

Panther Prints

Be Responsible; Be Respectful; Be Engaged

Staff v. Student Volleyball Game

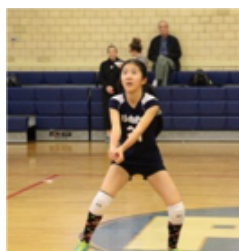
By Amritha Selvarajaguru, 7th

On November 5th, our school volleyball team hosted a very fun and unique game experience — a staff vs. student volleyball game. The students and staff agreed that the game was very fun and a great experience for everyone.

Before the game started, the students warmed up by playing small matches and hitting the ball back and forth. The staff warmed up by playing little matches until it was time to play.



The game started off very tense and exciting — the students were really revved up and ready to do what they did best. The staff seemed to be slightly less tense and did not have much of a plan worked out. The students had excellent concentration and sportsmanship throughout the entire game, and the staff were great sports as well. However, the first round ended with a staff victory of 20-10. The team had an informative huddle, and the second round began.



It was a lot longer, and the students put up a much greater fight, but lost again, 19-8. In the third round, all the eighth graders were put in, including the head of the team, and they put up an excellent fight as well. As the players were getting a little discouraged, the team yelled out tips and compliments. The 6th and 7th graders were not put in the 3rd round. The third game was won once again by the staff, with a score of 25-12. However, they were very supportive of the team and congratulated them all on a good game. Coach Beck stated that the team was very good at what she calls “hustle,” which is very important in volleyball. She also said that they need to work on their serve receive. She loves working with the team, especially because they grow to be a closely knit family over the course of three years. Some of the students think that more funding should be put into our sports teams — especially since they’re so dedicated and play so well! The staff vs. student volleyball game was a very fun experience for all. And, as a 7th grader commented, “The staff has got an unbreakable record — for now.”



Be a Friend, Not a Bully

By Jada Smith, 6th

What is bullying? Bullying is being mean to another kid over and over again. Bullying often includes, teasing, spreading rumors, leaving kids out on purpose, or even attacking someone by hitting them or yelling at them. Bullying does not always happen in person. Cyberbullying is a type of bullying that happens online or through text messages or emails. It includes posting rumors on sites like Facebook, sharing embarrassing pictures or videos and making fake profiles or websites. Kids who are bullied

can feel like they are different, powerless, unpopular, and alone. Kids who are bullied have a hard time standing up for themselves. Bullies can make kids feel sad, sick, or nervous. Bullying is never ok! As a student here at PS, it is up to you to make good choices everyday. Pick your friends wisely, I know at times you may be tempted to go along with the crowd, but getting in trouble for bullying is just not worth it. It can be hard to find the difference between real friends that stick by your side and so-called “friends” that use you and ditch you when you get in trouble. The decision is yours alone. Get on the right path and stick with friends who will lift you up, not bring you and others down. If you see bullying there are safe things you can do to make it

stop; talk to a teacher, parent, or another trusted adult and then make an effort to be kind to the person being bullied. Be a friend and show them you care by trying to include them at lunch or on the bus. Just hanging out with them will help them to know that they aren’t alone and that good friends are out there. Not reporting a bullying incident can make it worse for everyone. If you are being bullied and you feel comfortable speaking up, in a calm clear voice tell the bully to stop. Next, you should report the bully asap, and do your best to stay away from the places where bullying happens. Stay near adults and your other friends. Most times if there is an adult nearby bullying won’t happen. It is true, YOU can stop bullying!



D.I.Y. LEAF BOWL

By Divita Taduwayi, 7th

Make this quick, easy, and beautiful leaf bowl from autumn leaves to decorate your room or house. It is also super useful for storing small items!

Materials: Craft store leaf garland (thin, without plastic finish; can buy at the \$ store), Clear drying liquid glue, Foam Brush, Balloon, Scissors, Mixing bowl

Instructions:

1. Begin by snipping the leaves off the strand of garland. Leave about 1/8" at the base.
2. Carefully rip the entire plastic stem (and all the veins!) off of the faux leaves. This will help the leaves mold to the shape of the balloon.
3. Fill up your balloon to size. We stuck ours inside a mixing bowl to keep it in place.
4. With your mod podge (glue) in a cup nearby, gently apply a thin layer on top of your balloon, starting in the middle and working your way out.
5. Lay a leaf on top of the wet mod podge (glue) and smooth with your fingers or foam brush. Once it's stuck in place, apply another thin layer of mod podge on top of that leaf.
6. Repeat, covering any empty spaces with smaller leaves.
7. When you reach about a quarter of the way down the balloon, add one or two leaves to the bottom of the bowl for extra weight and support. Allow to dry at least an hour.
8. When the it is dry, carefully pop your balloon with a pin at the tied end, slowly let the air out. Don't be alarmed if the leaves shrink down when the balloon deflates, it will return to its original shape after a minute or so. You may find that some of the glue will stick to the edges of your leaves, but you can just pick or cut it off.

