

The Pirate Speaks

Senior Issue
April 2014



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Meet The *Staff*



Carrie Brower



Emily Crawford



KATIE SIMS



Brealand Bowie



Emily Waters
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Bella Kyzar



Madison Byrd



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Class of

2014

Pearl High School, 500 Pirate Cove, Pearl, MS 39208

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You've Got to Have *Faith*

By: **Carrie Brower**

Senior year is challenging for anyone, but this busy teen takes the high school challenges to a whole new level. Faith Harris, Pearl Pirate senior, is a devoted young woman dedicated to band, choir, and many extracurricular activities and clubs. Faith faces many challenges when trying to keep up with school, family, and friends. "A lot of my friends are involved in many of the same clubs as me, so it's easy hang out with them. I really only see my family at night and on the weekends."

Music is a big part of Faith's life. She is involved in band, indoor percussion, chamber singers, pearl singers, and women's chorus. "Music has been an escape from all the busyness and difficulties of school. I look forward to going to band, because it's something I enjoy doing; making music." Assistant band director, Matt Little, is Faith's biggest inspiration. "No matter how hard things get, he always encourages me to do my best." Band is Faith's favorite activity and says she will miss most after graduating. "It's been an honor to lead the Pearl Pirate Band for three years."

Faith is going from a Pearl Pirate to an Ole Miss Black Bear. She wants to major in either physical therapy or music education. "My niece Ryleigh inspired me to be a physical therapist. She has spina bifida. I enjoy helping her and I would love to help others." Mr. Little and Mr. Rowen, band directors at Pearl High School, helped Faith realize her passion for music. Winning the band state championship as her first year of being drum major is Faith's favorite high school memory. "As a freshman I was really quiet and didn't really step up to be a leader. But over the years I grew out of my shell and I enjoy leading others."

Being involved with mayors youth council, student council, beta club, national honors society, super scholars, and key club along with years of good grades and hard work, Faith has become a Hall of Fame member here at PHS. "I was pretty surprised when I found out I got in. There were a lot of eligible candidates." Faith will miss the faculty and staff when she graduates. "They encourage me to do my best each and every day. The most important thing I've learned is you have to push yourself to do your best even through hard times."

"The past four years at PHS have had their ups and downs, but without these contrasting experiences I would not be where I am today."





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National Merit Finalists

The National Merit Scholarship Program is an academic competition for recognition and scholarships that began in 1955. High school students enter the National Merit Program by taking the PSAT/NMSQT—a test which serves as an initial screen of approximately 1.5 million entrants each year—and by meeting published program entry/participation requirements. About 16,000 students qualify as semifinalists. Then, some 15,000 students advance to Finalist standing. To be considered for a finalist position, a student must have a record of consistently high academic performance in all grades 9th through 12th, be a U.S. citizen, and be enrolled in the last year of high school and be planning to enroll full time in college.

<http://www.nationalmerit.org/nms.php>

Michael Spears

Senior Michael Spears is the treasurer of the Pearl Pirate Band, secretary of the Thespian troop 4537, and a representative of the student council. He is also a member of Pearl High School Singers, Beta Club, Key Club, NHS, Super Scholars, and Pirates for Christ. Michael has been a part of various plays here at Pearl High School; he has played characters such as: FDR in Annie, Bilbo Baggins in The Hobbit, and Reverend Hale in The Crucible; but his favorite was when he played Frankie in Forever Plaid because of all the support they got. His parents have been his biggest supporters. “At least one has attended everything.”

“Music is a moral law. It gives soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and life to everything,” a quote by Plato, is Michael’s favorite because for him, “It always comes back to music.”

Michael said he will always treasure the memories from productions. “Performing is something that I really, really love.”

High school for Michael in a single word has been “growth”, and he is going to miss all the people when he leaves.

Michael is really proud of making it to National Merit Finalist standing. “That’s all my efforts coming to fruition.”

He has gotten a scholarship for Mississippi State, where he plans to attend for electrical engineering.

Michael leaves us with this bit of wisdom, “High school’s a great time to figure out who you are.”



Setting the Stage

By: KATIE SIMS

Drew LaFontaine

Coming into high school freshman year senior Drew LaFontaine did not have expectations for what the next four years would hold. However, Drew believes it is a lot better than he thought it would be and finds himself closer to his friends and teachers than he expected he would be.

Drew is an active member of Key Club, Beta Club, and NHS. He is also a drum major in the Pear Pirate Band and is team captain of the Academic Quiz Bowl.



