

Volume 1, Issue 2

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PTSD

PTMS Press

STEELERS TO PLAY PTSD

The Peters Township Middle School Student Council and PTA are excited to announce that the Pittsburgh Steelers will be playing our faculty and staff in a basketball game on Friday, May 15, 2009. The game will take place in the PTMS gymnasium and will begin at 8:00 p.m., with pre-game activities at 6:45. The cost of tickets will be \$7.00 each and will be on sale in April. We hope to see the entire PTSD and community at the game. Who will YOU be cheering for? Six-pack champions? Nah... teachers control your grades...

Steelers Basketball vs Peters Township

May 15, 2009 • PTMS Gym
All Tickets \$7
Pre-Game Activities Start at 6:45 p.m.
Gametime 8 p.m.



High School Hustle

By Hannah Jacobs

High school is usually known as either the best or worst time of a student's life. When Ricky Palacios, a current senior at PTHS, was asked to recall the hardest thing about moving up to the high school he replied, "The amount of work required outside of class. I think that the subject material was still relatively easy, but the homework load every night was not something I was used to...." Most students said that the size of the high school, compared to the middle school, was the most difficult aspect.

High school courses are some-what chosen by the individual. There are different levels based on challenge, and electives that are chosen by desire. The majority of students agreed that Honors American Government and Biology were their hardest ninth grade classes because of the teachers and the courses of study.

Extracurricular activities are one thing that a high school is always known for. Whether it be for sports or educational clubs, out-of-school activities are known for being one of the high lights of a high school student's career. Colleges often look at involvement and participation in extracurricular activities to show the student did well in more than just academics. Academic, sport, music, and competitive activities are just a few of the countless offered through the Peters Township High school.

When asked to give an evaluation of their personal high school experience, the average grade of Peters Township High School was a 75%. Everyone is sure to find somewhere in high school to fit in and make a high school to remember.

WheelMart

By Cale Bollman

The new WheelMart at the Peters Township Middle School is a cart that sells school supplies such as pens, pencils, led, erasers, ect. during study lab. On Monday and Wednesday, the WheelMart goes to seventh grade study labs, and, on Tuesday and Thursday, the WheelMart goes to eighth grade study labs. The WheelMart is run by Jordan Troop, with the help of volunteer Scott Hanlon. When Scott was asked what the best part of working with the WheelMart was, he answered, "My favorite part is being able to go to other study labs and helping Jordan." Scott was asked why he thought that other people enjoy the WheelMart, and he replied, "I think people enjoy it because they can buy school supplies that they forgot, or if they just need a pencil." In a random survey, many people said that they enjoy the WheelMart. The cart is very successful, and people are really enjoying it.

SPORTS



Wrestling

By Lauren Belack

One! Two! Three! Pinned! This is what the PTMS wrestling guys have been hearing all season with them on top. The team put all their efforts into conditioning and competing. The boys did an excellent job, only losing once and finishing eighth in the state.



Cheerleading

By Jenna Nelson

Cheerleading is such a fun sport because you can hang out with friends, dance, and cheer on your team. I love cheerleading after school because it is a relaxing time when I can just chill and hang out while doing a sport I love. Throughout this season we had fantastic coaches, Coach Noonan and Coach Bastyr, that worked very hard to help us learn our dance routine and strive to perfect it. During the football season our team did well and during the basketball season our teams were phenomenal. I had a great season with the rest of my team and loved cheerleading this year.

Dodge Ball Mayhem

By Jeff Bergman

Congregated in the Peters Township High School gymnasium on Monday, February 9, hundreds of eager students and parents watched teachers from each of the five district schools compete in the fifth annual Peters Township dodge ball tournament to raise money for the Make-A-Wish foundation. In their first game, the middle school and the high school battled it out with students biting their nails. "Big Time" Amend, the last man standing for PTMS, got lucky when a ball hit the floor and miraculously bounced right into his hands. The ball was then sent flying back, and the buzzer rang as the high school science teacher, Mr. Compeggie, hurled the ball towards Amend, only to be caught at the last millisecond.

Lets jump to the championship game; PTMS against the fantastic McMurray team. Again, only one man was left for both teams. "Z" of the middle school sees the ball coming and spirals one back in Mr. Keffel's direction. Keffel is out! The rowdy middle school crowd chants "Z" as PTMS claims the title as best dodge ball team. Amend exclaimed, "It was great for the middle school to bring home the championship, but the best thing about the evening was raising so much money for the Make-A-Wish foundation."



