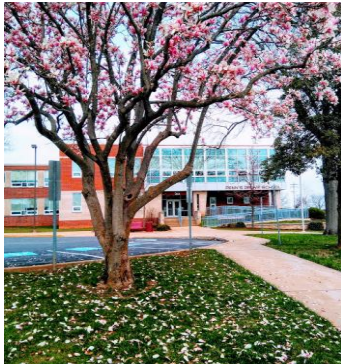


The Maroon and White

Issue 2
April 2019



Above picture courtesy of
Nathan Ortiz

Contents:

8 th grade trip	1
Pi Day recap	2
Envirothon	4
Girls' Lacrosse	5
Boys' Lacrosse	7
Track	9
Opinion	10
Short Story	11

8th Grade to DC

by: Anna Coe

On May 9th, eighth grade students will be going to Washington DC for a field trip. There is no need to get up early, you must arrive at Penn's Grove before 8 AM. The trip will be going on until 7 PM. We interviewed Mr. Riess to find out more about the trip.

What do I need to bring? Depending on the weather, sun protection would be ideal. Bring plenty of sunscreen in case a friend forgets theirs! If it's chillier, bring a jacket and long pants.

Make sure to bring money. Food will not be provided, but there are many options in DC to get something to eat. Have a little pocket cash for souvenirs as well.

Bring along a camera, there will be many different sights to see.

What will we see? Sightseeing is up to the group, so make sure to include everyone and compromise. There is no mandatory site, but trust me, you don't want to miss some of the museums.

What are requirements for chaperones? If you're willing to be a chaperone, please have your clearances done and be checked by the school board. And of course, you must be an adult!

We will see you in DC!



Upcoming Events

- ◆ 8th grade trip:
May 9
- ◆ Dinner dance:
May 18
- ◆ 7th grade trip:
May 28

Pi Day Recap: Interviews with Mrs. Sapp and Sarah Brown

by: Natalie Morlang and Natalie Meixell

Hello, Penn's Grove. Recently, the Early Act Club conducted a fundraiser for a charity. This was carried out through students and a few teachers buying tickets to pie a teacher in the face. You probably watched the video of Mrs. Sapp getting pied on the news on pie day, but you haven't heard her opinion on the event. A few days ago, 2 members of the Early Act Club interviewed her. This is how it went.

Natalie: What charity are you planning on donating your funds to?

Mrs. Sapp: I am donating my funds to Relay for Life. There is a local Relay for Life in southern Chester County that operates here in Oxford and I participate in that and I help promote that.

Natalie: When is the Relay for Life event?

Mrs. Sapp: The Relay for Life event itself is June 14 and June 15- Friday to Saturday. That takes place right here at our football field and yes I am participating. I have a team; it's called Team Lighthouse and that's where my donations will be going- to my team.

Natalie: Do you have any specific reason to donate to this charity?

Mrs. Sapp: Yes, this charity is very near and dear to my heart because ten years ago, my father died from cancer and I was mad, and sad, and angry, and upset and this was a good way to put my feelings into motion and do something instead of just whine and cry about it.

Natalie: What was it like to be pied in the face?

Mrs. Sapp: I was not anticipating the suffocation aspect of it, with whipped cream up my nose and in my mouth at the same time. I had a momentary feeling of not being able to breathe. I was also not anticipating the lingering smell of whipped cream because it got stuck in my hair and eyebrows.

Natalie: Was it fun?

Mrs. Sapp: It was fun; it was fun to be a part of something like that.

Natalie: Would you ever like to be pied in the face again?

Mrs. Sapp: I would always be open to being pied in the face; especially if it was for a fun and good cause like what you guys did. I'm very proud of Early Act Club members; I think it was a really great idea and a great way to show what your efforts can do when you put it to good use.

Natalie: Were you surprised this was the student who pied you?

Mrs. Sapp: I was and I thought it was funny because she seemed to be more nervous than I was.

Speaking of Sarah Brown, she was also interviewed to see how she felt about the event, after it happened. This is how it went.

Natalie: Why did you want to pie this staff member?

Sarah: I knew Mrs. Sapp really wanted to be pied and it seemed fun.

Natalie: How many tickets did you buy to pie this teacher?

Sarah: I bought three.

Natalie: Was it worth it?

Sarah: Yes; I was really nervous and scared at first, but after I pied her it was totally worth it.

Natalie: Do you feel any guilt?

Sarah: Yes I felt bad because some whipped cream went off the tarp and Mr. James had to clean it up and Mrs. Sapp had to go all day smelling like whipped cream.

