

# Final Spark Hilltop

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## Ready, Set, Color

By: Taylor McCloskey

The Portage Elementary PTO will be hosting Color-A-Thon Fun Run/Walk event. The Color-A-Thon is founded by School-A-Thon, an organization that describes themselves on a mission to “provide a fun, interactive alternative to traditional fundraisers” that was started by the owners who are familiar with fundraising and they know that the traditional “thons” whether walking, running, jumping, spelling can be short of help and not much funds raised as hoped or anticipated



The School-A-Thon organization believes that raising money should not be boring, tedious, or the same thing every single year. There should be variety. They want to take a normal, boring, tedious fundraiser and make it full of color, excitement, and amazement.

For the Portage PTO’s ‘thon,’ there is no sale, but just an opportunity for donation money to be raised. The fundraiser will be held on Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup> at the Portage Football Stadium. On the day of the event, registration for the run/walk begins at 9:00 am and ends at 10:45am. The event will start at 11:00 am. The event will end when all of the color runs out. The entry fee is \$30.00 and you get a t-shirt and color pack when pre-registered. You could have registered online at [www.shop.schoolathon.org](http://www.shop.schoolathon.org), followed the link from our website [www.portageareasd.com](http://www.portageareasd.com), or turned in your donation envelope to the Portage PTO. All early registrations were due by April 29<sup>th</sup>. Late registrations will not be guaranteed a t-shirt for the event.

When asked about this event, there were many high school students who never heard of it, yet thought it was a great idea. Junior Jake Tarachko stated, “This is a must-do event that you should all put on your bucket list; it will be fun and you’ll be full of color.”

The Color-A-Thon is not just a fundraiser; it is a fun activity for family and friends to gather and enjoy together. At the Color-A-Thon, students can win t-shirts and prizes.

“Prizes, memories, and being with friends. This sounds like a fun activity to be a part of,” Hailey Krisiko shared when asked about the ‘thon.’

The people participating in the event will get red, yellow, green, blue and pink to celebrate the run/walk and make it more interesting. Other details and video can be found on their website as well. While all the colors are being thrown around, your PTO is getting GREEN. So ready...set...Color-A-Thon.

# Summer's Cinema Reviews: The Huntsman Winter's War

By: Sumer Slebodnick

April is almost over which means another month of great movies is almost over too. To end the month, I am going to review the top three movies in the box office for the week of April 25.

At number three this week is *Barbershop: The Next Cut* (PG-13). Starring Ice Cube as Calvin, this movie is about a surrounding community that has taken a turn for the worse. It has been ten years since Calvin's Barbershop opened. Calvin and his long time crew are still there, but it has turned into a co-ed sanctuary. However, the new ladies bring their own flair to the shop. Despite whatever happens in the shop, they must come together to save the shop and the neighborhood. I have never heard of this movie until recently. I have watched the trailer, and it does not seem like a movie I would want to see.

*The Huntsman: Winter's War* (PG-13) is at number two this week. This movie stars Chris Hemsworth as The Huntsman. As a war between rival queen sisters Ravenna and Freya escalates, Eric and his fellow warrior, Sara, try to conceal their forbidden love as they go to war with Ravenna's evil intentions. I have heard about this movie, but I have not had the time to see it yet. I think it looks good from the trailer, and I think it will be good because once again, it is based off of a Disney movie and to me, that means it has to be good.

Finally, as I predicted, *The Jungle Book* (PG) comes in at number one this week. This twist on a Disney original movie is about the man-cub, Mowgli, who flees to the jungle after a threat from tiger Shere Khan. Guided by Bagheera, the panther and Baloo, the bear, Mowgli embarks on a journey of self-discovery, though he also meets creatures who do not have his best interests at heart. An all-star cast including Bill Murray (Baloo), Idris Elba (Shere Khan), and Scarlett Johansson (Kaa) among others, provides voices for the main characters. This movie was definitely one of the best movies I have seen in a while. It is no surprise to me that it was listed at number one this past week.