Your DIY leaf bowl is done! Use it to put small items in, or just to decorate your room!

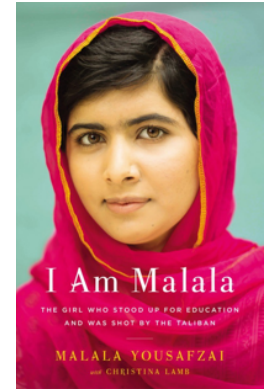


The Halloween Dance

By Leiyah Odwin, 7th

On October 30th of 2015, PS.

DuPont had its annual Halloween Dance! It was a lot of fun! The DJ mashed it up with current popular songs and he even mixed it up with songs from back in the day, like the Cupid Shuffle and a whole lot more! Many people dressed up in costumes at the dance. Students came dressed as vampires, princesses, and even cardboard boxes! The lunchroom was packed as people sat with their friends and enjoyed cupcakes, soda, and lots of other tasty treats. People also decided to celebrate the fun holiday with many outstanding acrobatics. Girls from every grade put together a fun split-circle as boys did front and backflips in unison. Everyone had a really good time. We are fortunate to have such an energetic group of student council members, they truly helped to make this dance fun for everyone!



Book Review:

I am Malala

By Haley Wedin, 8th

"I come from a country that was created at midnight. When I almost died it was just after midday." –Malala Yousafzai

If you are aware of the current political predicament happening in the east, you may be aware of the civil war in Syria, and countries alike, involving ISIS, the Taliban, and other terrorists groups. This novel, as well inspiring and true in its word, relates greatly to what is happening in Asia, and even Europe. In essence, this novel is about a young girl by the name of Malala Yousafzai, who, practically growing up in a school is one day shot in the head by the Taliban for such manners of going to school. Girls and women in the Swat Valley, where Malala originates from, are not supposed to go to school, and get a proper education. She, and her father, are against this notion. In a miraculous recovery, she is an idol for education for girls, and is now widely known for her recovery, and her position for standing up for the right of young women to obtain an education. Malala now speaks at press conferences, she is stronger than ever in the fight against the lack of education in girls.

This novel is nonfiction, but holds a certain rich, fascinating story that makes it very entertaining, and hardly makes it seem like a true story. Nonfiction can be very boring, but I Am Malala is a grand story, of a true hero.



For the Love of Books

By Amritha Selvarajaguru, 7th

What if you lived in a world where books were outlawed?



What would you do?
How would you learn?
How would you pass the time?
What would you read?

Such is the state of those in the peculiar world of *Fahrenheit 451*, written by the amazing Ray Bradbury. The main character, Guy Montag, lives in a world where technology is extremely advanced; meaning you don't need books to teach you things. In fact, why have books at all? They just add to the confusion of society by expressing conflicting opinions, beating down on other authors, and talking about fake things that don't matter. In this world, houses are fireproof; the only reason we need firemen is to burn down houses containing these forbidden, nameless objects. Montag has lived his life reveling in the beauty of fire and wasting away hours filled with nothing but oblivion, a normal person. But then, he meets a strange little girl named Clarisse, and his entire life changes. "Rain feels good. I like to walk in it," she insists. She opens Montag's mind by throwing out innocent comments like, "Rain even tastes good," "Have you ever heard of rubbing [a dandelion]

under your chin? If it rubs off, it means I'm in love," and "So many people are afraid of the firemen. But you're just a man, after all..." Nobody has ever thought like this before. No one asked questions like these! How could she contemplate things like this when they lived in a world where opinions and personal creativity were discouraged? To Montag, this peculiar girl was an eye-opener: someone who made him stop and look at the man in the moon and the dew in the grass—things he never knew existed. And then he finds out....Clarisse is one of them. The book owners. Though Clarisse eases to be a character in the story, Guy Montag is burdened with memories of the things she taught him, and he has to make a decision: Is it worth burning millions of classics, millions of pieces of literature, in order to abide by the law? And even more important: Is it worth tarnishing your reputation and your life in order to save those precious books? Ray Bradbury wins our hearts and minds once again with his most famed novel, *Fahrenheit 451*. He shows us the importance of books and how our technology-craved society is leading to a state such as that of the setting in this book. This is a must-read novel - I give it 5/5 panther paws! Be sure not to miss it! And remember this: The books of this world are yours to decipher, yours to enjoy, yours to learn from and love... Or yours to burn.

