionally accepted functions of the press in America. The Pantera staff is committed to reflect the mission statement set forth by Parkview High School. The goals of the staff are to provide fair, accurate news and commentaries as well as to serve the interests of the school.

The Pantera will accept letters to the editor, guest editorials, and suggestions from readers. The editorial board reserves the right to withhold a letter or article if it contains material that is libelous, obscene, or disruptive of the school process. Should a letter or article contain errors in fact, excessive grammatical errors, or be too long, it will be returned to the author.

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Should Students Take a Gap Year After High School?

Gap Yay

A trend that has become quite popular over the past few years is gap years. A gap year, by definition, is a period in which a student takes a year off after graduating from high school before continuing their education. A gap year can be spent in a variety of ways - anything from traveling to exotic destinations to getting a job or internship. While gap years can be very advantageous for some, they can be the downfall for many others. A lot of the time, students who decide to take gap years are often taking them for the wrong reason, a common reason being that the student didn’t get into the school of their choice. It is a deceptive myth that schools will take students who they would not have originally accepted after that student takes a gap year. While gap years can show responsibility and maturity in an individual, they don’t overshadow students’ academic standings when he or she was in high school. Therefore, unless taking a gap year involves taking classes, it is in no way beneficial in this aspect.

After graduating high school, students often want a break from the day-to-day stress from classes, teachers, studying, and homework - understandably. A gap year can be a productive and great experience for those who can’t bear thinking about jumping right back into endless studies and stress - that is, if the gap year is well thought out and planned beforehand; however, most students don’t connect the thought of a gap year with weeks, and possibly months, of planning, research, and thought. Therefore, many students who take a gap year often just end up wasting a year that could’ve been spent preparing for their career. Most careers today require a substantial amount of time and effort put towards education and preparation, so putting off a year of college can be very detrimental to many students’ chosen career paths.

Gap years are not for everyone. For some, it can be a chance to regroup and pursue passions that, for the past twelve years, have been put aside; however, for many, it can be unproductive, expensive, and a deterioration of academic momentum.

Gap Nay

As graduation approaches, many seniors are plagued by the question of “what comes next?” For many, college is the natural next step, but for others, the future isn’t quite so simple. Taking a gap year is a fairly common practice in most European countries; however, it is only just recently becoming common in America. Many students are surprised to find out when they receive their acceptance letters from colleges and universities such as Harvard and the University of Alabama, that deferring for a year is recommended. Gap years can actually create an environment for students to learn valuable life skills. William Fitzsimmons, the dean of admissions and financial aid for Harvard, believes that “the more life experience [students] bring, the better off you are in school.” Usually, a gap year means deferring from college for a year to travel, volunteer, or work. Students can gain these experiences by planning out their year on their own or through a gap year program. With a strict plan provided to the college to which the student has been accepted, students are often able to keep their spot at the university they applied for during their senior year of high school and any scholarships they received.

These students will need to reapply for any financial aid at the end of their gap year, but assuming there are no significant changes in the student and his/her family’s financial arrangements, there is a good chance the student will be able to secure those funds again. Because there are many opportunities for work study programs, a gap year can actually end up becoming a way to save up for college, and since many students take a gap year to learn how they can contribute to the world, many come back with maturity and a better idea of what they want to major in, which can end up saving money that would have been spent on tuition while students clarify their majors. Ultimately, the most common reason for taking a gap year, traveling, can provide invaluable experience and opportunities. With a clear plan, a gap year can provide experiences that would never otherwise present themselves and give students a well-earned break from structured learning to come back with a renewed passion and determination.
**Reader’s Rally places third in the competition**

*By Kalee Wiley, Staff Writer*

In some way, all clubs get acknowledged, and now the Readers’ Rally club gets their spotlight. Reader’s Rally is an club of students that reads a select group of books for a competition.

In the Readers’ Rally competition, 19 schools within the county compete to test their knowledge over books. The schools are divided in two divisions, and the schools that win in each division compete with each other to be the winner of the county competition. The schools compete one on one in every round and are given buzzers to answer the questions. The competition depends on how fast the team can buzz in and answer the questions. There are 15 ten-point questions that correspond to each of the 15 chosen books, and the team that accumulates the most points wins that round.

In Reader’s Rally, the most important requirement for the club is to read the books. The members are given a chance to read any out of 15 books, which are chosen from the 20 books in the Georgia Peachtree Book Awards.

Lisa Newberry, the school librarian founded the club upon the belief that students should have a place to share their passion for reading. Mrs. Newberry, the person in charge of reading has said, “I believed Parkview students should view reading as something fun to do, not just something required from their teachers.”

Not only do the members have to read the books, but they also have to make questions for each book, which helps members prepare for their upcoming competition. The questions they make are not like the vague, analytical questions a student would get in language arts. The members keep all their questions on a private Quizlet account, so no other team could steal their questions. Making questions is useful to the members, as it helps them remember specific details in the books that may appear in the competition. “Readers’ Rally is an important club because it instills a love of reading, shows students that reading can be fun, teaches team building skills, and offers a competitive outlet for those who might not be involved in sports,” said Mrs. Newberry.