His parents have been his biggest supporters throughout; Drew said, “They admire the person that I’ve become.” Drew also said Coach Purnell is a teacher who has helped him grow and was a good transition into high school. Pearl High School has taught him to “persevere, even when it’s not going your way; keep pushing.” His favorite quote is by Dorothea Blanch, “Act as if it is impossible to fail.”

John Adams winning the womanless pageant Drew’s junior year is his funniest memory from high school. He believes not getting to see all the people is going to be the hardest thing about leaving.

When Drew learned he was named a National Merit Finalist, he was ecstatic. “It was almost a surreal experience.”

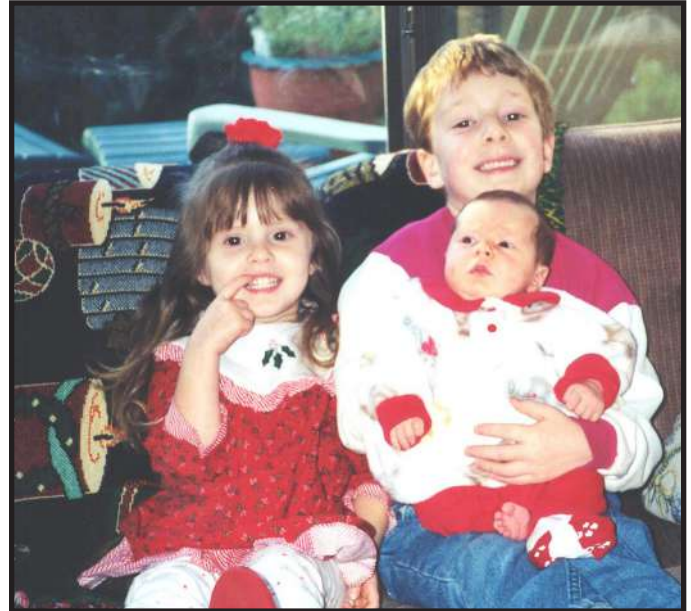
He has been offered full rides to Mississippi State, Ole Miss, Auburn, Alabama, Georgia, and many others. He plans to attend Mississippi State for chemical engineering.

For the underclassmen, Drew left this advice, “Find your niche, explore all the options open to you, and if you find something, stick to it.”

Looking Forward

By: Emily Crawford

Throughout my three years at Pearl High School, I have acquired many treasured friends and memories. From the laughs and good times, to the studious hard work, there was never a dull moment here. As I move on to college life, I will never forget the impact PHS has made on me. My plan is to attend William Carey University and work towards a Bachelor's degree in Nursing and two minor degrees in Christian Studies and Spanish, remembering my humble roots here in Pearl. In graduating, I will have to take on many responsibilities and face many challenges. However, with the values and skills I have been taught at PHS I know that I will succeed in accomplishing any future goals I may set for myself.



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A New Journey

by: *Madison Byrd* and *Zak Burrow*

Shayna Garner, Pearl High School's Student Body Secretary and Head Prom Chair, has been granted a leadership scholarship to the University of Southern Mississippi. "Band has shown me that I need to be a leader, forcing me to grow up in the past four years, and making me the person I am today," Shayna said. Although Shayna is planning to attend the University of Southern Mississippi, she originally wished to go to Ole Miss. "I actually decided to go to 'Southern Miss' only two weeks ago!" The senior laughed.

This lifelong attendant of Pearl High School could not picture herself in any other school. When talking about her senior year, Shayna said: "I'm going to miss the great faculty, because my teachers and counselors have really helped me make it through this year."

Mrs. Morgigno is Shayna's inspiration, someone who influenced her greatly, as Shayna wants to be a high school counselor after graduating college. "She's taught me a lot about life in general, and she helped me choose my career."

Shayna advises students coming into their senior year to get as involved as possible. "In the end it will help you, both with your social life and applications for scholarships." Shayna has kept herself busy by being in the Pearl "Pirate" Band and Student Council for four years, Beta club for two and Key club for one.

"This year has had some unexpected turns, but in all I'm happy with how it's played out." Shayna is enrolled in Pearl High school's college classes to help prepare herself for the classes at University of Southern Mississippi.

"Of course I'm nervous about college, because it's a whole new level of life, meeting new people and getting used to a new environment. But I'm also excited about it, for the same reason I'm nervous about it: It's a new journey," Shayna explained.

When considering the new atmosphere and lifestyle at college, Shayna admitted: "I'll miss my family a lot, but hopefully as time goes on I won't be as homesick as I will be in the beginning."