Scratch by Nick White, 7th

Scratch is a website by MIT, where you can make your own video games, animations, programs, and just pictures. Instead of writing long, boring, hard-to-remember lines of code, you use blocks representing JavaScript lines. There are more than 11,000,000 projects so far on Scratch, and thousands more are shared each day. To get on Scratch, go to <https://scratch.mit.edu/>. Then, hit "Join Scratch" in the top right. Then, create an account. (It's free!) Once you sign in, you have to verify your account in your email, then you can make a project. It may be confusing to code at first, but there are "tips" in a bar at the side. There, you can watch videos and learn what blocks do. There are some characters that Scratch provides for use in projects, and those include the Scratch Cat, Gobo, and more. It also



provides many sample pictures and characters for use. You can make projects like art, an animation, a calculator, a game, and more.

(Once you get on, be sure to follow me, explode7!)

WILD RIDDLES

BY KEERTHAN DURASALA, 7TH

- Johnny's mother had three children. The first child was named April. The second child was named May. What was the third child's name?
- You answer me, although I never ask you questions. What am I?
- If you speak my name, I vanish. What am I?
- What can run but never walks, Has a mouth but never talks, Has a head but never weeps, Has a bed but never sleeps?

SCARY JOKES

BY KEERTHAN DURASALA, 7TH

Why didn't the mummy have any friends?
-Because he was wrapped up in himself!

What position does a ghost play in soccer?
-Ghoulie!

What room is useless for a ghost?
-A living room!

What did the skeleton order for dinner?
-Spare ribs!

What do you get when you cross a teacher and a vampire?
-A blood test!

What's a monster's favorite play?
Romeo and Ghoulie!

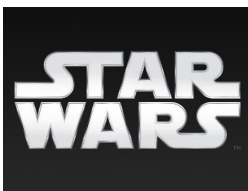
Why are graveyards noisy?
-Because of all the coffin!



TOP 5 MOVIE SEQUELS OF 2015

BY SARTHI SHETH & PRANAVI CHAVALI, 7TH

Star Wars: Episode VII – The Force Awakens Although the movie hasn't come out yet, it is the #1 movie among critics who have seen it and it is also the most anticipated by future viewers.



Spectre (Bond 24) This movie is part of the James Bond series. There are 24 movies in the Bond series and

this specific movie has Daniel Craig playing James Bond.

Mission: Impossible – Rogue Nation As the 5th movie in the series, Ethan Hunt, portrayed by Tom Cruise, is back on another mission trying to save the MI agency.

Jurassic World As the 4th movie in the series, it was one of the most viewed movies in 2015 and people are crazy about this movie.

Fast & Furious 7 As the 7th movie in the series, this movie had a tribute at the end for amazing actor, Paul Walker, who ironically died in a car crash. With one more movie coming out in 2017 this is a great series.

The New Guitar Hero

By José Marrero, 8th

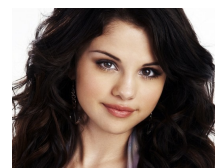
This is an update of the new Guitar Hero called Guitar Hero Live. The game was released on October 20th 2015. The game has two modes, live Mode and GHTV which has channels and different genres of

music. Live Mode has over 40 songs which you can play whenever you want. The guitar has 6 buttons (3 on the top and 3 on the bottom). GHTV has hundreds of songs to play like songs from previous GH games like Hangar 18. A lot of people don't like this game because it's different from the previous installments. Also, people complained because, one of the songs in the game, Hangar 18 by Megadeth, is shorter than the original song. This game is surprisingly difficult with the hardest song being Ghost Walking by the band Lamb Of God. But when it's all said and done, this game is amazing. I rate this game 5 out 5 panther paw prints.



