

Home Stretch Hilltop

Copyright 2015

April 8, 2016

\$.50 each

Issue Number: 15

<http://www.portageareasd.org/>

Autism Awareness

By: Taylor McCloskey

What exactly is World Autism Awareness Day or “Light It Up Blue”? World Autism Awareness Day, also known as WAAD, is observed on April 2nd. This association was adopted by the United Nations in the year 2007. The resolution was passed mainly as a supplement to previous United Nation initiatives to improve human rights. Ever since, its research and awareness has boomed as a result around the world. The actual establishment began in 2008. It encourages the member states to raise awareness to all of the levels in society. As a growing global health priority, it was adopted to shine a bright light on Autism, a disorder in which is characterized by impaired social interaction as well as verbal and non-verbal communications and repetitive behavior.

Thousands of places participated in “Light It Up Blue” on April 2nd in support of the individuals that have Autism and their families. “Light it up Blue” spreads awareness and understanding of the disorder. It celebrates and honors the unique talents and the skills that people with Autism have. And, it also brings attention to the needs that people with Autism have. Autism in all parts of the world has a high rate of occurrence and the lack of understanding of the disorder has a tremendous impact on the individuals, their families and even the communities the individuals call home: enter Autism Speaks.

Autism Speaks is the one of the largest non-governmental organization efforts, in the field of Autism and its research, to raise awareness and further research while also acting as an advocate for the individuals that have Autism. Autism Speaks announced the launch of the program “Light It Up Blue” on April 2nd in 2010. It was intended exactly to raise the awareness for not only World Autism Awareness Day, but also Autism Awareness Month in the United States. Autism Speaks is teaming up with a lot of corporate companies to raise awareness for Autism. Companies such as Home Depot, Dollar General, Applebee’s, Philips Lighting, Mazda Drive, and Modell’s have all come forth to participate and help bring awareness to the public. Some of the companies that are participating you may have never even heard of, but they are lighting it up blue everywhere. Now the real question: did you “Light It Up Blue”?



By: Sumer Slebodnick

Mock Interviews



Every senior is required to take the twelfth grade seminar class. This class is meant to help the seniors prepare for the world after high school. To do this, the seniors learn how to build resumes, create cover letters, request letters of recommendation, and more skills needed after high school. At the end of the year Mrs. Gribbin, the twelfth grade seminar teacher, organizes a mock interview process for student participation so that they can put their knowledge to the test. Every student is required to attend these interviews to pass the course. If a student knows that they will not be able to attend, Mrs. Gribbin will work with them trying to schedule a different time. It is highly suggested to the seniors that students attend school this day.

“This year we have nine volunteers. They vary from business professionals to college students,” Mrs. Gribbin added about the mock interviews.

These mock interviews will be set up like a real interview involving questions that may be asked at a real interview, and students will be expected to reply with answers like they would at a professional interview. Along with expectations to answer the questions to their best ability, the senior students will also be expected to dress in business attire. This means no jeans will be allowed.

Each student will have a scheduled time in which they will attend their interview. The interviews will be held in the auditorium lobby throughout the school day.

****Here are some tips to help prepare for the interview:****

Practice - Practice answering interview questions and practice your responses to the typical job interview questions that many employers ask.

Be on time - Arrive to your interview anywhere between ten and fifteen minutes early. While you are waiting, go over your documents that you are bringing to the interview.

Stay Calm - During the job interview, try to relax and stay as calm as possible. Remember that your body language says as much about you as your answers to the questions. Proper preparation will allow you to show confidence.

Follow Up - Always follow-up with a thank you note reiterating your interest in the position. You can also include any details you may have forgotten to mention during your interview.

tips from jobsearch.about.com

Teacher Interview- Mrs. Herman

By: Alexis Richardson

Q: Can you touch your nose with your tongue?

A: No, but some people in my family can

Q: What is most important in life? Why?

A: Family! They will always be there for you when no one else will

Q: Do you have pets?

A: I have 2 golden retrievers named Crosby and Otis

Q: When did you last laugh?

A: When I read the first question

Q: If you could eat lunch with one famous person, who would it be?

