

Pymatuning Valley High School Pymatuning Post

April 30th, 2024



A Night in a Fairytale (Prom): *By Emily Blanford*



Each year Junior Class Cabinet and Mrs Wonderling put on the wonderful event that is Prom. This year's prom theme is Fairytale because life itself is the most wonderful fairytale. But the day doesn't just include Prom. There is also a Grand March where everyone can show off their beautiful outfits. But that's still not all! Prom King and Queen are also crowned at the Grand March. This year's King candidates were Lucian Lopez, Shan Fazal, Trevor Clute, Felipe Nogueira, and



Caydence Wiser. The queen candidates were Abby Knowles, Mya Skarlinsky, Jenna Dory, Ruby Beck, and Savannah Daugherty. Last

year's queen Grace Stroke personally came back to crown the two lucky candidates. The 2024 Prom King is Caydence Wiser and the 2024 Prom Queen is Ruby Beck!

After the Grand March was over attendees headed on down to Tiffany's Banquet Center and had a nice dinner with cheesecake as dessert. Then they hit the dance floor with music provided by the one and only DJ Dye. Overall everyone had a great time at Prom this year. Thank you to everyone who helped put on prom!



Student Spotlight:

Gavin Hodge- by Brianna Farmer

Meet Gavin Hodge, a student at our school who loves Transformers. He has almost 150 of them! Gavin started collecting Transformers when he was about six years old, so he's been doing it for a long time. Some of his Transformers are old, from way back in 2001.



Where does Gavin get all these cool Transformers? He finds them in stores, just about anywhere he can. He's always on the lookout for new ones to add to his collection, whether it's at local toy shops or online.

What got Gavin into collecting Transformers? Well, like many of us, he just thinks they're super cool to have. His childhood hobbies got him interested, and he's been collecting ever since.

With such a big collection and his love for Transformers, Gavin Hodge is definitely one of the biggest Transformers fans around. Who knows where his collection will take him next?

Dakota Casto- By Brianna Farmer

In the world of yarn and needles, one name shines bright, Dakota Casto. Although she only started crocheting a year ago, Dakota's love and talent have quickly made her a standout at our school.

Dakota learned to knit when she was ten, but her crocheting journey began when she wanted to try something new. She taught herself the basics and fell in love with creating all sorts of things, from stuffed animals to bags and little trinkets. Dakota's favorite things to make are plushies, and some of her creations are even displayed in our school's art show. She crochets whenever she can find the time, always eager to improve and try new ideas.

When asked why she loves crocheting so much, Dakota simply says, "It's fun." Her passion inspires others to give it a try too. With her talent and determination, Dakota Casto is becoming a crocheting superstar, adding color and creativity to our school and beyond.



Principal's Breakfast: *By Emily Blanford*

Each year the academic boosters host the Principals Breakfast. This year was the 34th anniversary of the Principals Breakfast. It started with a welcome from Mr. Mollohan and then Mrs. Jodi Heath, President of the Academic Boosters led the Pledge Of Allegiance. The guest speaker this year was Sarah Urchek. Sarah currently is the assistant district counsel for the US Army Engineer district that is based in Louisville Kentucky. She graduated from Pymatuning Valley in 2012 and went on to earn a degree in intelligence and national security from Point Park University and then went on to earn her juris doctor degree from Michigan State University. Sarah was a wonderful guest speaker and talked about three key phrases that she keeps as little reminders on her desk. These key phrases are "Shoot or Shoot", "Sense of Urgency", and "Trust the Process". She talked about how these phrases remind her to speak out when needed, trust her process, and to keep on taking the shots she needs to succeed. Overall Sarah was a wonderful speaker and had great insights and advice for the students as they take on the future. Each student awarded at the Principals Breakfast should be very proud because only 18% of the entire student faculty is awarded. Congratulations to all the students awarded!



Student of the Month: *By Noah Whitesel*

Miley Edelman

Miley Edelman was nominated by an office group collaboration (Mrs. Lynagh, Mrs. Feydo, Mrs. Fassett) and has proven not only to her peers but to the staff members that she has gone above and beyond. Mr. Mollohan said “ Miley has been the District Office mail person this year for HS and primary and she has been doing such a great job. She always has a smile on her face and she's so pleasant and professional. I've never seen her in a bad mood, if she was having a bad day, I would never know it. She shows pigs and is heavily involved in FFA She is also a majorette and wants to pursue that in college. Miley is Very confident and can handle any situation. She is always willing to jump right in and help with whatever needs to be done in the office. Nothing phases her. She is also extremely helpful to her classmates and peers” Congratulations on student of the month Miley!!!



Fine Arts Person/Art Show: By Kendra Wallace

The VMPAC halls are bursting with color and creativity this week. The school is hosting an impressive student art exhibition showcasing the incredible talent of some of Mr. Brown's art classes. Paintings, drawings, sculptures and more fill the halls, reflecting the students' unique perspectives and skills. "I'm so proud of the hard work and artistic growth my students have shown," says Mr. Brown. "This is

a wonderful chance for them to share their voices through art." The show is a true testament to the flourishing arts program. There are also highlighted artist tables shown in the show, Sophia Fazal and Braden Claypole. From abstract landscapes to detailed portraits, the show highlights the students' mastery and unique visions. Many pieces also explore thought-provoking themes, inviting the viewer to reflect and connect with the artwork on a deeper level. Be sure to stop by and admire the inspiring array of student artwork on display. It's an event not to be missed!!