"I've had a great experience at PHS, and I'll miss it dearly," Shayna said, still flashing her bright smile.



Shayna Garner has two younger sisters, laughing as she said: "It's always fun for my dad, being the only guy in a house full of women."

"It's a whole new level of life, meeting new people and getting used to a new environment... *It's a new journey.*"

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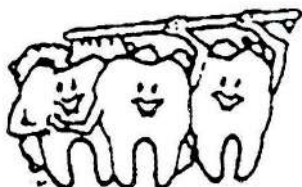


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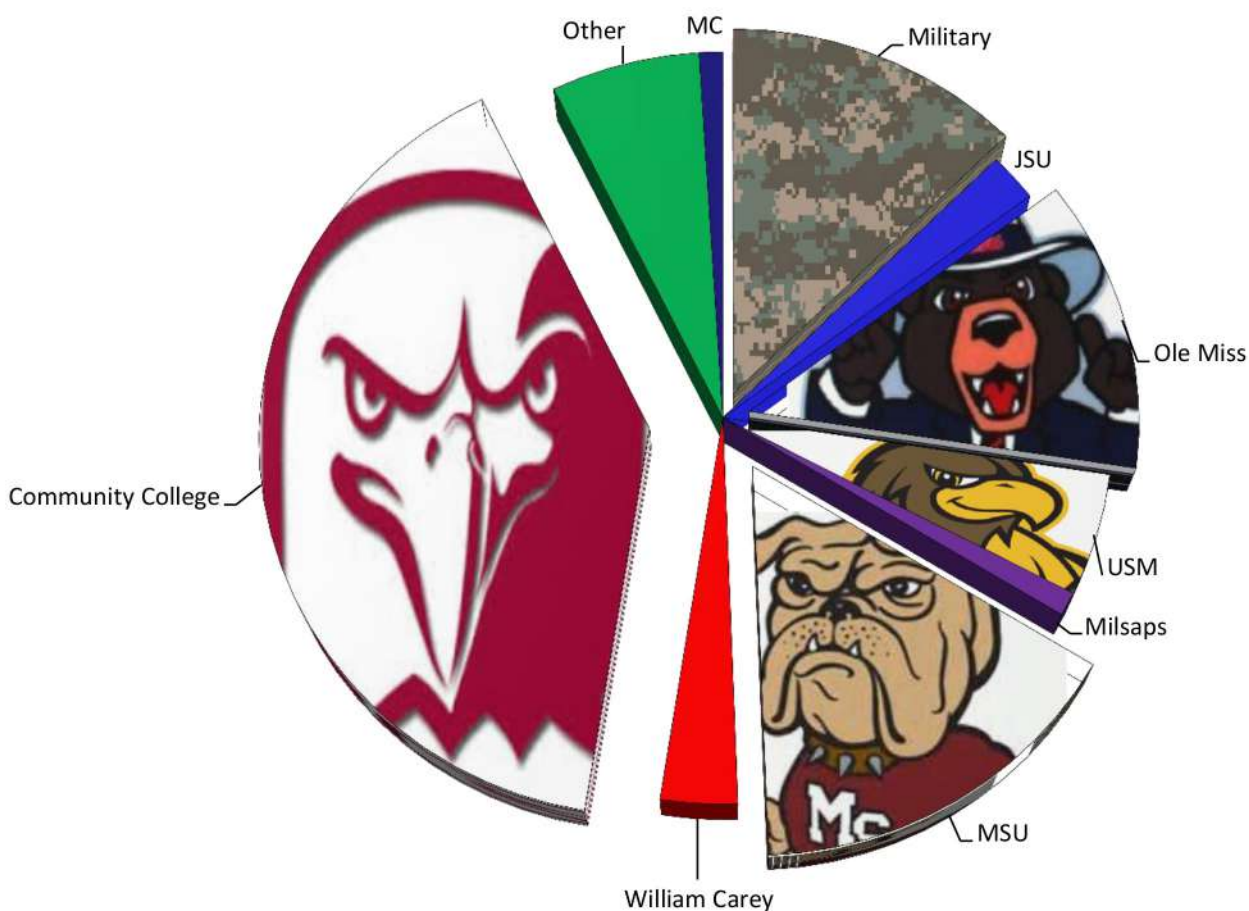
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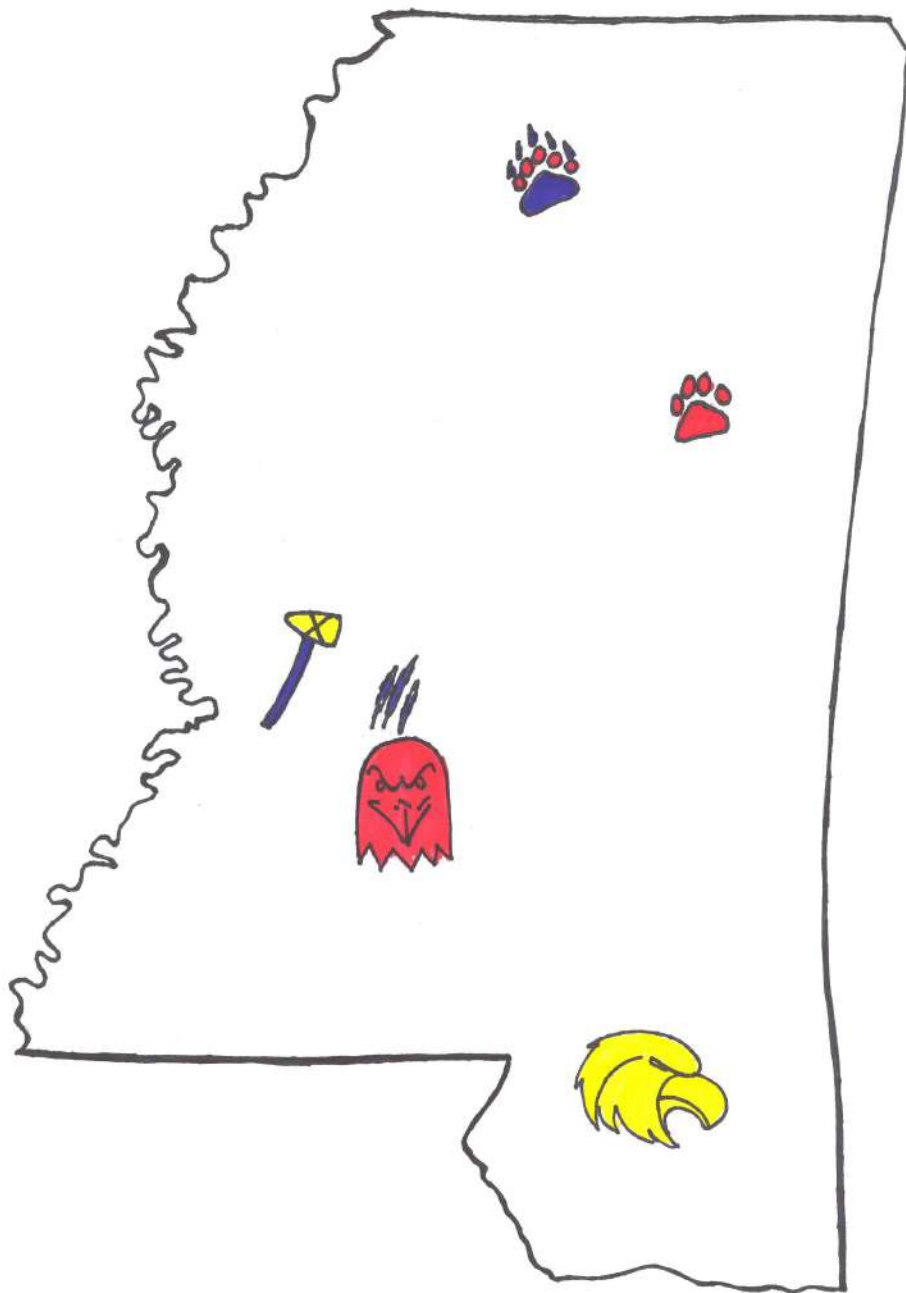
Where Are You Headed?