Given that they prepared for the competition in under three weeks, the Parkview Reader’s Rally team did surprisingly well in this year’s competition, placing third overall a vast improvement from last year’s team, which placed ninth. Even though Parkview is new to Reader’s Rally, only having had it for two years, they thrived to be the best. Next year, they plan to make it all the way to the state championship. Additionally, the club has gotten kindles for the members, so they can read the new books for next year’s competition over the summer. The kindles will help the members easily access books, if they are unable to get these books from a library. The Readers’ Rally plans to make next year count and give it their all.

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**What books inspired you?**

*By Kalee Wiley, Staff Writer*

“The Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen has inspired me to overcome all obstacles that may come your way to achieve happiness.”

- Asma Khimani

“The Sound of Fury inspired me because it showed that racism only brings a country down and that we should all work together to become as one.”

- Jordan Triplet

“I Never Saw Another Butterfly by Hana Volavkova. This book shows the validation of life and how the arts can actually save or comfort someone in difficult times.”

- Sydney Poole

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**Coming of age books to read in the summer**

*By Kalee Wiley, Staff Writer*

During the school year, there is not a lot of time to read, however there is always summer, when the chance to find a nice book to read is possible. Over the summer, there may be a time when a person needs to grow up. A coming of age book can help portray the course of transitioning from a child to an adult.

In the book *We Were Liars* by E. Lockhart, a girl named Candace goes to her family’s private island for the summer after facing a terrible accident that leaves her with a serious head injury. Quickly, Candace realizes there is a problem within her family and tries to learn the secret, yet everyone refuses to tell her. *We Were Liars* is an emotional book that illustrates what it’s like to feel lost. A first glance, the book seems more like a mystery novel, than a coming of age novel.

The book, *Tell the Wolves I’m Home* by Carol Rifka Brout, is about a young girl named June who grieves after the death of her uncle. June doesn’t know how to deal with the death until she meets Toby, her uncle’s lover. Together, June and Toby learn to lean on each other during this difficult time together. At last, Judy as well as the readers will learn that people can’t always be kept to themselves, but need to be open in order to be free of their grief.

In the book, *Falling into Place* by Amy Zhang, is about the aftermath of a popular girl named Liz who has attempted suicide through a car crash. No one knows the truth of her accident, only that she is in serious danger of dying. With Liz dying, friends and enemies recall memories passoff their time with her. As memories past, reasons for Liz’s suicide become clearer through Liz’s imaginary friend. Told in the eyes of Liz’s imaginary friend, the imaginary friend reveals why Liz try to kill herself. In the end, characters learn to forgive people that have hurt them in the past and provides the reader to come with terms with their unhappiness.
Night of the Living Dead is not so dead

By Sarah Khorasi, Staff Writer

Night of the Living Dead, a play put on by Parkview, based off a 1968 movie directed by George A. Romero. This production was held from Friday, March 24 to Sunday, March 26 in the theater. The play production was assembled by Mrs. Morrow’s theater class.

The story starts with a girl named Barbara, played by sophomore Israle Getachew, Enjolras, played by sophomore Colton Sims, and more.

The set, built primarily by a team of students, was as practical as it was impressive. Senior Madison Johnson, the paint leader for the set, said, “The barricade was the most challenging piece of the set, but the outcome was better than we could have asked for!”

Getachew said, “My favorite part was probably dying in the second attack because it shows how unafraid my character was and it somewhat relates to me because I like taking risks. I was so glad I got to play Gavroche.”

Mr. Robert Magnier, the musical director, was thrilled with the performance. He said, “The Parkview performances of Les Mis were the rare convergence of talented students in the right place at the right time. I only recall a small handful of shows that were as successful as Les Mis in my years teaching. Performances from the lead roles were something you don’t often get in a high school production. Our hope is that the audience will come even if they are not familiar with the story. The cast and crew went above and beyond that.”

The class of 2017’s decision season is in full swing. Seniors are deciding on what to do after they graduate, and some are expressing interest in going into a fine arts field.

Andrew Jacobson, an active participant of Parkview’s theater program, plans on being a film major at Georgia State University this coming fall. He said, “Film is such a strong medium, and I want to meet people in college who facilitate the need for my passion.” Fine arts is not known to have a high percentage of people who are successful coming out of college, but Jacobson argues, “Although success is great and a result of your achievements, I’ll be happy knowing that I’m working hard to do what I like doing.”

Senior Katherine Wells, who aspires to major in musical theater in college, have a strong support system and a “room who supports most decisions.”

While some students are still trying to find their passion or what they want to do in college, these fine arts students already know what path they want to go down, and they’re sticking to it.

Audiences loved Les Mis

The Lex Mis belts out their final number. (photo by Hannah Campbell)

By Abby Harvey, Staff Writer

On the weekend of April 21st, the Parkview theater department presented Les Misérables, a musical based on the novel written by Victor Hugo. The show explored controversial topics such as prostitution, corrupt government, and violence. “I didn’t realize it was a musical,” says sophomore Hannah Campbell. “And I was blown away by the talent!”