Basketball

By Carla Hoge

This year PTMS had basketball teams for girls and boys in seventh and eighth grade. These teams were absolutely amazing. Their awesome coaches led the teams to victory after victory, and the athletes themselves learned a lot and had fun. Congratulations go to all of the middle school teams for a great season.

Ski Trips

By Matt Mullan

The Peters Township Middle School goes on ski trips a few times a month in the winter. On the ski trips, we take a bus to Seven Springs after school. On the way there, you get to talk to your friends and teachers that go on the trips. The price of the trip is pretty decent. Cost ranges from \$20 to \$60, depending on what you need to purchase/rent, and what you already have. You get to ski or tube until about 10, and you must be back on the bus by 10:30 p.m. The ski trips to Seven Springs are a lot of fun. Hope to see you there!



Bowling

By Ms. Maddas

Bowling is a sport that really doesn't get much attention. But, everyone in this school knows that a 200 game is really good, and a 300 game (all strikes) is nearly impossible to achieve. There is a student in Peters Township Middle School who bowled a 300 game, the youngest person to do so in the area. Congratulations go to 8th grader Zach Schiewer for bowling a perfect game.



IN & AFTER CLASS

McDonalds

By Sarah Grossi

On January 13th and 14th, 7th grade Goal and Family and Consumer Science classes visited McDonalds to learn about healthy food.

It was a neat idea to learn about the food industry at McDonalds. We learned about their history, how they store food, and even how they transport food shipments. The video the 7th grade watched on food shipments was very educational. It was about how McDonalds packs and transports the food. Many of the facts were quite interesting; a delivery truck actually has three temperature zones. When the video ended, we got to take a tour of the kitchen. As we walked along, you could tell that McDonald's is a very clean and well maintained restaurant.

Once the tour was completed, we got to eat lunch. You could order whatever you liked. Seeing how McDonalds works and seeing the workers in action was a very interesting sight.

Winter Dance

By Carolyn Grachen

This year our winter dance was really fun! There were cookies, drinks and a photo booth with a winter background. You could dance in the gym with the DJ, who played all of the popular songs you can think of. In between songs, the DJ would call out raffle numbers for tickets that were handed out at the door and ones from turning in Box Tops. The prizes were gift cards from Hollister, Aeropostale, Gap, and many other popular places. Our winter dance this year was very entertaining.

Mrs. Hanley's fifth and sixth period classes took a very educational field trip to the Carnegie Science Center in November. The Sci-Tech festival was going on, and the students went around to different stations set up by companies. These stations educated interested passerbys with facts about that occupation, requirements, and random facts (ex: there are more germs on some cell phones than a toilet seat). A medical station even had a manikin that had a "pulse" and "breathed". Two classes were mandatory; a CSI class disproved the methods of CSI shows, and a robotics class that taught and made programming robots into a competition. Everyone went to see an iMax movie, "Mummies." It was a successful trip!

Student Council

By Maple Chen

On the first Tuesday of each month, the Student Council members arrive at 7:15 to have a meeting in Ms. Maddas' room. They discuss important issues, fundraisers, and activities. These dedicated students discuss events that could be held at the school. They organize fundraisers and school activities, such as the Red Ribbon Week and dress-up days.

"It's a great experience," Student Council member Sarah Bowler exclaims. "It's great to feel you are contributing to the school." The Student Council members sacrifice valuable sleep time to arrive at the school early. In helping improve the school, they have done everyone a service by providing us with fun activities and better education.



Carnegie Science Center

By Carla Hoge



Photo brought to you by e-flux.com

Life on Mars

By Maggie Rickman

On November 4, 2008, the advanced art students from Peters Township Middle School went on a fieldtrip to the Carnegie Museum of Art, where they would tour the modern art exhibit "Life On Mars".

Upon arrival, several groups were immediately taken on the tour, while others completed an educational scavenger hunt based on the wide variety of art pieces in the exhibit.

Some of the work was rather eccentric and hard to understand. The guide had to explain thoroughly what was going on.