By: *Bella Kyzar* and **Emily Waters**

“Where are you headed?” The Pirate Speaks surveyed the class of 2014 to find out where they are going after graduation. The answers ranged from all around Mississippi and even a few out of state. The Pirate Speaks put together a graph and map to display the results.

Every member of The Pirate Speaks wants to wish all of the seniors good luck with all of their endeavors. Always remember, it's a great day to be a pirate.





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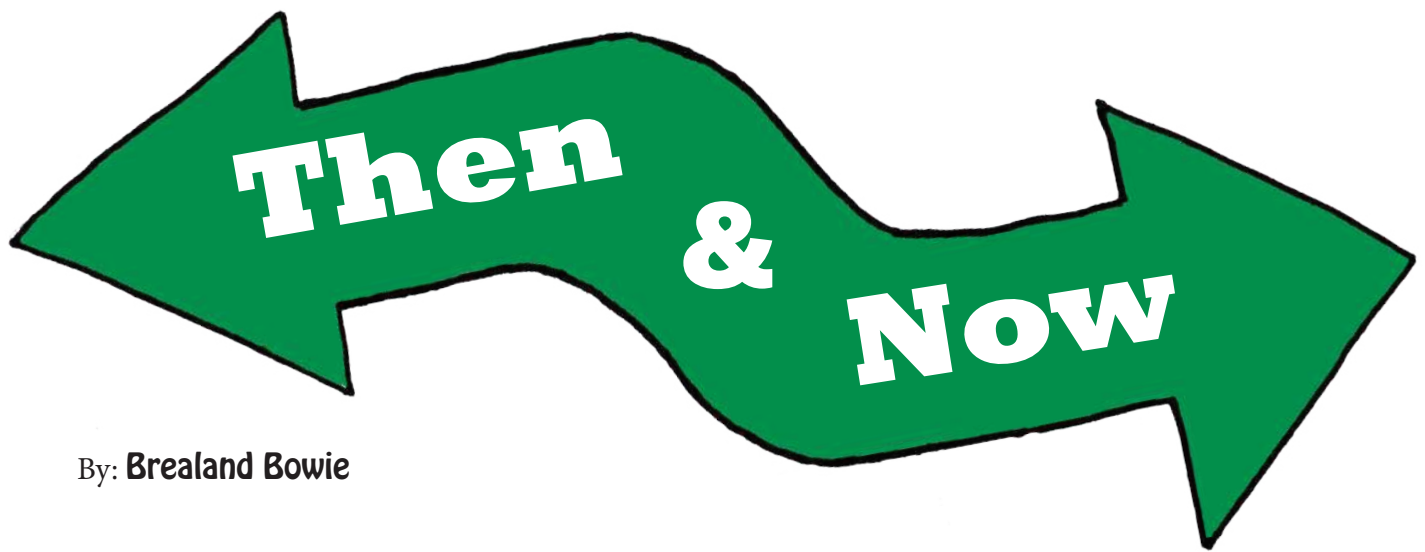


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“Wherever you go, go with all your heart...”
- Confucius



By: **Brealand Bowie**

The Pirate Speaks asked some of the seniors how their future plans have changed from when they were a freshman to now.



Catherine Griffin started her freshman year wanting to become a marine biologist and and be apart of saving animals and our enviroment. Now that Griffin is a senior she plans to be nurse. "I choose to help people instead and no one has been able to stop me yet," Griffin said.



Throughout Bailey Hart's high school career he has made several changes to his future plans. As a freshman, Hart was sure that one day he was going to attend college and then go into the army. He also hoped to be recruited by the G.I. Joes. Sadly, Hart was informed that the G.I. Joes are nonexistent. Now Hart plans to attent Ohio State to play soccer and eventually play professionally.



When Sara Hardin was a freshman she believed she wanted to graduate from Ole Miss and become a teacher. Now Hardin is finishing out her senior year and she has changed her plans. Hardin would like to attend the Mississippi University for Women and become either a speech pathologist or a special education teacher.



Some students stay persistent to their plans all through out high school. Since freshman year Taylor Gilmore has strived to one day become a princess. Unfortunately she does not feel this goal can be met since she can't find a prince and she does not have one drop of royal blood. Gilmore still hopes these plans will somehow work out in the future.



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10 YEARS A PIRATE

By: **Emily Waters**

“Standing teenagers make me nervous!” If someone were to walk into Ms. Ann DeFoore’s classroom, there is a good chance they would hear her utter those words at least once. They might also notice the fluorescent pink flamingos that are covering the walls. Ms. DeFoore gets quite a few questions about her little pink friends. “I do not have them in my house, I promise! I didn’t want a boring math room. I wanted something that wasn’t math-y. If Dollar Tree had had zebras, then we would be looking at zebras!” She hasn’t quite decided what she is going to do with her thirty-six flamingos now that she is retiring.

Ms. DeFoore has been teaching for twenty years. Although, teaching is only one of several jobs she has had and Pearl, Mississippi is one of several places this teaching veteran has lived. She taught in Pensacola, Florida for eight and half years. She worked with the computer company, IBM, for thirteen years. While with IBM, she moved quite a few times; she lived in Mississippi, Minnesota, Georgia, and West Virginia. Then she worked at the Mississippi State Department of Education for seven years. Next, she was a drafter at a civil engineering firm for two years. Then she worked at Morton as a teacher for two years. This brings us to her most recent job of ten years at Pearl High School.