A: Mya Angelou. She has a way of making words sound wise and musical at the same time



SPECIAL FEATURE - GAME TIME PREVIEWS

No Man's Sky

By: Chad Salem

Coming June 21st, 2016 from Hello Games is *No Man's Sky*. *No Man's Sky* was first announced early last year, but now the public has gotten more information on what's to come in Hello Games' newest title.

First, this game will be HUGE. According to the developers of *No Man's Sky*, if you were to stay one second on every planet in the game (The game has exactly 18,446,744,073,709,551,616 planets in it), it would take 5 BILLION real years to reach every one!

Next, you may be able to name your discoveries. For instance, if you happened to find a new species that nobody else found in the game, you would be able to name it whatever you would like and it would say, "Discovered By: (Your Username)," under the name you created for it.



If you are into this type of genre, then pre-ordering *No Man's Sky* would benefit your game-playing addiction. This game has TONS of pre-order bonuses including special weapons, ships, and in-game currency...and that's only a few! Another unpromoted bonus would be

playing it as soon as you get it, so then you could name lots of discoveries before anyone else does.

Although this is a great game on the surface, there could be some problems with the game's release. One problem would be the naming/renaming system. Unless the names run out after a pre-determined amount of time, this could pose a problem for players who choose to purchase the game later. Also, many people may have problems with the price of *No Man's Sky*: \$60. However, that's the price for many new games, but the price may keep people from buying the game because it isn't made by a well-known company.

Personally, I recommend this game if you're into Science Fiction. With thousands of randomly generated weapons, ships, and planets, I believe this would be a ton of fun for you. Pre-order *No Man's Sky* now! For more information, go to www.no-mans-sky.com.

By: Emily Niper

2016 Volley for Prom Champs Crowned

Volley for Prom is an annual event to help lower the cost of prom tickets for students. This year, Alyssa Seaman and Emily Niper chose this event for their senior project. Like all those who have projects, they had to collaborate to complete a presentation and each write an essay explaining what each learned while completing this task. The event was held on April 2nd with doors opening at 10:30 a.m., first game starting at 11:00. The teams battled to get to the top to win the Sheetz gift card at the end.

As the tournament was coming to the end, two teams faced each other for the championship. The Purple Cobras (Luke Dividock, Jake Swank, Brady Ratosky and Evan Gruss-who had to leave to play in an all-star basketball game-and Connor Price) played against G.O.A.T (Greatest Of All Time-Zeke Fox, Richard Llewellyn, Philip Krisko, and Corbyn Haney) for the championship. The losing teams went into a consolation bracket to make it a double elimination tournament. The Purple Cobras took a tough loss to the Remy Boyz early, taking them to the consolation bracket. They battled their way to the top to have a chance at the championship game. G.O.A.T blew through the winners bracket with ease, taking down some of the toughest teams there were, to get their spot to play in the championship game. All the teams tried their hardest and put up a tough battle, but in the end, G.O.A.T reigned supreme.

As author of the article (and not coincidentally, one of the event coordinators), I would like to say thank you to all who came out to support the event. I would also like to say thank you to all those who donated; it was all greatly appreciated, and if it wasn't for all of you, the event wouldn't have been able to take place. Since the event did well, we were able to lower the cost of prom tickets and get extra items that we weren't able to afford before the tournament. We hope that as the years go by, our prom advisor and committee are able to get the support in the following years that we received this year .

By: Nathan Teno

Baseball's Opening Day History

Opening Day is the day in which professional baseball teams officially begin their regular season. This year, the local favorite team, the Pittsburgh Pirates opened their 2016 season playing the St. Louis Cardinals on April 3rd at PNC Park. Opening Day ignores the exhibition games played during spring training in the month leading up to Opening Day. Many feel that the occasion represents a newness or a chance to forget the previous season, giving all 30 of the major league clubs and their millions of fans 0–0 records.

Traditions are unique all over the league. In Cincinnati, Ohio, home of the sport's first professional team, the annual Findlay Market Parade marks an official "city holiday" with young and old alike taking the day off to cheer on the Reds. The first pitch of every major league season traditionally has taken place in Cincinnati over the years; however, television and ESPN have changed that. But, the Reds remain the only major league team to always open the season with a home game. The Chicago Cubs have been the Reds' most common Opening Day opponent, visiting Cincinnati 36 times on Opening Day, most recently in 2007. The Pittsburgh Pirates, in which the current Reds organization played their first Opening Day against in 1882, is a close second with 31, most recently in 2015. Fittingly, the Reds were also the first team to host an Interleague game on Opening Day when the team hosted the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim in the first year of year-round Interleague play in 2013.