## Teacher Interview- Mr Kargo

By: Alexis Richardson

Q: Are you a good cook?

A: No but my wife and both sets of our parents are tremendous cooks

Q: Which store would you choose to max out your credit card?

A: Polo or Nike

Q: Think fast, what do you like right now? Why?

A: Money. So I can buy gifts and travel and relax without worrying about how to pay for those things!

Q: What time do you get up?

A: 6:30 am

Q: What do you think about the most? Why?

A: Sports. They are my passion

## Teacher Interview- Ms. Szpala

Q: What do you think would be the hardest thing for you to give up on? Why?

A: Junk food. I am a horrible cook, so I live on potato chips

Q: Do you remember your dreams?

A: Most of the time...though some I wish I could forget

Q: What was the last thing you bought?

A: A case of Snyder's Bacon Cheddar Pretzel Pieces. I realized I am not a fan, so if anyone has a craving, let me know.

Q: What do you do most when you are bored?

A: Eat...And I am bored a lot

Q: Do you touch-type?

A: No, I do not. I am definitely a hunt and peck type

## GAME TIME

By: Chad Salem

# Fallout 4: Automatron

*Fallout 4*'s first Downloadable Content (DLC), *Automatron* came out March 22<sup>nd</sup> of this year. For people who yearn for their own customizable companions, or friends, this DLC is a dream come true.

Similar to most other DLCs that add story to the game, *Automatron* is short. But just because STORY-LINE is short, that doesn't mean that you won't still have fun. *Automatron*'s story starts with Ada, a type of robot called an Assaultron. She is a homemade robot, created by our protagonist, The Mechanist.

Recently, The Mechanist began creating more robots of his own, created by pieces of scrap, other military robots, etc. Ada wants to avenge the death of her friends and stop The Mechanist. To begin, Ada needs you to find pieces from The Mechanist's special robots, named Quantum Robots. After installing some of the pieces to Ada, she allows you to modify her and make your own Automatrons.

Before I spoil the storyline, let's talk about creating Automatrons. You can create customizable robots with parts you can craft yourself or take from other robots. This makes for a combination of awesome looking robots. You can even change the voice and paint of the companion.

Going through and exploring the DLC, you can find lots of new things, like new weapons and new armors. The DLC adds lots of creative new armor and weapons into the game. Most of the weapons are parts of salvaged robots, and the same goes for the armor.

Along with the new weapons, armor, and customization, the finale of the DLC is an epic fight between you and The Mechanist. In the building of the fight, The Mechanist has complete control, which puts you at a major disadvantage, but it's a lot of fun.

Before getting the DLC, make sure you do the following:

1. Play *Fallout 4*
2. Make sure that you are level 15 or over, or else the DLC will not start until that point.
3. Ask your parents' permission to download the content because it costs \$10.00.

If you play *Fallout 4* or plan to, get the DLC...it will be well worth it!

By: Emily Niper

# St. Francis Trip

Tuesday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Trybus's Anatomy and Physiology classes went to St. Francis and had the opportunity to go Scuba diving and visit the cadaver lab. The students departed from the school right after 1<sup>st</sup> period, and returned in the middle of 9<sup>th</sup> period. The day was full of the aforementioned activities, and the students purchased lunch at St. Francis' cafeteria.

Mrs. Price took the juniors scuba diving to start the day, then proceeded to a session about college careers followed by the best part of the day (according to many of the students): lunch. After lunch the students went down to another session learning about all the different careers they can pursue if they attend the college.

After their session with Dr. Miko, they made their way down to the cadaver lab to finish off their day's worth of activities.

"Whenever we went scuba diving, it was pretty cool to go underwater and breathe. I felt like a mermaid and it reminded me of my childhood," quoted Hayley Denwood, member of A&P and science club. She further stated, "The cadaver lab helped me realize that my dreams for the future can be accomplished. I was able to hold someone's brain, heart, and other organs without getting sick. It was incredible for someone to donate their body for such a good cause. I hope that future A&P classes get the same opportunity in the future."