Natalie: Would you want to pie this staff member again?

Sarah: Probably not because I'm not the biggest fan of going on the news and I felt kind of guilty.

In conclusion, this event was exciting and fun. Our funds went to Relay for Life in southern Chester County. There is an event in June (14-15) on a Friday to Saturday. This event is overnight but not required to stay overnight. The Early Act Club has a team, so if you're interested in donating or participating, please visit Mrs Mojica's classroom (room 240).

Envirothon

by: Ryan Owens

Are you interested in learning about the environment and competing against other schools to prove your skills? In that case, Envirothon is the club for you! This group learns about all sorts of nature. The club is run by Mrs. Rodriguez.

When asked about the topics, Mrs. Rodriguez said that they were, “Soils, forestry, aquatics, wildlife, and the special topic is agriculture.”

Now you may be wondering, “How does the competition work?” When asked this, Mrs. Rodriguez replied with, “Each school has up to three teams with up to five people with a captain, and teams rotate through topics.” If anyone is interested, all you have to do is grab an application and fill it out. Up to 15 can be standard team members, with the rest being alternates. This year’s Envirothon competition is on May 2 at Hibernia Park.



Girls' Lacrosse: Interview with Gwyn Taggart and Ava Soucek by: Madison Grinestaff



Madison: What is the hardest thing to do in lacrosse?

Ava and Gwyn: To learn how to catch the ball.

Madison: What is the easiest thing to do in lacrosse?

Ava and Gwyn: To throw the ball.

Madison: Does the team get along with each other?

Ava and Gwyn: Yes, they are all like sisters

Madison: What is your favorite part about lacrosse?

Ava and Gwyn: Making new friends and winning.

Madison: What made you pick lacrosse?

Ava's family played lacrosse and she wanted to play too. Gwyn said it is fun

Madison: Have you played lacrosse before?

Yes, Ava has played lacrosse for 8 years and Gwyn has played for 7 years

Madison: And what is the difference between school lacrosse and the one before?

Ava and Gwyn: Going up against different teams

Madison: Do you have any goals for lacrosse?

Ava wants to play in college and play on the US team and Gwyn wants to have it on her college application.

Boys' Lacrosse: Interview with Shane Cassidy and Dustin Long by: Madison Grinestaff



Madison: What is the hardest thing to do in lacrosse?

Shane: Being the goalie.

Dustin: Save a shot.

What is the easiest thing to do in lacrosse?

Shane: Being on the bench

Dustin: Catch a ball.

Does the team get along with each other?

Shane: Sometimes they punch each other.

Dustin: Most of the time.

What is your favorite part about lacrosse?

Shane: Scoring goals and hitting people .

Dustin: Being with my friends.

What made you pick lacrosse?

Shane: That it is fun.

Dustin: It's the sport to do.

Have you played lacrosse before?

Shane: I played for 6 years

Dustin: I have played for 6 years.

And what is the difference between school lacrosse and the one before?

Shane: That the practice is right after school and the coach is laid back.

Dustin: The competition is harder in the rec league.

Do you have any goals for lacrosse?

Shane: To play a diverse team in college

Dustin: To play in Division I in college.

Interview with Track Coach Mrs. Jenkins

by: Madison Grinestaff



Madison: What is the hardest thing about coaching track?

Mrs. Jenkins: The amount of people that does track

What is the easiest thing to coach about track?

Teaching kids how to run.

Why did you pick track to coach?

It's nice to see the students out of the classroom and see them run.

How long have you coached track for?

I coached track for 5 years.

What is your favorite part about coaching track?

Giving the highest runners an award.

Is it easy coaching track?

Yes, it is easy.

Opinion: How to Make School Better

by: Ryan Owens and Josh Terry

Ryan's Opinion

Let me start by saying the school system is very good overall. These are just some positive adjustments. School is not perfect. Let's just face it. It's relatively well run, but there are some flaws that need to be addressed.

An important improvement to our school would be to bring recess back. This seems like an obvious decision, but I will elaborate. The most gym that anyone gets per year is only half of the school year. Also, obesity as a teen is most likely to lead to an obese adult. Recess would give us at least a little more physical education every day, and lead to healthier adults and calmer students for the day.

Another good idea would be to make school less about writing and more about conversations. Prompt, paper, pencil, eraser, sore hand, rinse and repeat. It starts to make writing an essay feel less worthwhile, and as a result, grades may go down instead of up as time goes on. Having a conversation about something we've read about more often will allow to people to have better public speaking skills. This idea allows for more friendly debates and letting your opinion be heard instead of writing to yourself on another bland piece of 8.5 by 11.