The story revolves around the life of the main character, Jean Val Jean, played by senior Roman Banks. The story opens with Jean Val Jean about to go on parole after being jailed for 19 years. As the story continues, characters are introduced and their personal stories are told. Fantine, played by senior Katherine Walls, was felled from her factory job, so she became a prostitute in order to care for her daughter Cosette, played by junior Maya Gelting. Mrs. and Mr. Thenardier, played by seniors Sydney Poole and Faraaz Roy, are hilariously terrible characters. At Fantine’s request, Cosette is taken by Jean Val Jean.

The story zooms ahead fifteen years and introduces new characters such as Gavroche, played by sophomore Iralle Getachew, Enjolras, played by sophomore Colton Sims, and more.

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Parkview’s Annual Chalk Walk

Parkview’s chalk walk was held on April 13th. This chalk walk was an opportunity for students to recreate pieces of art. Photos by Hydiah Sylia.

Second place Artwork by Cassidy Moncrief, Nadaya Peredia, and Gabe Biscotti-Favata

This is the first place artwork by Mary Seol and Grace Hu.

Jellas Jose and Gisselle Gutierrez drawing of Vincent Van Gogh’s Starry Night.

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Student’s drawing of Frida Kahlo’s self portrait.

Royce Nguyen and Sydney Nguyen’s work of Roy Lichtenstein’s Crying Girl.

Student’s depiction of Pablo Picasso’s artwork.

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Logan claws its way to top

By Peter Fedyk, Columnist

Ever since 2008’s Iron Man, films of the superhero genre have flooded the film market with varying degrees of success. The studies behind these films have brought the idea of a shared cinematic universe into the limelight, most notably, the Marvel Cinematic Universe, which is 14 connected, well received films and counting. In the 90s, Marvel, on the verge of bankruptcy, sold the live action rights of some of their most popular characters, including Spider-Man and the X-Men. One of the aspects that has been astounding since the first film in 2000 has been Hugh Jackman and his portrayal of the Wolverine who has played the character a total of nine times throughout 17 years. Wolverine, earned his own movies: X-Men Origins: Wolverine, The Wolverine, and finally, Logan. Jackman, Patrick Stewart, the actor known for his portrayal of Charles Xavier, or Professor X, have stated that Logan will include their last reprisals of these iconic characters. Despite this departure, does Logan hold up?

In short, yes. After two viewings, Logan is easily one of the best comic book movies I have seen. Written and directed by James Mangold, Logan is loosely based off of the infamous Marvel graphic novel, Old Man Logan, which sees the immortal Wolverine old, alone, and dying. In the film, the mutant gene has been mostly eradicated. Logan works as a chauffeur in south- ern Texas, using his earnings to care for a sick Professor X in the Mexican desert. Their incoherent lifestyle comes to an end with the arrival of a young mutant and her pursuers. The largest pull factor is how emotionally gripping it remains; the hair on my arms stood up at multiple points during the 137 minute run time.

The film features three main actors; they include two Hollywood heavyweights, Hugh Jackman and Patrick Stewart, and an introduction to eleven year old actress Dafne Keen. Jackman and Stewart deliver their best performances as their respective characters. Although the film does stand on its own, the emotional connection between Logan and Xavier is much stronger with the cinematic history in hand. On the other hand, bilingual Dafne Keen, who makes her first feature film appearance as Laura, brings a silent feral brutality to the film. The film’s rare moments of levity and common gory bloodshed typically emanate from her, but Keen’s portrayal never falters. She easily defies the prevalent problem of terrible child actors; keeping up with such talented co-stars was a hard feat, but one that the young girl achieved. In a brief statement: the acting is superb.

Comic movies have been notoriously PG-13 for the better part of a decade; this trend was broken by 2016’s Deadpool, which was the highest grossing rated-R movie. The success of Deadpool seemed to convince Fox that a mature rated movie could still be profitable. This film runs in stride with the R-rating; previously bloodless and rather inconsequential Wolverine combat has turned into a splatterfest of claws, dismemberment, and carnage. Logan’s well choreographed fight scenes are tense, leaving the viewer satisfied but uneasy. These are as grim and pulse-pounding as the rest of the film. After the second viewing, I still wasn’t certain if the blood was practical or computer generated. Either way, the effects got the job done, tying in with the well filmed combat. The team behind Logan put in massive effort, and their devotion to the product shows. This is a gripping film Performances are stellar, and the film’s action is satisfying yet brutal. Logan is a must-see comic book movie.

Classic Power Rangers are back

By Joshua Hurst, Staff Writer

Power Rangers, is a long running television show known for overflow plots and characters, bright costume and character designs, and cheesy effects. When they announced the production of a full length film, people assumed it wouldn’t be of any note. Despite all odds, director Dean Israelite and writer John Gatins managed to produce something high quality and still remain true to the original content.

The basic premise is five teenagers, none of whom really know each other and all being outcasts of some kind, stumble across something that grants them incredible abilities, and they must learn how to use their powers and each other to stop a major threat determined to steal the life force from the planet.

This is the plot for every version of the show made in the last 24 years, all 20+ versions of them. But the movie takes it to a level higher than any before, with a larger emphasis on character growth and plot, while still keeping a bit of the over dramatization and style of the source content.

It takes inspiration from all versions of the show but is most notably inspired by the original “Mighty Morphin Power Rangers” with the original ranger colorful aspects of the costume design, and even the names of the characters. Almost the entire cast is making their first appearance, with a few exceptions, such as Bryan Cranston (Breaking Bad) and Bill Hader (Inside Out, Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs), but this doesn’t mean they are bad; they are all perfectly cast.