“I really thought about retiring last year, but ten is a better number than nine. You cannot retire at nine!” Now that she is retiring, Ms. DeFoore wants to do something crafty. She makes doll clothes in her spare time, and she really wants to get more involved in that. She would also love to teach a few college classes at Hinds.

“I always knew I wanted to be a teacher, I just didn’t know what I was going to teach. I went to Hinds and decided that if I could pass a semester of Calculus, I would teach math. I did, and I did.” Ms. DeFoore had typical new teacher jitters. She walked in on her very first day, they gave her one hundred and twenty kids, and her only thought was, ‘I gotta lead this group?!’ “Some of my absolute favorite moments of teaching are when a kid runs up to me and says, ‘I passed college algebra because of you!’”

Her favorite part of working at Pearl High School is the quality and pride that everyone takes in their job, especially in the math department. “You just want to be a part of that. It makes you better.” She is going to miss the teens the most; “I love them! Teaching has taught me to learn continuously. I have loved working with the teens; they are different than adults. They keep you involved and current.”



Ms. DeFoore wants to leave everyone with her philosophy of life, “Never convince yourself that who you are, is who you are meant to be.”

Chasing a *Dream*

By: *Bella Kyzar*

Since eighth grade Tony Micer has dreamt of graduating and attending school for engineering. It wasn't until recently that this senior's visions started to fall into place. After attending Boys' State, a leadership program held across the country, the seventeen year old received a large scholarship, along with two others through Mississippi State, the college he'll be attending after high school.

"One was for academic excellence... An engineering alumni personally donated [a significant amount] to my name," he replied when asked about the scholarships received. His advice to students seeking a career in the engineering field is, "Study. Study a lot. It's going to be hard work because there's lots of math, science, and other prerequisites. Most of all, just keep your head in the game... No need to get bogged down in anything petty or unnecessary."

Tony is in multiple extracurricular activities, including NJROTC, which he believes has been greatly beneficial to him throughout his high school career. "It's honestly just brought everything that I could be into reality," he said.

"It's going to be hard work... Just keep your head in the game."

positions. I manage the staff of the unit, who pretty much keep the entire thing running."

This year Tony was appointed Executive Officer of the battalion, and when asked about his role within the unit, his reply was, "Essentially I help organize and lead the entire battalion in my commander's absence. Further, I'm expected to help bring up the youth from the next year and prepare those [future] leaders for their



Tony at this year's Annual Military Inspection.
Photo by Bella Kyzar

In five to ten years Tony sees himself finishing up a Master's degree at MSU and starting his career. His advice to anyone chasing their dreams is, "The biggest obstacle to your success is going to be yourself. In the end there's nothing standing in your way but your own fears and trepidations."

Guess The Baby



Baby #1



Baby #2



Baby #3



Baby #4



Baby #5



Baby #6



**Mr. Adam
Fazier**



**Matt
McNair**



**Mrs. Karen
Winder**



**Mrs. Angie
Mangum**



**Bobnitra
Kelly**



**Tyler
Goins**

Answers : baby #1- Bobnitra Kelly, baby #2- Mr.Adam Frazier, baby #3- Mrs.Karen Winder, baby #4- Tyler Goins, baby #5- Matt McNair, baby #6- Mrs.Angie Mangum

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Lundy Brantley, Ph.D

Principal

Dear Seniors,

Seniors, it is almost graduation time!! Let me be the first to congratulate you on this great accomplishment. It is so hard to believe that your senior year is drawing to an end. You guys have had a tremendous year and you have conducted yourselves in a manner that sheds a positive light on the school.

You have been involved in so many successes at PHS. You have earned STAR/A school status three years in a row, won numerous championships in many areas, and built on the tradition of excellence that PHS is known for. You have learned many life lessons during your time at PHS that will help you in so many ways in your future choices.

You are about to embark on a new journey. The journey will take you on so many great adventures and different pathways. There will be times of exuberance and times of disappointment. No matter what happens you should always persevere and keep your eyes on your goals. Your time at PHS has well-prepared you for college and career readiness. There will be no challenges that you can't persevere through.

In closing, I would like to wish you well. Come back and see us and always remember..."It's a Great Day to be a Pirate!!"

Sincerely,



Dr. Lundy Brantley

John B. Craven
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Dale Shepherd
Assistant Principal

Tracy Yates
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