"The artwork had a lot of emotion behind it, but you had to think really hard about the artist's perspective and thoughts to truly understand it," stated Jessica Thompson, a student on the trip. "This field trip really opened my eyes to a whole new style of art."

Students agree that this was an educational and enlightening fieldtrip.

Café Day

By Madelyn Estep

Café day is one of the most looked-forward to days in PTMS French class. Students bring in soda, chips, cheese, fruit, candy, cookies, or any other fun snacks. Many different cakes are served for the different holidays. One example is the Bouche de Noel, served at Christmas time. Another French cake is the King Cake, which is a normal cake, with a tiny plastic baby inside. Whoever gets the baby is king for a day. This cake is consumed on Mardi Gras. Café day is a great day for the French students, as long as they remember their snacks.

IN & AFTER CLASS

Night of Concerts

Minutes after the 7th grade band students left the stage the 8th grade band students entered the LGI. The colorful lighting cast multicolored patterns on the student's white shirts as the individuals took their seats and arranged their music. Mr. Nesaw introduced the first song, and the students began their show. Songs included "Scheherazade," "Fantasy on Russian Air," "Whitewater Journey," and "Velocity." The awesome oboe section did an outstanding job playing "Gabriel's Oboe," and the duets in the song "Baby It's Cold Outside" were perfect. The 8th Grade band really did an amazing job. All of the hard work really payed off in that night of concerts!

7th and 8th grade Orchestra Concert

By Annie Mackowick

On Wednesday January 14th, the 7th and 8th grade orchestra students came together in the Peters Township Middle School auditorium to perform the best of what they've learned over the past four months. Many pieces were played, such as "Colors of the Wind" from Pocahontas, "Folk Festival", and a "Fugue", which is a very difficult piece for musician to play. There were many fantastic soloists who were accompanied by Mrs. Fox, the conductor and director of the orchestra, on piano. She was very impressed by the performance of both grades, but she says there is always room for improvement. Mr. Wagner, who was in the sound booth during the concert, believed that the concert was the best he had heard in years. This has been a great start for the Middle School Orchestra, and it will continue to get better every practice, rehearsal, and school year.

Choral Holidays

By Emily McKenzie

The Peters Township Middle School chorus meets every other day in the L.G.I to practice their music. They have just finished a series of Winter Concerts at the Peters Township Middle School, a field trip to Friendship Village Senior Citizens Home, and a field trip to the Washington County Courthouse. They had an absolutely outstanding performance, singing songs such as "Santa Claus is Coming to Town", "The Twelve Days of Christmas", and "Blue Christmas". The spring concert is coming in April, and they will do as well as they did for the Holiday Concert.



7th Grade Band

By Abby Whalen

The seventh grade band put on a fantastic show on February 11, 2009. Each song had its own style that was portrayed quite well by the band. The song list included Stargazer, "Cartoon Symphony", "The Marches of John Williams", "Ignite the Night", "Witches Brew", and "Buccaneers". Despite the scheduling delay, they played wonderfully. Although they never would have been able to achieve a great show without their awesome teacher, Mr. Nesaw! Congratulations for performing a spectacular show!



Can You Spell That Please?

By Karen Ellis

The 2009 Peters Township Spelling Bee was held Thursday, January 15, 2009. Among the qualifying participants were 6th grade students from McMurray Elementary and 7th and 8th grade students from Peters Township Middle School. The fifty-four spellers gathered in the LGI at Peters Township Middle School to rise to the challenge.

The first place winner, Maple Chen, will represent Peters Township at the Regional Spelling Bee to be held on Saturday, March 21st at the University of Pittsburgh campus. Congratulations to all those who participated and good luck to Maple.

Eighth Grade Schedules

By Carla Hoge

On February 3, 2009, the eighth grade students walked into their Social Studies classes and were immediately met by high-school guidance counselors. The entire class-period was devoted to learning of the future... the dreaded High School! Well, what we learned was that the High School isn't really that scary. The guidance counselors explained everything we need to know, so relax and enjoy our last few weeks of middle school. For the eighth graders, we are preparing to start the rest of our lives, and for the seventh graders, get ready, because you will be in the same position in less than a year.