The movie manages to improve and refine every element of the franchise without losing what made it what it is and still produces an amazing final product.

Alien pioneered film fear

Alien was a pioneer in the horror genre, which was released in 1979 and marketed itself as a horror film that took place in space. A crew of miners investigate a distress signal on the trip back to Earth. This signal leads to an unwanted guest boarding the cargo ship. The film is legendary altogether, but there are two characteristics that carry the movie: creature design and suspense.

The so-called “alien” of the movie is quite well known in pop culture due to the utterly terrifying design. It’s commonly called the Xenomorph and was originally put together by H. R. Giger. The design was meant to unsettle its audience by looking organic and industrial at the same time. The alien is an organic creature, but its features are almost manufactured to be creepy. The Xenomorph’s means of killing and pro-creating were the main focus when designing the murderous extra-terrestrial. Its tongue moves very quickly and is used to puncture holes into its targets. On the flip side, a Xenomorph is created when a small organic drone latches onto its victim’s face and injects the embryo down into the stomach. From there, it grows and bursts from its human host. These design choices are clearly graphic in nature and dishearten even a strong willed viewer. Despite its frightening design, the alien is seen often. This choice is with purpose and peeks at the underlying phobia held by every person, the fear of the unknown.

Throughout the film, the audience knows the antagonist is somewhere they can’t see. Paired with long and ominous shots that set the scene, this suspense leaves the audience sweating at the edge of their seat. Each shot is a deliberately long, slow boil that peaks with each attack, marked by faster cuts and closer frames. The intense scares are much more effective due to each sinister build in tension. Alien is a fantastically horrifying and a fantastic movie. Its art direction, characters, cinematography, and score are iconic and set the standard for good horror films despite the technology restriction. Sadly, the milestone movie is not available on the divine site of Netflix, but it’s available on Hulu and for a three dollar rental fee on video on demand. All 117 minutes of Alien are certainly worth the cheap ticket price.
Las Colinas serves up fresh food

**Las Colinas serves up fresh food for hungry, eager costumers. (Photo by Marie Stanford)**

By Marie Stanford, Business Manager

Readers might not be able to judge a book by its cover, but readers can judge a Mexican restaurant based off its guacamole. Las Colinas, located on Main Street in Tucker, definitely didn’t disappoint in this category.

When I ordered the “Chunky Guacamole Mexicana, I” was pleasantly surprised when our waiter brought over all fresh ingredients and made my favorite dip from scratch right in front of me. This, along with all the other delicious food, the authentic atmosphere, and great service all added up to be a great experience.

Las Colinas is a popular spot that describes itself as a full service restaurant and bar. When I first walked into the tex-mex grill, I was surrounded with cultural pictures and unique decor that made everything feel homey and was something fun to look while waiting for the food to be served.

Our waiter was extremely nice and took us straight to our table in the not-so-full seating area, surprising for a Saturday night. The restaurant has an interesting set up with tables and booths set up on a few different leveled platforms throughout the restaurant, and a semi-open kitchen in the back where a patron can watch their food being made.

The menu has a variety of different sections including appetizers, lunch, quesadillas, tacos, and “create your own combo.” Being a vegetarian, I was disappointed when I didn’t see a vegetarian section of the menu like I usually see at Mexican restaurants. Instead, I went with creating my own combo of a bean burrito, cheese enchilada, and rice. My meal was pretty good, considering it was fully covered in red sauce, which I am not a total fan of.

My friend got the nachos, which were disappointing because they were tortilla chips covered in regular queso dip, but the tacos exceeded her expectations. The only complaint about this restaurant is the high prices. Although the food was splendid, I felt like the prices need to be lower.

Overall, this restaurant gets a 7/10 stars. It was for the most part fantastic but, the few slip ups don’t give it a perfect score. I will, however, be swayed by the gumball machine in the back labeled “get a red, win a taco.” I might have accidentally spent a couple of dollars on this and didn’t end up winning a taco, but it sure was fun.

**Tasty Pollo en Raja is consistent favorite**

By Hannah Cambell, Online Editor

Upon entering Lilburn’s Los Hermanos, customers are greeted by the super nice staff. If the restaurant is full, they take names and try to get people seated as soon as a table is ready. Once seated, the staff immediately delivers chips and salsa. The menu offers an extensive variety of Mexican dishes, from tacos to fajitas, taquitos to burritos. Their prices range from $7.95 to $14.95. They have several amazing appetizers including a shrimp corn chowder, which is $3.50 for a cup. They also offer cheese dip with tortilla chips which is $3.75 for a little bowl.

I ordered Burrito de Pollo en Rajas and it was scrumptious. Every time I go there I order this meal. It is a chicken burrito smothered in a poblano pepper cream sauce, and it is to die for! The cost is $9.95 for this meal and it comes with beans and rice. Their fajitas, served sizzling on a wooden plate, are offered with beef, chicken, or shrimp. This is a delicious option for the $12 to $15 range.