Mock Crash/SADD: *By Ainslee Scribber*



On Thursday April 25th, different local fire departments, and the medevac arrived to help stage the Mock Crash assisted by our very own Pymatuning Valley High School SADD students. They staged a head on collision, and some of the



victims of the brutal accident were Baylee Fogus, Isabella Limestoll, Claire Jewett, Makayla Racey, Gauby Patrick and Mia Nappi. Our one fatality was Isabella Limestoll. After the SADD students were rescued, the high school students were led into the VMPAC to listen to a state highway patrolman. He informed us of the consequences of drinking and driving. And gave one of our very own SADD students, Makayla Racey, a Field Sobriety Test and informed us of what to look for



when someone might be drunk. I interviewed Freshman Mackenna Jordan and when asked what her thoughts were about the Mock Crash she said “I thought it was really



cool... I enjoyed it.” On Friday, SADD students set up mocktails in the cafeteria and students were given the opportunity to try the obstacle course with the drunk goggles. SADD did a great job making us aware of the consequences of reckless and drunk driving! We

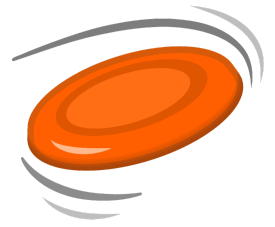


look forward to seeing what they will do next year! And shout out to Davon Lowe who did the makeup for our victims!



Frisbee Golf: *By Isabella Limestoll*

Frisbee Golf is a great and exciting club available at our school. Frisbee Golf is a flying disc sport in which players throw a disc (or frisbee) at a target. It is played using rules similar to golf. Currently the club is only 8 members strong but is always looking for more students to join. The sport allows you to learn new skills and have fun doing so. At the moment, the club watches skill videos during activity periods and finds a Friday every month to practice their throwing skills. If you're interested in joining the club or want to see more on what it's about, head down to Mrs. Stoffel's room during an activity period. It's located right next to the SMR room.



Ski Club: *By Isabella Limestoll*

The Ski club is a fantastic club that allows students to fall in love with the snowy sport. Skiing is a sport that involves gliding over snow by the use of a pair of long flat runners that are called ski's.

According to Mrs. Siembor, the club consists of 10-15 kids and their families. The club journeys to Peek n Peak in New York when they get the chance to have fun in the snow. Finally, when asked what she would say to kids on the fence about joining the club, Siembor said "It's a great opportunity to experience skiing at a discounted rate with a lesson to allow you to enjoy it more." The Ski Club is an outstanding club filled with kids who work hard and enjoy taking their skills to the snowy slopes. While they don't always get to go, the club has a great time doing things they love. To join, make sure to talk to Mrs. Siembor.



PV Jazz Jam: By Katelyn Blanford

The PV Jazz Jam is an event that brings together jazz bands from all over. Performances were from Conneaut Area Senior High, Edgewood, Geneva, Hubbard, Jefferson, Lakeside, The Ashtabula County Honors Jazz Band, and PV Jazz. The variety of music that was played was amazing, anything from jazz classics like *St Louis Blues* or *Take Five* to songs like *Paranoid Android* or *Get it On*. The range that most of these students can achieve and convey through the variety of music is really inspiring. The Jazz Jam brings these different schools together to see what others have achieved and opens our minds towards others music.



PV Jazz's setlist ranged from fast songs like *Cold Duck Time*, *Pass the Hot Sauce*, and *Such Sweet Thunder*. *Cold Duck Time* is from a time where Jazz was on the more serious side; it pushed the Jazz style towards a whole new different direction with more of a funky rock style. *Pass the Hot Sauce* changed the entire vibe of our setlist adding that cool latin feel featuring our trumpet section. Our saxophone feature was *Such Sweet Thunder* and it added a bit of difficulty to our setlist and gave that dark deeper experience. We featured both vocalist Ella Poole with *Route 66* and senior trombone and trumpet player Brady Tisch in *Bridge Over Troubled Water*. *Route 66* is a song unlike any other. It gives you the

feeling of actually being on *Route 66* because it opened so many new opportunities of traveling west. *Bridge Over Troubled Water* is that support song and helps comfort you if you ever are in trouble. Other songs included solos showing off the range that the students can achieve through improvisation.



Another highlight is the relationship between each of the schools in Ashtabula County. Throughout the years the relationships between each school have grown closer and closer and it's only going to get better. Through leadership day in the summer or even through the Honors Band program the connections that have been made through the students and directors is amazing. Each one of these bands makes everyone feel included even if



you aren't a part of Ashtabula County. The sense of community is a real highlight and it makes the environment more fun.