The students were all thankful that they were able to take this opportunity that most people won't have a chance to do. It is amazing being able to do the things we did because not every high school student has the same chance to do it as our students.

# An Illustrated Guide to Choosing a Major

By: Braedon St. Clair

Although about a year away, we are inching closer and closer to the graduation of 2017, and it becomes more and more important for the seniors of this class to choose the right major. The right major is a major that you are sure you will be happy with and strongly believe that you will succeed in the career field following college. It takes a lot of time and a lot of hard thinking to pick your major, but in the end, it is worth it. Still, many students enter the college scene undecided on their major.



In fact, it has been found around 80% of U.S. students go as undecided and later choose their major. However, some high school students have a career path in mind from the day they apply to college: they know where they want to attend, what they want to major in and where they want to work. A big thing is thinking about what matters most to you, and evaluate what kind of skills and abilities you want when you graduate. It may help to consider a few basic ideas about your career goals: Do you want to make a lot of money? Are you interested in furthering research for the greater good? Do you want to create art?

Your answers will separate potential interests from programs that won't develop the skills you want. There is also a lot of other aspects you have to take into consideration before choosing a major. Some colleges don't have certain programs (that others have), so if there is a certain college you're set on, you may have to change your mind on either the college or major choice.

Also you may have to make some adjustments if you want to stay close to home or move far away. Another big thing, probably the biggest, is grades, however. Depending on your GPA, entrance test scores, or scores on the ACT/SAT, the college choices could increase or decrease.

In conclusion picking a major will affect the rest of your life, so everyone should take it very serious and consider all of their options before making the decision. "Bestcolleges.com" is a great website with very many tips and guidelines on what you should do before choosing your major. There are others out there as well, so be patient when deciding. You can also see the guidance office for information.

## Vassas's Views

By: Elliott Vassas



The Pennsylvania primary was held on Tuesday, April 26<sup>th</sup>. The polls were open from 7 am to 8 pm. Pennsylvania has private polls, so people registered in the Republican Party can only vote on the Republican side. Also, people registered to the Democratic Party can only cast their ballots on the Democratic side. The majority of Republican voters cast their ballot for Donald Trump, which is not too much of a surprise to anyone. Trump received the most votes all together between Democratic and Republican voters. He took the lead of Pennsylvania's primary with 56.7 percent and 829,702 votes. Ted Cruz fell far behind with 21.6 percent and 340,201 votes.

On the Democratic side, Hillary Clinton won a hard fought battle. She took the lead with 55.6 percent (918,689) of the votes. Bernie Sanders was not too far behind with 43.6 percent and 719,955 votes. Among the people that I have talked to after this election, there were just about an equal amount of favorites towards Sanders and Clinton as there were for Trump. Many people hear Donald Trump without even knowing anything about politics and just assume he would make a good president by what the majority of people around them say. Others actually decide to vote for Hillary Clinton or Bernie Sanders since they have different views of how they would like their country changed for the better. No matter what opinions people have, the numbers don't lie. The votes are counted and that is who takes the win.

On a side note, Voters in Lancaster believe that Pennsylvania should open their polls to independent voters. If this was the case, more people would most likely vote. And then obviously all of these numbers could be different, and the results could have been shifted with different front-runners coming out of the polls on top.

By: Courtland Corrente

# Cloning Dinos

Dinosaurs have been extinct for about 65 million years. Nobody knows exactly what happened to them, but we know that scientists have found evidence that they were in fact real. They have even recovered enough information to know which dinosaurs were herbivores and carnivores, which ones had the ability to fly and other details of dinosaur life. Unfortunately, all of these theories are guesses based on the evidence scientists have found over the years which means that what we know about dinosaurs may be false. However, with modern technology, there is a possibility (although it is very, very slight, and borderline impossible) that scientists could, under many circumstances, clone dinosaurs and bring them back to our modern day.