Anyone who wants an authentic Mexican food experience should try Los Hermanos. The decoration of the whole place leads one to think, for the hour duration of the meal that you might just be in Mexico. The only thing about this restaurant is the fact that the restaurant tends to get noisy. Almost every time I go I have to talk above an inside volume, but if patrons go into the restaurant knowing this they will have an amazing experience. I would rate this restaurant a 4 out of 5 stars. Everyone and anyone should go there.

The desserts are also amazing. My favorite is the Pastel De Tres Leches which is a traditional Mexican milk cake topped with whipped cream and fruit. This is a happy way to finish the meal for only $4.95!
Ariana makes a “Grande” performance

By Peter Fedyk, Columnist

The audience at the Ariana Grande concert at Philips’ Arena. (Photo by Hannah Campbell).

By Hannah Campbell, Online Editor

Ear-deafening crowds, blaring strobe lights, confetti cannons going off, and an amazing fan base is just a another day for the amazingly talented artist Ariana Grande. With her “Dangerous Woman” tour coming to an end, she knocked Atlanta out of the park on April 12th at Philips Arena.

Grande’s opening acts were nearly perfect. The first opening act was Victoria Monet. Victoria did an amazing job getting the crowd hyped for the upcoming artist by singing a couple of her songs like “Ready.” Not only did she sing her new songs, but she also danced to some new songs that reflected the audience’s liking. She did a nice dance routine to “Bad and Boujee” by Migos. Right before she left the stage, she welcomed the prominent Little Mix. Little Mix is an X-Factor-made girl band consisting of four girls. Perrie Edwards, Jesy Nelson, Jade Thirlwall, and Leigh-Anne Pinnock. When they entered the stage, they took over. The crowd was on their feet, and they played four of their most well-known songs: “Salute,” “Touch,” “Black Magic,” and “Shout Out To My Ex.” When Little Mix was on, it was like a concert in itself. After that stunning performance they introduced the Queen Ariana Grande, who actually didn’t come on for another 20 minutes.

After the opening acts were through the stage crew worked as fast as they could getting the retractable stage ready for the big show. Ten minutes after Little Mix performed the lights went out, usually indicating that Ariana would be coming out. In reality, however, it was a ten minute and thirty second countdown. The audience sat with high anticipa-
tion and went crazy when the timer hit one minute. All of a sudden, Grande’s show starter “Be Alright” started playing and she took the stage. Lith- ing high notes left and right. Ariana shocked everyone with the way her songs were presented. Most of her songs were remixed from the original song which was pretty sad to hear, mostly because when going to a concert one would think that the songs would be played the original way. Ariana’s set list consisted of 21 songs, including with the encore: “Be Alright,” “Everyday,” “Bad Decisions,” “Break Free,” “Sometimes,” “Thinking Bout You,” “Problem,” “Into You,” and, finally, the encore “Dangerous Woman.” Not everything was perfect, however. The concert did have its faults. At most concerts the artist is very connected with the crowd, but Ariana disappoint- ed many, due to the fact that she only said, “How are you doing Atlanta?” or “Your turn to sing.” It was very clear she was going through the motions. At the same time, she really had a passion for what she was doing. This didn’t take away from the fact that Ariana is an iconic young band; they constantly changed colors to match the current song’s tone and flashed in higher frequency to emphasize the hard points in songs. Howev- er, the lights eventually dimmed, the band quickly thanked the audience, put down their instru-
ments, and exited right stage. Other than the lucky fan that caught Beans’s thang drumstick, the crowd reacted solemnly; that is, until the infamous “one more song” chant flooded the entire room. After a minute of begged- ing, Hippo Campus quickly ran back to their instruments for an encore. The cheers that followed almost matched the music previ- ously played. Turtan, or Jake Luppren (the lead singer), humbly thanked everyone at the show and then asked, “You guys want to rock out?” The answer was quite loud. The response to our answer was even louder. Hippo Campus’ “Landmark” show was incredibly energetic, loud, and a pulse pounding experience. It was well worth the price of admission; I doubt anyone in that room experienced buyer’s remorse. Though it didn’t break any ground, the concert not only was a crowd pleaser, but a catalyst to mass deafness, a price I happily paid.

Hippo Campus storms into fans’ hearts

By Peter Fedyk, Columnist

Thursday night in the “Hell” venue at Atlanta’s infamous Mas- querade can only be described as electric. The indie pop rock band Hippo Campus based out of St. Paul, Minnesota played a ten song set, preceded by opening act, Magic City Hippies, a Miami indie funk band. The show was completely sold out, and the crowd bubbled with anticipa-
tion as unrelated songs from the loudspeaker kept the crowd’s ears preoccupied. The crowd’s anticipation was met with the relatively unknown opening set. As a professed fan of Magic City Hippies, I was just as excited for them as the headliners. The band’s unique blend of music was well realized live, and the crowd warmed up to the South Beach natives by the end of their forty minute act. The group’s groovy guitar riffs, drum breaks, baselines, and muffled vocals were particularly proficient at getting the crowd moving. As their time on stage came to an end, the band stacked even more hype for Hippo Campus on to the figurative tower that was towering over the venue. This was followed by ten minutes of loudspeaker tunes; the pit of mostly college students dripped with patient anticipation. Not one person had more important mat-
ters to attend. Music from the speakers slowly faded in sync with the dimming lights. Hippo Campus emerged from stage right and silently readied their respective instruments. The constant droning hum of “Sun Vains,” the opening track of their debut LP “Landmark” smoothly transi-
tioned into a hit track from the same album, “Way It Goes.” The insanely catchy riff cued an erup-
tion of cheers from the audience, a common theme for the start of each song throughout the night. The tracklist was mostly com-
prised of “Landmark” songs, but also included a few songs from previous EP’s, such as “South” and “Bashful Creatures.”