Opening Day is a state of mind as well, with countless baseball fans known to recognize this unofficial holiday as a good reason to call in sick at work or be truant from school and go out to the ballpark for the first of 162 regular season games. Teams' home openers serve as the only regular season games during the year in which the entire rosters of both teams as well as coaches and clubhouse staff are introduced to the crowd prior to the games; for the rest of the year's games, ballparks typically only introduce the starting lineups and the team's manager .

Opening Week for Mustang Softball

By: Katie Nolan

It is the time of year again for softball season. Last week was the Lady Mustangs softball team's opening week. The Lady Mustangs have a total of 17 players this year, most of them freshmen and sophomores, making them a young team with great potential. The Lady Mustang's opening defensive line up this year is senior Alli Kissell catching, sophomore Kylee McCarty at first base, freshman Taylor Glass at second base, senior Katie Nolan at shortstop, sophomore Bella Crum at third base, dual freshman Bella Strosnider and Olivia Kissell swapping out between pitching and center field, freshman Sierra Crum in left field, and junior Sylena Conklin in right field. The Lady Mustang's batting order for this year is Katie Nolan, Sierra Crum, Bella Crum, Alli Kissell, Sylena Conklin, Bella Strosnider, Olivia Kissell, Kylee McCarty and Taylor Glass.

The Lady Mustang's first game last week was their home opener against the Conemaugh Valley Blue Jays on Tuesday, March 29th at 4:00 pm. The Lady Jays were PIAA state runners-up in class A last spring. The Lady Mustangs had a rough start to their first game, allowing a lead of 13-0 in the top of the first inning, and then not able to buy a hit for their half of the first. The Lady Mustangs trailed the entire game, but eventually got the bat on the ball and got two hits from Bella Strosnider and Taylor Glass. Going into the third inning, the Lady Mustangs trailed last year's silver medalists 27-0, but after Taylor Glass's hit, Katie Nolan receiving a walk, and then Sierra Crum with a fielder's choice to shortstop, Glass scored to give the Lady Mustangs their only run of the game. The final score of the game ended up being 27-1, leaving the Lady Mustangs with a tough first lost and 0 and 1 on the season.

The Lady Mustangs traveled to Nanty Glo on Wednesday, March 30th to take on the Lady Vikings of Blacklick Valley at 4:00 pm. The Mustangs knew the task at hand was to get on track and improve their record to 1 and 1. The Mustangs got off to a strong start holding the Vikings to a 3 up and 3 down in the first inning and then tallying 1 run during their at bat. In the second inning, the Lady Mustangs held the Vikings to no runs again while tallying 5 more themselves. After the third inning, the Mustangs were up 13-0, giving the Mustangs a chance to end the game early. The Lady Mustangs ended up driving in 2 quick runs which ended the game after 4th inning with a 15-0 win finishing the job against the Lady Vikings. The Lady Mustang's win advanced them to 1-1.

The Lady Mustangs finished the week with a game at Richland on Friday, April 1st. Unfortunately, it was the Lady Mustangs that were fooled by the Lady Rams, dropping a 9-5 decision to end the week at 1-2. One tough inning was the difference as the hosts used consecutive walks to punch in the winning runs



Summer Olympics

By: Braedon St. Clair

Once every four years the Summer Olympics are held somewhere throughout the world, a location that is determined by a bidding process. This year, the summer of 2016, the games will be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The games are an international multi-sport event organized by the International Olympic Committee (IOC). Medals are awarded in each event, with gold medals for first place, silver for second and bronze for third, a tradition that started in 1904. The Winter Olympic Games were also created due to the success of the Summer Olympics.