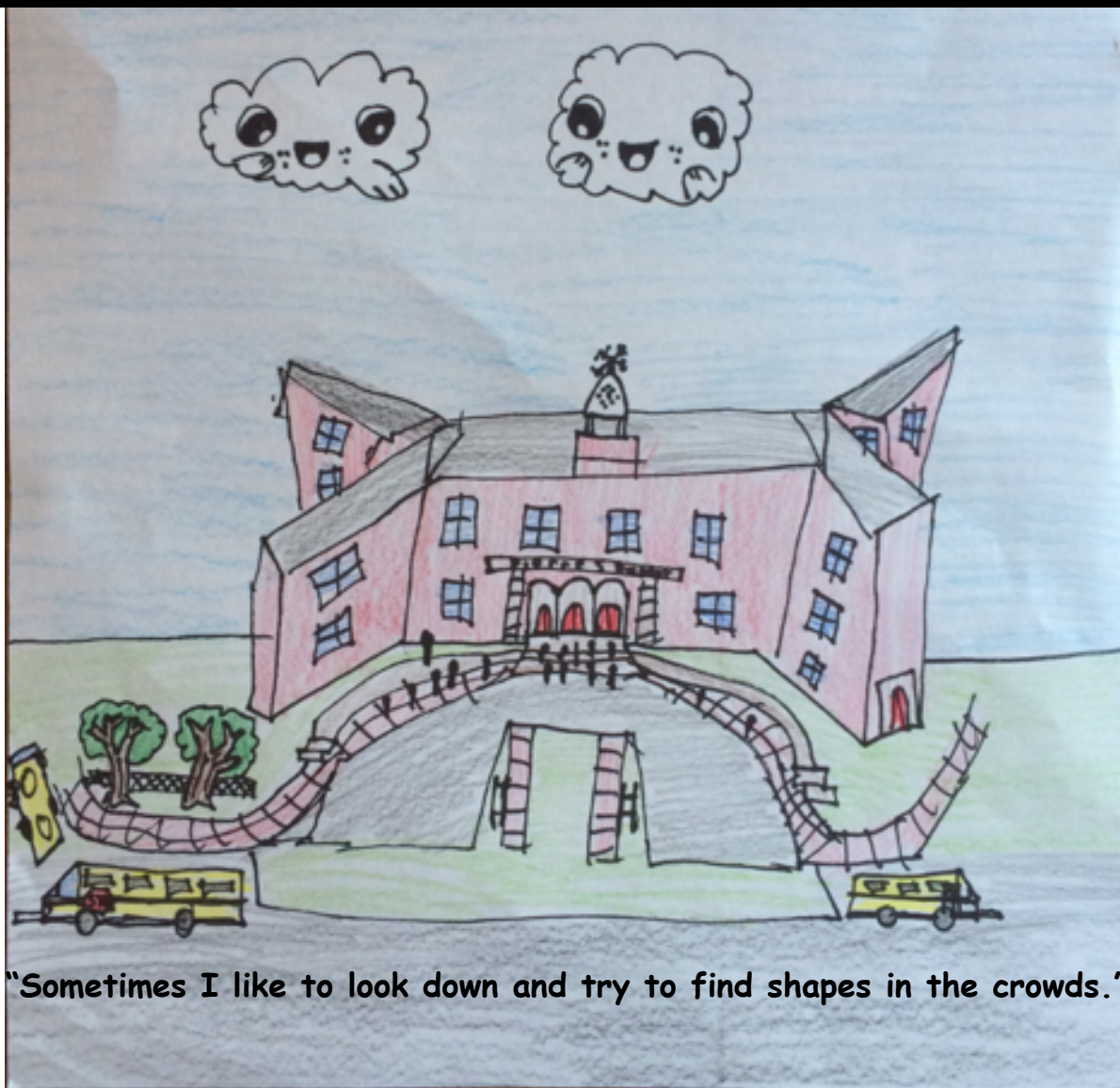
TOP TEN POP SONGS OF OCTOBER 2015

BY SARTHI SHETH & PRANAV CHAVALI, 7TH



- 1) Hotline Bling -Drake
- 2) What Do You Mean? - Justin Bieber

- 3) The Hills -The Weeknd
- 4) Perfect -One Direction
- 5) Wildest Dreams -Taylor swift
- 6) Downtown -Macklemore, Ryan Lewis
- 7) Stitches -Shawn Mendes
- 8) Can't Feel My Face -Weeknd
- 9) Locked Away -R. City & Adam Levine
- 10) Same old love -Selena Gomez



“Sometimes I like to look down and try to find shapes in the crowds.”

P.S.D.'s 221B
-ADVICE FOR A MIDDLE
SCHOOLER'S DILEMMAS-




By Amritha
Selvarajaguru, 7th

Dear P.S.D.,

In elementary school, I had lots of friends — they were all different ages and I always felt comfortable around them. They didn't all like each other, but that was okay because we all got along. But ever since I've come to middle school, I feel like my friends have changed a lot. They've formed groups and kind of became distant from each other. I have a few friends in different "groups," and they want me to choose

between them. I don't want to have to choose between my friends! And if I don't do so soon, I might get excluded forever!

Dear Mixed Emotions,
I understand you don't want to have to choose among your friends — everyone has

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How do I maintain all my friendships and not have to choose between them? Please help!
 ~Mixed Emotions

trouble with that, and no-one should ever have to. But when it comes to friendship, you need to ask yourself: Would a true friend make you choose? Would they really exclude you if you didn't choose them?

And if it's true that they are your real friends, and you want them in your life, then don't limit yourself to one group of friends! Just hang out with people the way you did before. You don't have to choose if you don't want to! After all, it's your life. If your friends have a problem with that, try talking to them all and explaining why you want to have many friends, not just one group. On top of it all, remember to choose your friends wisely because a true friend will be with you through the thick and thin and good times and bad, they will stick with you to the end!
 Good Luck!

P.S.D.'s 221B

(Continued on page 6)