Josh's Opinion

To make school better we should do more work on our iPads so we have less to carry. This could make transitions between classes easier as less people would drop stuff.

I also think we should have a longer break between classes. This way we could stop at lockers and wouldn't have to carry all of our binders to every class.

“The Harbinger”: An original short story by: Anna Coe

A regiment of soldiers stood, guns poised in the air as policemen in front held their shields steadily, forming an assemblage of barracks for the ones pointing their weapons at the awe-inspiring scene.

Spacecraft that was beforehand inconceivable graced in its grand demeanor, lights flickering brilliantly. A single ship lay, smoking and blasted apart at the hull.

Not soon after, with the troops stiffening and finger on the trigger, the General yelling to hold fire, a single entity appeared from the craft.

It was tall, slim, and had such an alien ethereal beauty to it. Violet skin encased it, two sets of arms and eyes drawn further apart. No hair came from the creature, only clothed in a white skin tight suit. Which, one sergeant realized, had a strange black substance trickling in some places.

This very sergeant was the one who stepped past the barracks, against his general's tedious orders, enraptured by the strange creature.

When the sergeant reached the creature, it gave a small cry and collapsed. He did not touch it, some sense of sane left in his mind as he stared in awe.

The creature watched him for quite a long time, tilting its head this ways and that. Finally, it patted the space beside it. Taking the gesture, the sergeant sat, blissfully ignorant of the General's orders.

“Your people will shoot me,” the creature rasped, a statement of fact.

“It seems that way, yes; they fear what they know nothing of,” the sergeant replied.

“Very well, but only after I speak. I come bearing a story and a warning.”

“From whom?” The sergeant asked, and the creature gave a small smile.

“From myself, human. If you have your companions stand down I will tell it.”

The sergeant shifted uncomfortably. “I'm afraid we cannot do that.”

Red eyes found their way to the sergeant's, and a slow nod escaped the alien. "Very well, I suppose I shall tell it here. But make your people listen, it is for all to hear."

The sergeant asked that wish to his General, who, in confusion, agreed, sending the war-machines and helicopters away from the sight. It sat in absolute silence.

"The name of my planet is not important," the creature said, voiced raised for all to capture. "But the fate of it is. It is dead; I nearly escaped just in time. But I am not here to take refuge, so listen and listen well.

"My planet used to be one of great joy and happiness. Our sun and moons would rise and fall; we'd play in the great fields, and every creature was siblings with their enemy. It was a wonderful place, really, but as you suppose, it could not last."

The sergeant looked in the creature's eyes, and took note of the pain. It was not the pain of which a scrape causes, or even of severe injury. It was the war-pain; the war-pain of someone who had seen so much and cannot let go.

"My kind began to loathe anything that was different. We slaughtered any not like us. Sadly, there were many of my kind that were "different". Another shade of skin, a different height, a different size, the wrong partner, incapability to do certain things. I'm afraid the list could go on and on. Soon, no one was similar to anyone, we were all different and feared that my entire race was slaughtered...by each other."

The creature wept strange green tears, and the sergeant unconsciously felt tears cascading down his own.

"I am dying, my kind poisoned me with a long, slow death. I cannot evade it. It has gone on for decades in your human time. So I came to many planets, many worlds who are beginning the cataclysm that my home went through."

"Do not hate your people who are different. Is it not said to 'love your neighbor'? Your hate will destroy you."

The alien gasped for breath, and the black-blood of the creature trickled from its mouth. The sergeant watched as the creature fought against the impending death awaiting it.

"This is your first contact with something foreign and alien; do not let its words go to waste," the creature said, and the barracks of men watched with guilt as its last breath escaped.

The sergeant watched in sadness as the creature went still, looking up quietly at the stars from which it came.

He remembered the promises of spacecraft, of traveling the stars. Of exploring new worlds like television shows claimed.

But he remembered the hatred, the poverty, the pitiful looks and sneers behind backs.

And this sergeant, against the tide of many minds, knew that if humanity wanted to reach the stars, they'd need to fix the problems here first.

As the creature was buried at a government site, with a small, violet tombstone, the sergeant leaned down, and with a small knife, carved in the word that the world would know this creature as. Not alien, nor parasite;

Harbinger

(Editor's note: A harbinger is a person or thing that is a sign of things to come.)

Students Featured in This Issue

Ryan Owens

Josh Terry

Anna Coe

Madison Grinestaff

Natalie Morang

Natalie Meixell

Advisor

Mr. Barnas

Next Issue

May 2019