For cloning to happen, scientists would need to find a fully sequenced dinosaur DNA. This would be found in dinosaur bones. After this, they would have to find a host organism to help clone the beast. This host organism would most likely be a bird. If somehow this mother bird would be capable of giving birth to this creature, the offspring would be half bird and half dinosaur. If this was achieved, another question comes into play. Would this creature be able to survive in today's climate? The genes of the offspring probably would have survived in a very different world. Research has proven that the carbon dioxide content, oxygen content, and temperatures (just to name a few characteristics) were a lot different back when dinosaurs were around. If this creature was to be cloned into our modern world, there would be no way to tell how it would function in our current conditions.

Even though scientists know how to clone a dinosaur, so far they have not come close to doing so. To begin they need the DNA which has not been discovered yet. This could change sometime in the distant (or not so distant) future, so maybe our great, great, great, great grandchildren will be able to see a real life dinosaur. When asked if they thought it would be a good idea to clone dinosaurs if it ever became possible, a few students gave their opinions.

With some hesitancy, Braedon St. Clair stated, "No! That's creepy!"

On the other hand, junior Taylor McCloskey replied, "Sure, unless they overpopulate. Then it would be really bad."

I also asked Nathan Teno. Never one to shy away from an opinion, Nathan responded, "Yes it would be a good idea as long as we could keep them caged in. It would be almost like a new Disney World because everyone would pay to go see them."

Personally, I think it would be a good idea as long as all of the dinosaurs are under control and are kept at a safe distance away from civilization. We would be able to learn a lot more about the past with them. What do you think? Is there room in our world for animals of yesterday? We may find out.

By: Katie Nolan

# Week 5 Softball

The Lady Mustangs entered week 5 of their season finally getting a break with the weather, seeing temperatures slowly rise above 40 degrees. The Lady Mustangs record going into last week was 4 and 6. The Lady Mustangs line up has changed once again. Last week's line up was Alli Kissell catching, Olivia Kissell and Bella Strosnider swapping out as pitcher as well as first base, Taylor Glass at a second base, Sierra Crum at shortstop, Katie Nolan at third base, Haley Kenny in left field, Kylee McCarty in center field, and Sylena Conklin in right field. Last week's batting order went Bella Strosnider, Katie Nolan, Sierra Crum, Alli Kissell, Olivia Kissell, Sylena Conklin, Kylee McCarty, Emily Kunko and Taylor Glass.

The Lady Mustang's first game last week was on Tuesday, April 26th, against the Conemaugh Township Lady Indians. The Lady Mustangs traveled to Davidsville hoping to start the week off on a positive note but fell short of the win. The Lady Mustangs held the Lady Indians to only a 2 run lead, leaving the score 3 to 1 until the 5th inning. The Lady Mustangs struggled in the 5th inning with some fielding errors which cost them some runs then after finally getting 2 outs the Lady Indian's Abbey Roberts hit a home run driving in 3 more runs before the Mustangs could make a 3rd out. But the Lady Mustangs did not go scoreless in the 5th inning. They drove in 2 runs, but it was not enough. The score at the end of the 5th inning was 12-3. The Lady Mustangs got 2 runners on base in the top of the 6th inning but were unable to drive the runs in, leaving the score the same for the Lady Indians to bat in the 6th inning. The Lady Indians ended up scoring 1 run and ending the game with a 10 run mercy rule win 13-3. Leading the way at the plate for the Lady Mustangs though was sophomore Kylee McCarty, hitting 2 doubles.

The Lady Mustangs also hosted Claysburg on Wednesday, April 27th. The Lady Mustangs may not have won the game, but they are playing better. If it wasn't for a grand slam by a Claysburg player and a few tough plays in the field, the game would have been a lot closer. The Lady Mustangs lost 13-4, but those four runs were driven in by senior Alli Kissell's grand slam. The Lady Mustangs definitely showed improvement in the field despite the score. They have shown steady improvement as the season has progressed, providing for a lot of excitement the rest of this season and beyond.