A lot of students like playing together and it brings together schools from CASH all the way to Hubbard since they won't see each other anywhere else. The bond that Mr Dye and the other band directors have created for each of the bands is immaculate. You won't really find it anywhere else besides in Ashtabula County which makes the vibes of the event more fun. All in all the Jazz Jam is a very fun event that everyone should enjoy because it's one of the biggest jazz events in the county and brings people from all over to perform.



Voices In The Valley: By Katelyn Blanford

Voices in the Valley is a performance filled with elite show choir groups from around Ashtabula County. The show choirs included Jefferson Supersations, Edgewood Soundsations, Conneaut Spartones, and PV Soundwaves. Each group's performances were absolutely amazing ranging in a variety of songs from the 60s to modern day. Each show choir's hard work and dedication to their themes and songs showed in this concert. Conneaut Spartones took us all over with their multitude of stories. Jefferson took us back to the 60s with a La La Land Melody showing the bliss and loveliness of La La Land. Finally Edgewood took us back to the 70s with songs like *Dancing Queen* and *Ain't no Sunshine*.



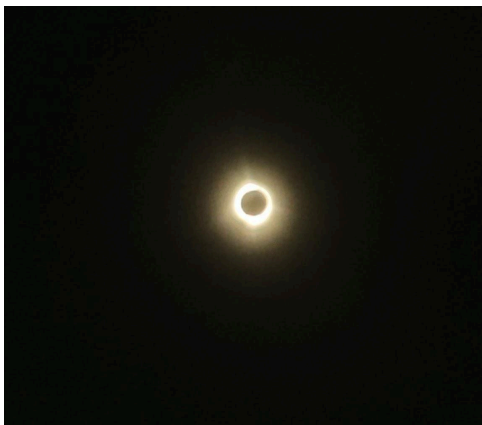
PV Soundwaves was our last group performing hit songs from the 90s. They started off with a 90s Rock Melody with songs such as *Step by Step*, *Opposites Attract*, *Livin' La Vida Loca*, and *Smooth* by *Santana*. Each of those songs are iconic 90s songs for the ages. *Livin' La Vida Loca* featured soloist Mason Spencer and *Smooth* featured soloist Nathan Jernigin. The second song in the setlist was a girl feature with *Man I Feel Like a Woman*. *Man I Feel Like a Woman* was an absolute bop

during the 90s bringing with it the female empowerment lyrics. The boy feature was the song *Buddy Holly* by Weezer. *Buddy Holly* is an iconic song from the 90s and brought everyone back to the 90s alternative rock era. The last song for the PV Soundwaves set was *Black or White* by Michael Jackson. Michael Jackson broke the racial boundaries set for this era and broke many records for the entire music industry. The bows happened and PV got a standing ovation. The setlist brought many in the community back to their youth and transformed the PV Show Choir's abilities.

Voices In The Valley doesn't only allow show choirs to perform together it also brings them together to perform in one big group. Combining all the show choirs together there was a total of 80 students. Together the show choirs sang two songs: *Reaching Higher and Higher* and *One Voice*. First song was *Reaching Higher and Higher* which is a fast based choreographed song with the 80 people on the stage. They learn the choreography in their respective show choirs then during the day of the show bring it all together. The last song of the night is a ballad called *One Voice*. It's an underrated song and features PV soloist Isaac Varela with a beautiful melody. While bows happened cheers erupted in the crowd and the curtains closed. The room was left with the pulsing energy of what transpired.



Solar Eclipse: *By Noah Whitesel*



This year's solar eclipse is one for the ages. Many people gathered at the school so they all can enjoy this wonderful experience as a community. The eclipse started at 1:59 pm with totality starting at 3:15 pm and lasting about 5 minutes. Thankfully our school was in the direct ring that had 100% optimal viewing. Many people came from all over the country to see this wonderful event that is definitely one for the ages.

Youth Philanthropy Presentation + Luncheon:

By Thomas Byrge

The Ashtabula Foundation held a luncheon for Youth Philanthropy members at Sheldon Calvary Camp on April 12th. The goal of the event was to donate \$5,000 to local organizations. Some of the organizations involved were the Ashtabula County Juvenile Court, Blessing of Backpack in Conneaut, Back to School, and Conneaut D-Day. In addition to the donations, the luncheon also had guest speakers. The speaker that stood out the most was Larry Laurello. Laurello is the president of Delta Railroad services and has had 40 years of experience working within the railroad industry. He also co-owns Laurello Vineyards with his wife Kimberly Laurello, serves as a board member for the Port Authority, and supports many events throughout Ashtabula County. He told a story about one of his jobs he worked for NASA and how he built a railroad in the desert so they could transport rockets across it. He gave the students advice on what to wear to job interviews and what some dos and don'ts are when they get into the working industry while using personal experiences as examples. Overall the event allowed the students to partake in helping our community and gave them the opportunity to learn about members who also help.



Upcoming Events:

- Visual Art Show: April 14th- May 15th
- Spring High School Choir Concert is May 2nd at 7:00pm
- Senior Signing Week: April 29th- May 3rd
- Spring Band Concert is May 14th at 7:00pm
- PV Mini Relay for Life is May 15th
- GRADUATION is May 26th!!