The quartet, affectionately known as Turtan, Stitches, Espo, and Beans (their stage names), kept an incredibly high level of energy from start to finish. Hippo Campus is relatively young, and it was clear they were enjoying the set just as much as the fans were. Their high energy performance was well complimented by the fairly simple but effective light rig behind the
Golf puts the way to glory

By Marie Stanford, Business Manager

Many might be surprised to know that golf is one of the most connected and team-oriented sports at Parkview. As they end the season strong, some of the team members have been reflecting over the past couple months that they have played. Practicing four days a week, Mondays and Wednesdays at Gwinnett Country Club and Tuesdays and Thursdays at Stone Mountain, the team has been working hard while bonding and getting to know each other.

During practice, which lasts from 3-6 PM, the golfers try and play as many holes as they can to prepare for the tournaments that occur on Saturdays during the spring semester. “Practice is fun because I can hang out with all my friends,” Sophomore McKenzie Hill said. “We are all pretty close.”

At the tournaments, students play eighteen holes throughout the day. These tournaments are usually double par. “Par is the amount of times you hit the ball,” says Sean Green, a sophomore. “It’s usually 3, 4, or 5 hits, depending on the hole. Double par is double that and if you cross it, you have to stop and pick up the ball.”

After the golfers hit all holes, they tally up the amount of hits they have, and this is their score. The team with the lowest score will win the tournament.

The dress code is one of the unique parts about the golf team. Collared shirts, khakis, and hats make the team look professional in uniform.

Golf is open to anyone that wants to try out, even if they are inexperienced with golf. The team is very close. Many players say that their favorite part of golf is spending time with the team and helping each other. “My favorite part about golf is being with the team,” Green said. “We are able to help each other and hang out.”

Head coach Devon Walker and assistant coach David Ruchin will prepare the top players to compete at the state championship on May 22-23.

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Tennis racks up on achievements

By Joshua Farber, Staff Writer

The Varsity Parkview tennis team is one of the school’s athletic programs. The team is full of competitors who want to further themselves in their sport. Varsity coach Cherrie Broome demands hard work from her athletes, and it shows in their play, as they finished their season strong.

The men’s team proved themselves to be a worthy team after only two losses and twelve victories. According to Broome, “The guys have had a successful season. They had an undefeated season last year, so which was a hard season to replicate. Standout players for the fellows were Noah Offutt and Bradon Ly at singles and Vignesh Ramani and Andrew Joel as doubles players.” Junior Nick Adiaconitei has come all the way from Italy to Parkview and is “happy to be a part of the team.”

Overall, the women’s team has had a difficult schedule. Coach Broome said, “This season has been a difficult season for the ladies side of tennis. The competition this year has been fierce. Our stand out players have been Meredith Duffield and Savannah Larkin.”

Senior Savannah Larkin shows her prowess with her incredible competitive streak. (Photo courtesy of Ty Freeman)
Many student athletes take their talent to the next level

By Jenny Nguyen, Copy Editor

With the school year drawing rapidly to a close, seniors have much to anticipate. For some, however, the future holds more prospect and allure beyond just graduation and prom, for this year heralds yet another promising round of sports signings.

As with any student, the prospect of lightening the financial strain of college is quite the attractive one. Sports scholarships, like any other kind, can partly or fully pay for an athlete’s school tuition, which means graduating college with less or no debt at all. Amir Harris, an athlete who will be committing to Troy University’s track and field next year, expressed his particular gratitude for the scholarship opportunity. “The scholarship is important to me because it helps my mom out. She’s worked really hard in order for me to go to school, so I’ve really done this for her.”

Along with this, sports scholarships can also guarantee bounty of resources: access to strength and conditioning coaches, sports medicine and student-athlete tutoring programs, travel to other institutions, and covered expenses for on-campus housing, food, and books. More importantly, the opportunity can teach invaluable lessons of discipline and teamwork; according to head football coach Eric Godfree, “being a college athlete really changes one’s future not because of money, but because of all the life lessons that person learns through the sport, players, and coaches they interact with. If you can withstand four years of success in college academics and the collegiate athletic arena, there is not too much in life that will be thrown your way that you cannot handle.”

Normally, such a myriad of advantages would quickly convince any athlete to extend their career beyond high school, but getting signed to play a sport in college is not all daisies and roses. In fact, student-athletes should fully consider all of the drawbacks that come with committing to a college sport before finalizing any of their choices. The athletic workload, for one thing, does not ease upon entering college; quite contrarily, playing a collegiate sport can be quite demanding upon a student’s schedule.

Student-athletes spend a great amount of time working out in the weight room, traveling to and from road games, and at practices.”

As an assistant head coach David Reynolds.