IN & AFTER CLASS

Teen Center

By Sarah Luzier

Teen Center is a fun way to spend your Friday night. Teen Center is held at the Park and Recreation Center on the third Friday of the month. This takes place only during the school year from 8:00-10:00 P.M. This fun-filled event is an opportunity for Middle School students to get together with their friends, socialize, meet new people, dance, play sports, participate in X-box games, and enjoy a variety of other activities that are available. Sheila Coquet, Recreation Supervisor for the Rec Center, is in charge of this program. "This is a great event for our community and it is our hope that many students will come and see what Teen Center is all about." The cost to attend is \$3 with your student ID and \$4 without your ID. Hope to see you at the next Teen Centers on March 20, April 17.

PJAS

By Mrs. Palko

PJAS is an academic competition usually held on a Saturday in February. The students who participate must decide on a science experiment that they would like to conduct. Students must research information about their experiment. For example, if your project deals with mold on bread, you would research mold retardant and what type of mold is formed on bread. The student will then form a hypothesis dealing with the experiment. All experiments must be run at least 3 times and all data must be documented. Charts and graphs made on a computer are a must. When you go to the competition you take the overheads that you made (in school) from your typed information and graphs. Your presentation and overheads will be presented to the judges at California University, California, Pa. Congratulations to the first place winners and good luck at states!

Ski Trip

By Greg Lippert

January 9, 2009, as another week of school ended, a few dozen kids from PTMS were on their way to Seven Springs Ski Resort. This was the first trip of the season, and, for some, their first time up there. After an hour long bus ride of watching "Click," the two buses pulled into the resort. The temperature was barely hovering over zero, yet no one seemed to care as they filed off of the bus and grabbed their belongings. Most of the slopes were all powder. The only ice on the mountain was on the infamous North Face. "The conditions are great. It's a little cold, but we're still having fun," commented Sam Moore, an eighth grade skier. After a few hours of great skiing, it was time to get back on the bus. Everyone had fun, with no major injuries. Finally, around midnight, the bus pulled back into PTMS.

PTMS Variety Show

By Erica Wright

Every year the students at Peters Township Middle School have a talent show, called the Variety Show. The students at PTMS perform talents including dancing, singing, comedy, musical talents, and other acts. PTMS puts on this show so that students can express themselves and show off their "hidden" talent. This show was held right before Christmas break, on December 19, 2008. It was performed twice, once for the seventh grade and another for the eighth grade. The masters of ceremony were the always amusing Mr. Elders and Mrs. Baeir, assisted by the elves Brett DiCello and Michelle Severa. The show ended in a well-deserved standing ovation.



Spanish

By Maddie Caso

Hola! Me llamo Maddie Caso. Mi profesora es Senorita Cabot. Ella es muy inteligente, graciosa, y divertida. La clase de español es mi favorita. Yo tengo la clase en la primera hora. Otra profesora es Senora Jahn y Senora Miller. Chao! Translation- Hi! My name is Maddie Caso. My teacher is Ms. Cabot. She is very intelligent, funny, and amusing. Spanish class is my favorite. I have it first period. Other teachers are Mrs. Jahn and Mrs. Miller. Bye!

Food Drive

By: Lauren Belack

This year's food drive was an amazing success. Kids at Peters Township Middle School collected cans to help feed the homeless over the holiday season. They really made a difference to those people's lives and the Washington City Mission was so thankful and appreciative for all the effort put into it. To encourage the students to bring in canned goods and donations, the teachers had a friendly competition between the 7th and 8th grade classes. The 7th grade's victory was outstanding, collection total being 1,677 items. The 8th grade worked hard, but couldn't pull ahead and collected 938 items. Both grades did a wonderful job in helping the homeless.

Coffee House

By: Carla Hoge

On February 6, 2009, some of the PTMS eighth graders met with their Language Arts teachers at Farmhouse Coffee. There, with the rest of the students listening, students read poetry. What poetry, you ask? Well, none other than the awesome poetry that every eighth grader wrote for their amazing poetry projects! The coffeehouse poetry readings were absolutely perfect, with great imagery, emotion, and poetic devices included in every poem. Great job to everyone who presented!