The Olympics have increased from a 42-event competition with fewer than 250 male competitors from 14 nations to a 300-event sporting celebration with over 10,000 competitors from 205 nations. Organizers for the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing expected approximately 10,500 competitors to take part in the 302 events on the program for the games. Eighteen countries have hosted the Summer Olympics, with Great Britain in 2012 being the most recent. The United States has hosted four Summer Olympics (1904, 1932, 1984, and 1996), more than any other nation, and Great Britain has hosted three Summer Olympics (1908, 1948, and 2012), all in London. Three cities have hosted two Summer Olympics: Los Angeles (1932 and 1984), Paris (1900 and 1924), and Athens (1896 and 2004). The only Olympics held in the Southern Hemisphere so far have both been in Australia (Melbourne 1956 and Sydney 2000).

In 2016, Rio de Janeiro will host the first Summer Games in South America. Five countries – Greece, Australia, France, Great Britain and Switzerland – have been represented at all Summer Olympic Games. The only country to have won at least one gold medal at every Summer Olympic Games is Great Britain, ranging from one gold in 1904, 1952 and 1996 to fifty-six gold medals in 1908. A very good amount of repeating gold medalists have come from the U.S. Many will be also competing in this summer's Olympics. This event is a very popular event throughout the world and also brings very good publicity to the athletes competing and the locations of the events. The athletes compete in their events over a couple days and the events will be live on television throughout the week.

Andrew's Automotive Assesment

By: Andrew Koval

Ken Block's "Hoonicorn" Mustang RTR



Ken Block's Hoonicorn Mustang RTR is in fact the most powerful all-wheel drive performance muscle car ever built. This car makes a brand new Mustang look mediocre at best. This way this car was made was through the help of Ken's friend Vaughn Gittin Jr. who owns RTR (Ready To Rock), which is a manufacturer in everything Mustang from body modification to engine modifications. The car was heavily modified by RTR and ASD Motorsports to feature a 410 cubic inch Roush Yates V8, with an amazing 845 horsepower and 720 lbs. of torque. The car also has a 6 speed all-wheel drive manual transmission with a hydraulic handbrake used for drifting and cutting corners (especially for you fans of the *Fast and Furious* franchise). In addition, the car only weighs 2,500 lbs. and its panels and frame are made out of carbon fiber (which is ten times stronger than steel).

Ken Block used this car specifically for a popular YouTube series called *Gymkhana*. He has currently made 8 of these videos and the Hoonicorn was used in the seventh. *Gymkhana* is driving a course primarily set in an urban area in which you take your car and run the course as fast as you possibly can while being stylish by driving, doing donuts, and burnouts. The video that Ken Block posted on YouTube called "[HOONIGAN] KEN BLOCK'S GYMKHANA SEVEN: WILD IN THE STREETS OF LOS ANGELES" currently has 34,490,679 views on YouTube. The car was used in many events after that video was made including SEMA (Specialty Equipment Market Association) which is the largest car show in America held in Las Vegas Nevada. The wheels on this car alone are \$1,000 apiece. Not to mention, this car is basically a Go-Pro's dream, having over 50 spots where GoPros can be attached to film all of the crazy stunts that he performs. For example, during one of his videos Ken Block had to drift under a car doing a donut while the car was bouncing up and down in the air. As crazy as it sounds, he has done this and many other stunts numerous amounts of times in his videos.

Ken Block has definitely made a name for himself not only because of his superior racing skills, but also through this cars and the future cars he will build as well.

Superfoods

By: Courtland Corrente

Everybody loves food, whether it be pizza, ice cream, cabbage, or onions. Everyone has a different taste and some may not like the same foods as others, but food is good and everyone agrees. Some foods that we eat actually have crazy health benefits. These foods are called “superfoods,” and you probably have eaten them without even knowing how good they were for you or what they helped. Here are 10 common superfoods that everyone has probably tried at one point without knowing what the foods can really do:



- **Yogurt:** Believe it or not, it is a proven fact that yogurt actually prevents wrinkles.
- **Strawberries:** Everyone enjoys having super white teeth, but is it really worth buying those whitening strips? Strawberries provide the higher levels of vitamin C than many citrus fruits and reduce tooth discoloration caused by other foods and drinks such as coffee.
- **Chickpeas:** Although they probably aren't the first choice for young adults, they may be worth eating if you have trouble sleeping. Got a big test tomorrow and want a good night's rest? Eat some chickpeas before bed. You'll sleep a lot better and won't wake up periodically.
- **Chocolate:** Good news! Chocolate has a health benefit. It is proven to lower stress levels when eaten in small amounts. But a little extra won't hurt anyone...will it?
- **Olive Oil:** Do you sweat a lot randomly throughout the day? Some people suffer from this condition, but adding olive oil in your diet can stop this.
- **Peanut Butter:** Even though winter is over, we are still experiencing cold weather which means chapped lips. Eating peanut butter cures chapped lips.
- **Spinach:** Have dark circles under your eyes because you were up really late the night before? Eating some spinach helps fade these away.
- **Pumpkin:** Eating pumpkin can make your skin smooth.
- **Rosemary:** This herb annihilates bacteria that causes bad BO.
- **Walnuts:** Did you have a bad day? Are you in a bad mood? Eat some walnuts. Walnuts produce serotonin, the chemical that makes our brain happy.



The Marquette Poll took place in the state of Wisconsin from March 24th to March 28th. The Marquette Law School Poll involves interviews with more than 700 registered voters by telephone, including both cellphones and landlines. The interview occurs over four nights, so all voters have an opportunity to answer and be surveyed. All questions are designed by the law school team which is led by Charles Franklin.



Ever since the Marquette Polls that took place in February, Donald Trump was in the lead in polls over senator Ted Cruz before this event in Wisconsin took place. Ted Cruz managed to pull a victory over Donald Trump in Wisconsin. He had a ten point lead over Trump in the GOP presidential primary. The results from this poll show Ted Cruz with 40 percent of voters as opposed to Donald Trump's 30 percent. Ohio governor John Kasich is in third place with 21 percent. Surprisingly, Donald Trump did not have a successful turn out at all. Only 22 percent of registered voters that were surveyed in this poll said they are very favorable of Trump. On the other hand, 70 percent of registered voters find him very unfavorable. 56 percent of registered voters were not afraid to admit that they would be very uncomfortable with Trump as their president.

This is an even higher unfavorable percentage than Hillary Clinton, Bernie Sanders, Ted Cruz, and John Kasich all have. In the Democratic race, Bernie Sanders leads with 49 percent compared to Hillary Clinton who has 45 percent. The Wisconsin primary is the only major event before New York's contest on April 19th. This will be a very significant political event to happen in New York since 1988. Voters will go to the polls on April 19th in the New York primary. There will be 95 Republican delegates awarded. Candidates who win more than 50 percent of the votes will be awarded all three delegates in the district. Also, there are 291 Democratic delegates available. 247 will be awarded to the candidates based on the votes by registered members in the state's districts.



Corn Fritters

By: Max Gossard

Portage Palate Gossard's Grub

Since Easter has just passed (and for future holiday meals), you may have a lot of leftovers. Eating the same leftovers every day for the next few weeks can be boring. This is a good side dish to make for anything, even other dishes that are not associated with Easter. This side dish goes very well with fried chicken or fish. The corn fritters give a nice combination of sweet and salty taste with a crunchy texture and they stay warmer longer than traditional mashed potatoes and corn on their own. This is an easy recipe and also very lenient so do not worry about following the recipe exactly. As long as you come close the corn fritters will come out the same just about every time.

Ingredients:

2 cups of leftover mashed potatoes
1 cup of flour
¼ cup of corn
½ table spoon of baking soda
Vegetable oil to lightly coat the bottom of a frying pan.



Directions:

- In a medium to a large size bowl place the mashed potatoes, flour, and baking soda and begin to mash together and mix until combined. This could leave a somewhat dry and fluffy appearance.
- Add the ¼ cup of corn into the mixture and gently fold and stir in until well mixed
- Turn the stove burner on to preheat the vegetable oil
- While oil is preheating take small balls of the mixture and form into patties, make them as big or small as you want.
- Once oil is hot place the patties you formed into the pan gently
- Cook until golden brown on each side
- Serve hot
- Enjoy

***Caution:** be careful while dealing with hot oil. The corn will pop once it is so hot and may burn you. Be cautious when flipping fritters as you do not want to splash the hot oil onto yourself or pets...no one wants to cause injury or start a fire.