With such jam-packed agendas, college athletes, unlike other students, often do not get the chance to entertain leisure activities. Being a college athlete also means being a college student, and all student-athletes alike should be aware that a failure to maintain the school’s GPA requirement can mean getting kicked off the team.

Quite often is the case where athletes struggle to balance their academics and sports, but managing both worlds is not entirely impossible. Head softball coach Justin Bishop credited time management for athletic success in college. “You have to learn and be great at time management skills. In order to balance out the requirements of regular workouts, classes, and travel schedules with the requirements of your academic load, you must do a good job of managing your time. You also need to have time to eat, relax, be a regular person, and sleep; it’s all about hard work, it’s all that, and it takes a special person to truly do well at it all.”

Getting signed by a college can open a lot of doors for athletes, but it also comes with great demands and responsibilities, so it is important for them to find a balance and enjoy the college sport before deciding accordingly. Regardless, playing a sport at college is a good opportunity to grow an athlete’s passion. “Not everyone can say they’re a student at any given college and take [their sport] to the next level,” track athlete Harris said.

Track athletes look forward to state meet

By Abby Harvey, Staff Writer

Being this far into the season the Parkview Track and Field team has held/attended a total of 12 JV or Varsity meets. All of which Parkview competed well and placed respectively. Track and Field is composed of a variety of athletics: shot put, sprinting, long distance, hurdle, and every meet smooth. This season the Parkview Track and Field team has been a long one and we hope to end our season on April 17th with a record of 9 wins and 10 losses. Working on communication entails having team members get along and being together before games. The team is focusing on communication to enhance their performances during games. “At practice, this looks like breaking them into groups and just running plays,” said coach Daniel Kliner.

The first eight games were “trying to see which boys could take a role that worked well with the team.” This hasn’t hindered their performance, considering as they are currently 7 to 2, so far this season. Senior Captain Max Carlson said, “It’s different with Coach Kliner; he expects alot for this his season; our season ended on April 17th with a record of 9 wins and 10 losses. Working on communication entails having team members, playing FIFA together, and a favorite past time of forward Andrei Bajura, “Putting on music and just dancing together before games.” The team isn’t just working on communication; they’ve also been mindful in studying tapes in order to learn from their mistakes. Bajura commented that they have a lot of young players, and getting to know them means getting to know their position on the team. Team Captain Carlson is also working on this team, which is coming together by example, hoping that the team surpasses the expectations set by Coach Kliner.

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Journey to the center of the ice

A zamboni is on an intense mission to smooth out the rough ice during intermissions at a hockey game between the Detroit Red Wings and Chicago Blackhawks. (Photo courtesy of Kent Lund)

By Meagan Gabrielson, Sports Editor

Zambonis have been the life of the intermissions since 1949 at hockey games. When the Zamboni enters the rink, everyone cheers and the driver plays along. Zamboni, also known as ice resurfacers, are so important to the hockey atmosphere that they have songs written about them.

The Zamboni was invented by Frank Zamboni, a first generation American with parents who were Italian Immigrants. He invented the ice resurfacer in 1949 in California and named his company Zamboni after his family name. More people were familiar with using the term Zamboni instead of ice resurfacer, so over time the company name became the name of the product.

Ice resurfacers do more than smoothing out the ice in between periods at hockey games; they bring joy and fascination to the people around it. For Parkview language arts teacher, Heather Baug, Zambonis have had an everlasting impact on her. Baug said, “Zambonis represent my aspiration because they can take any rough situation and smooth it out.” Baug was going through a rough time in 1997, and the Zamboni became a symbol of her Canadian Dream.

Baug learned the amount of joy a Zamboni can bring to one’s life at a very young age. Her love for Zambonis started when she was just seven years old. She said, “At first I was concerned for the driver because he was driving on the slippery ice, but when I saw how he handled the Zamboni with such finesse, I knew in that moment, I needed to live my life like that machine.”

Since that experience, Baug has devoted her life to living like the fearlessless of the Zamboni. Whenever she is feeling down, she listens to the song “Ice Resurfacer” to lift her spirits.

The connection between a child and a Zamboni is a strong bond that cannot be broken. Baug recalled her fondest memory with the Zamboni, “When I first skated on the fresh ice with my brand new white figure skates Santa Claus brought me when I was 11, I felt an immediate connection with the Zamboni for providing me with such a positive environment.”

Frank Zamboni got more out of his invention than what he expected. All he wanted to do was invent a machine that would smooth out the ice to make it easier to skate on, but what he created instead was the missing link to the bond between hockey and its fans. Mr. Zamboni also became an idol to many people, one of them being Heather Baug.

Atlanta United kicks into a great season

By Amy Kim, Staff Writer

Atlanta’s Major League Soccer team, Atlanta United FC, began their first season on March 5 against the New York Red Bulls. Unfortunately, they lost 2-1, which was devastating to the fans who had already dedicated their support to the team, despite it being their first game ever. However, some loyal fans still remained for the team’s comeback in winning their next two consecutive matches.

The team itself is nationally diverse. Atlanta United FC is a soccer team in the Eastern conference of the MLS, yet they recruited players from all over the world to participate in the team. The coaches themselves are from Argentina, and players from Venezuela, England, Germany, Trinidad and Tobago, Paraguay, Chile, Ireland, Greece, and Honduras have all come together to play for the Atlanta team.