EXTRAS

Dates to Remember

Faculty Birthdays

March

7th Ms. Harrison
10th Mr. Dailey
13th Mr. Zeminski
17th Ms. DeLisio
25th Ms. Doyle
30th Dr. Merante

April

6th Ms. Cabot, Mr. Scaglione
7th Ms. Fitzgerald
17th Mr. Amend
18th Mr. Elders
19th Ms. Bergmark
27th Ms. Davies, Mr. DiFilippo
28th Ms. Drakeley

May

1st Ms. Prince
12th Ms. O'Toole, Ms. Reeder
15th Ms. Ollendyke
18th Ms. Kenny
19th Ms. Miller
23rd Ms. Baier
26th Mr. Wagner
31st Mr. Greenberger

School Dates

March

12th Student Faculty Basketball Game, 6 p.m.
13th, 14th Musical 7:30: 2:00, 7:30 p.m.

May

1st- 7th Grade Celebration, 8 p.m.
7th Chorus Concert, 7:30 p.m.
15th Steeler/Faculty game, 8 p.m.
21st Strings Concert, 7:30 p.m.
28th 8th Grade Band Concert, 7:30 p.m.
29th 8th Grade Dance, 7:30 p.m.

June

4th- 7th Grade Band Concert, 7:30, p.m.
• 8th Grade Jazz Band to follow
5th- 8th Grade Picnic, 9:30 a.m.
16th Kennywood Day

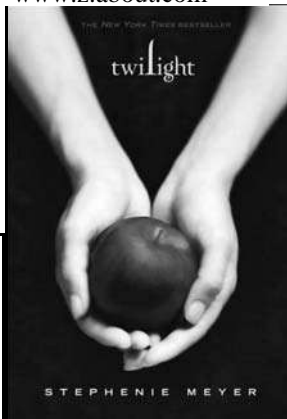
Strange but True

- If you yelled for 8 years, 7 months and 6 days you would produce enough sound energy to heat one cup of coffee. (Hardly worth it.)
- Banging your head against a wall uses 150 calories an hour (Do NOT attempt)
- The average person over fifty will have spent 5 years waiting in lines. (Mr. Davis)
- 40,000 Americans are injured by toilets each year.
- Most of us have eaten a spider in our sleep.
- If coloring weren't added to Coca-Cola, it would be green.
- On a Canadian two dollar bill, the flag flying over the Parliament building is an American flag.
- A goldfish has a memory span of three seconds

Twilight

-Lauren Belack

www.z.about.com



Stephanie Meyers' Twilight saga was a rave across globe, capturing people into the world of vampires, danger, and romance. As if the books weren't amazing enough, it hit the big screens. Devoted fans went at 12 o' clock a.m. the opening day to be one of firsts to see Edward on screen. Currently working on the New Moon movie, they are estimating for it to be finished this year! Despite her drafts being illegally posted on the Internet, Stephanie is going to finish and publish the last book in the series, Midnight Sun.

Poet's Corner

Time -Cecilia Allison

I have observed in my thirteen years that time is rather queer,
One minute ago was history;
two seconds ago the past,
When you are looking forward
to something time goes slow,
When you are dreading something,
time speeds up,
But, really time goes the same speed
60 seconds in a minute, 60 minutes in an hour,
Don't just sit there staring at the clock or waiting for something to come,
Because the few minutes you are wasting just sitting there,
Have already become the past



Measurements

- Morgan Boyer

Don't Measure Me
I'm not milk,
I'm not an exact inch of silk.
I can't be measured.
Be glad I'm not failing,
Yet you go on wailing.
Other students are a blossom,
I'm a pebble painted like one.
I can't hide it, so don't fight it.
Others won't understand,
Where in the universe I stand.
I know there is a hidden power,
Awaiting its hours.
I just wish others could see,
How hard life is for me.
Hoping maybe one day,
Everything will be okay.

STUDENT POLL

What Do You Think? B.J or E.B?? Charming Vampire, or Built Werewolf?

Who is your favorite character? In the battle for Bella's heart, should she have accepted Jacob and eased the pain, or waited for Edward through the hurt? Who do you think should have ended up with Bella?

What's your Fav?

We want to know which of Stephanie Meyers Twilight books keeps you up at night reading to get to the end. The first kiss or the wedding vows?

Must or Bust?

Was the Twilight movie amazing or a total disgrace? Who would you have picked as the cast? Were Rob and Kristen a perfect fit or a total flop?

Please send your opinions to ptmsspolls@hotmail.com with "Twilight" in the subject box. We will post the results in the next paper. (If you want your comment posted in the next paper, please put your name in the email.)