# Portage Palate Gossard's Grub

By: Max Gossard

## Pancake Breakfast Sandwich

This recipe is good for a lazy weekend when you wake up early for no reason and can't fall back asleep. It will make you very happy because it has everything you would want in a sandwich like pancakes. This sandwich will make you feel very happy inside and make you fall asleep after you eat it. Simply put, this breakfast sandwich is amazing.

### **Pancake Breakfast Sandwich**

Pancake batter ingredients:

1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour

3 1/4 teaspoons baking soda

1 teaspoon salt

1 tablespoon white sugar

1 1/4 cups milk

1 egg

3 tablespoons melted butter

Other ingredients:

1 sausage patty

1 large egg

1/2 cup of shredded hash browns (or 1 hash brown patty if you prefer)

1 slice of American cheese

Maple syrup (amount is dictated by your taste)



### **Directions:**

First begin by making the pancake batter. Sift and add all dry ingredients into a large bowl

Add the egg, milk, butter and whisk or beat the mixture until it becomes a thick batter.

To make the "bun" begin by heating a pan and grease it with either PAM or a little bit of butter and pouring pancake batter for two pancakes keeping the size of the pan cakes around the same size as your sausage patty.

Cook for one minute on one side add maple syrup to the pancakes then let cook for one more minute

Flip once and let cook for 2 minutes

Once pancakes are cooked take them out of the pan, place on plate, and cover with paper towels.

In another pan, drizzle some oil and pre-heat for your sausage and hash browns.

Cook your sausage patty and hash browns to desired doneness.

In a separate pan, add a small pad of butter and melt and begin to cook your egg however you prefer.

Once everything is cooked, assemble your sandwich. Place the bottom pancake (bun) and add your sausage patty followed by your slice of cheese then hash browns and your egg and top it with the second pancake (bun)

Enjoy!!

Go back to sleep because you won't want to move afterward.

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# Hannah's Helpful Hints

# Senioritis

By: Hannah Shaffer

As the school year is coming to the end, it is now the time of year when you see almost every senior struggling just to get through the day. We call this struggle *senioritis*. We seem to be slowly limping down the hallway like the zombies on the *Walking Dead*. We are drained just thinking about our high school and elementary school careers closing, the future college and employment opportunities, and the freedom of summer-time approaching. We are turning almost every assignment in late (well with the exception of me since I've been doing it all year) and struggling just to finish most of our assignments. For all of you underclassmen who do not understand this, here are some signs of senioritis and how to deal with it.



1. For seniors, sweatpants and messy buns have become the new fashion statement so no judgment will be tolerated.
2. Don't mind us slow walking down the hallways...we are struggling and need to be left alone.
3. We say we hate everyone and everything, so try not to take it personally.
4. If a video is shown at this point of the year, no matter how short, we will fall asleep.
5. Maybe this is just me, but assignments will be turned in late (like this one in particular), so work ahead.
6. Expect us to be tardy (I was tardy this week by the way); it's hard to even rise out of bed in the morning anymore...invest in Starbuck's.
7. Classes seem so much longer...do NOT watch the clock, or you'll swear time is moving backward.
8. Realizing a B+ on an assignment feels like the best grade ever at this point.
9. The only things getting us through the last month seem to be prom, trips for clubs, and graduation.
10. Remember, you will have to deal with added pressure because of scholarships and college applications for the months of March and April, so any extra homework is unnecessary and painful...invest in Tylenol.
11. We are going to wing most finals (just saying), so lower the expectations and adjust grading curves, please.
12. We are all saying we aren't going to gain the "Freshmen 15," but we should just stop lying to ourselves...DO NOT invest in Ramen Noodles and Mac & Cheese.
13. Can we make free day Fridays a regular event now...please?
14. We will get angry if anyone younger says they have senioritis... you just wait your turn!
15. Why are we getting papers to write and presentations to do at this point; since we have completed our senior graduation projects already, there is an outside chance that these probably won't be the best work we have ever done...please leave the judging for Judge Judy.



But...we've made it. Shout out to everyone who reads this and has been here through the years. I had fun (and hope you did too)...but everything has to come to an end.