The home games take place at the Bobby Dodd Stadium, but by July 30, the games are expected to move to the newly opened Mercedes-Benz Stadium. Many people went to see the team’s first home game, including Sophomore Sahil Khatri, who said his experience was “really great; the stadium was full, and the game was good.”

For those who can’t go to the stadium to watch the games live, they are also aired on TV. To find out which station they air on, the Atlanta United website has all of the times and details readily available for fans.

A few students from Parkview play in the Atlanta United academy, which is a fully funded academy for training young soccer players who aspire to become something greater. Sophomore Kendall Edwards, Parkview’s varsity boys’ defender last year, plays in the U16 team in the academy. Student Alwin Khoja expressed his admiration for Edwards’ skills, saying, “Kendall is the reason why the varsity boys made it to state last year.”

Although the Atlanta United FC team is just starting out, the fans supporting their local team are always appreciated. Support doesn’t always have to be live from the stadium but just watching the match on TV and cheering for the team is enough to call oneself a fan.

New England Sports year in review

New England has had an exciting year in the sports world. The Patriots won the Super Bowl, the Bruins fired head coach Claude Julien, and the Red Sox entered their first season without the legendary David Ortiz.

The Patriots won Super Bowl 51 against the Atlanta Falcons in overtime. Tom Brady led the team to a 31-28 win, making it the Patriots’ and Tom Brady’s fifth Super bowl win, and it was all done in less than two decades. The Patriots broke multiple records in the game. Super Bowl 51 was the first Super Bowl to go into overtime, ever, the Patriots came back from a 25 point deficit in the second half, and Tom Brady became the first quarterback to win five Super Bowls. The Patriots really got their game together after wide receiver, Julian Edelman, made an astounding catch with two minutes and 23 seconds left on the clock in the fourth quarter. Brady also made sure the Falcons never lost to him in his career, so far.

After the Patriots won Super Bowl 51, the Bruins fired head coach Claude Julien. Coach Julien was one of, if not, the best coach in Bruins history as the Bruin’s most winningest coach. Some say the Bruins organization chose to fire Julien after the Super Bowl to take pressure off of Tom Brady, while others say it’s just a coincidence. The Bruins fired Coach Julien because of the Bruins’ failure to perform as well as they normally would during the regular season. General Manager Don Sweeney fired him after a two game losing streak, following a three game winning streak. Claude Julien was replaced by assistant head coach Bruce Cassidy. The first game Cassidy coached as head coach was against the San Jose Sharks at TD Garden, and the Bruins clinched a 6-3 victory starting their first four game winning streak of the season. Bruins’ fans were ecstatic until they found out that their biggest rivals, the Montreal Canadiens, had fired their head coach Michel Therrien and hire Claude Julien as their new head coach.

As for the Red Sox, they went into their first season without David Ortiz, or Big Papi, since 2003. Ortiz quickly became the face of the Boston Red Sox after their 2004 World Series victory. Many of Ortiz’s teammates saw him as a leader and a friend who loved the game of baseball. A new round of Red Sox players went into the regular 2017 season in a good position, and there are a few players who stick out with potential to become big names in the league. Along with the new players, they still have second base man, Dustin Pedroia, who is, arguably, one of the most dedicated players in the entire league and always plays like it’s tied going into extra innings in game seven of the World Series whether it be spring training, regular season, postseason, or the World Series. As for Ortiz, he is still very much involved with the Red Sox and Boston community and will be disappearing no time soon.

New England’s excitement around sports hasn’t all been good, but that’s the case with any city that has passionate athletes and passionate fans. Boston is known for its sports teams and fans. I mean, what federal judge do you know get free Dunkin’ Donuts coffee for life because he nul- lified Tom Brady’s suspension? Boston lives through its sports, and whether the teams have good or bad seasons or have drama surrounding them, the fans never fail to disappoint the support for their favorite teams.

Hacking scandal in the MLB

By Meagan Gabrielson, Sports Editor

Scan to read an article about the hacking situation between the St. Louis Cardinals and the Houston Astros.
In ten years, these seniors see themselves...

“I see myself owning my own brand and successful company!” - Julia Gallucci

“In a relationship and busy paying off college debt, if I’m being honest.” - Yaphet Dilnesaw

“In ten years, I see myself playing in the NFL or running in the Olympics.” - Demarius Smith

“I want to be a logistics executive and assist in running international commerce for UPS.” - Dalton Jackson

“Having finished medical school and pursuing my ambition as a renowned surgeon.” - Muhammed Agloria

“The plan is to be travelling constantly and to be a massive workaholic.” - Laura Foster

“Hopefully in ten years I’ll have a few best-selling novels, or at least a book deal.” - Madison Johnson

“Probably still stealing phone chargers...maybe a physical therapist. Who knows.” - Danielle Franklin

“Traveling the world and hopefully running a popular blog!” - Hydiah Sylla

“Living happily in a cute apartment, working on a project, with pets and a girlfriend.” - Amy Pham


“Being independent: someone with goals and aspirations, and someone who is close to achieving them!” - Rumka Gill

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