

# Pymatuning Valley High School Pymatuning Post

December 19, 2023



## Student Spotlight: *By Kendra Wallace*

### *Conner Lazzaro*

Conner Lazzaro, a truly remarkable individual who has gone through an experience he will never forget. I had the privilege of sitting down with Conner to hear all about his journey through the unimaginable.

It all began last summer, he was working at the same farm he is currently working at now, when he slipped and hit his knee. Conner never thought anything of his knee being sore, until it continued to be a problem. His mom decided to take him to get X-rays. The doctors also thought nothing of his pain, but little did they know that their assumptions were far off. Later that night Conner and his mom get the unfathomable call. The doctor had called and stated that he was 90% sure Conner had Osteosarcoma. Osteosarcoma is a form of bone cancer that develops in the osteoblast cells that form bones. They told him it was extremely large and only less than a year old.

Conner stated to me, “When we first got the call my mom was all flustered. The first thing that came into my mind was if I was going to die.” Words that a mother never wants to hear. I spoke to Conner’s mother about that night and she expressed, “There were a lot of emotions that night. At first I was shocked, the doctors earlier that day joked with us that it was just growing pains. I



felt like my world was crumbling down.” Conner shared that his mother was one of his biggest supporters and never left his side.



Soon after that phone call they were back at the hospital, getting more scans and blood drawn. On September 25th of 2022, was his first round of chemotherapy. Conner had spent three weekends out of every month for his treatment. I asked Conner if he had any struggles with his treatment and he answered, “ The first half I was never sick, but towards the end of my treatment I got sick every morning. I am grateful I felt okay during my treatments.”

Finally on December 21st, he had his surgery. The doctors had taken out a 17 cm tumor out of his femur. He now lives today with a foot and a half of metal in his leg with his whole knee being made completely of metal. Soon after surgery, he began his journey of learning to walk again. All throughout his healing, Conner still continued his chemotherapy up until May 26th. Today he is now living healthy and feels like his life is back to normal. But through it all, Conner fought with unwavering strength and determination. His story serves as a reminder that even in the face of adversity, hope and strength can carry us out of dark times.



## Student of the Month: *By: Isabella Limestoll*



“Katelyn has really opened up this year. Last year she was quiet and timid, but this year she is a leader in her class. While still quiet, she has consistently led her teams in group work. She has been showing her creativity in her school work and goes above and beyond the minimum requirement. She is friendly to everyone and stays positive even when she is stressed out. Also, Katelyn has volunteered and been a reliable member of the newsletter team. An absolute delight to have in class everyday, Katelyn quietly and steadfastly rows the boat toward excellence.” Katelyn Blanford was selected as the student of the Month for the month of November. She shows everyone compassion and kindness, as well as works hard and helps those around her. Congratulations Katelyn!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

## Americanism Test: *By: Isabella Limestoll*

The Americanism Test is a yearly test given to schools everywhere to test their students' knowledge on past and present American policies. Every year two students in every grade, one male and one female, with the highest scores are given an award by the American Legion. After winning in their school, the students' tests are submitted to districts, where they go against other schools. If the test wins districts, it goes on to states. If chosen at states the student earns a fully paid, weeks trip to Washington D.C.

This year's winners are as follows: Freshmen- David Sharpe and Jaidyn Ward, Sophomores- Ryan Harvey (2nd year winner) and Isabella Limestoll (2nd year winner), Juniors- Austin Dean (3rd year winner) and Madison Dunbar (2nd year winner), Seniors- Seth Bryan (2nd year winner) and Mia Hall.

The test has fifty questions, each worth two points. Austin Dean only missed two questions on the entirety of the test. Austin's test was submitted to districts where he won against schools from all over Ashtabula County, Lake County, and Geauga County. His test has just been sent to states and we can't wait to hear back.



To give out the awards for everyone was Robert Hitchcock, post commander of 226 Percy D Hyatt, and Tom Hitchcock. Robert has been a member for over 50 years and explained some other things the legion does besides the American Test. On Memorial Day the legion goes to over eleven cemeteries and pays tribute to the veterans at all of them. They Provide free meals at the Eagles Club here in Andover as well. Congratulations to all our winners and good luck Austin!

# A Guide to Being Safe in the Parking Lot:

*By: Emily Blanford*

From personal experience, I am here to give you this guide in hopes that you don't get killed trying to traverse the parking lot. It is full of scary and loud noises and probably not up to code trucks. So here is my guide on being safe in the parking lot.

## 🎄 Rule #1: 🎄

If you see a person in front of you, it is not your aim to hit them. We are not playing Mario Kart, there is no respawn point.

## 🎄 Rule #2 🎄

If you see a teacher driving fast, running late, don't walk out in front of them, let them go. They probably have things on their mind that are not you.

## 🎄 Rule #3 🎄

If you think you don't have your lights on, maybe check. Even with the new lights in the parking lot it is still DARK and you don't want to be the person that hits someone because you don't have them on.

## 🎄 Rule #4 🎄

If you are blasting music at 7 A.M. I think you should seek some help. At least make it Christmas music at this time of the year.

## 🎄 Rule #5 🎄

The last and final rule that I have for this guide is that you should always be paying attention to the surroundings around you. When you're either walking or driving you should always be paying attention because someone might just walk out in front of you on accident.



## Spanish Art Project: *By Ainslee Scribber*



Señora Adame and her junior and senior students recently visited the Cleveland Museum of Art, admiring the breathtaking artworks and cultures from artists around the world. In her class, the students take an entire unit to learn as much as they can about Spain's art and the beauty of it all. As a part of the unit, students get to research a famous Spanish artist and present their findings in front

of the class. While at the museum, they did a scavenger hunt made by Señora Adame, taking selfies of themselves with the artworks listed. In class, students were also learning about an important Spanish Christmas flower, the poinsettia! After they finished exploring the art museum, they got a chance to go to the Cleveland Botanical Gardens, to see these glorious red flowers in bloom. Señora Adame and her students go on this trip every other year, and she has been doing it for 4 years!



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## Reindeer Games: *By Faith Whitt*



Reindeer games were brought to PV when Mr. Jackson first became principal. Student Council President, Grant Nowakowski, brought this idea to Mr. Jackson to do something fun with the school. Mrs. Moyer expresses, "I love how much fun everyone has on the day. I like that we have added new things as it has grown. I think my favorite thing to see is the Ugly Sweater Runway." She

also commented on how much she enjoys being the Student Council Advisor.

This year Reindeer games will consist of Ruminating Reindeers (like hungry hippos), hidden candy cane search, timed word searches, wrap battle (present wrapping competition), the "no elfing around room" (a quiet space for talking and video games), and the final activity- the Snowball Fight! Don't forget to check your emails to sign up for all the fun activities.

# Meet Your Junior Editors!

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## 🎄 Kendra Wallace: 🎄

- **Why did you choose to be an editor?**
  - ↳ It was something I have never done before and Mrs. Hunt recognized a gift I never knew I had, I thought that I might as well make good use out of it.
- **What are your hobbies?**
  - ↳ My hobbies would be volleyball and shopping.
- **Do you have a favorite movie or TV show? If so, what is it?**
  - ↳ My favorite movie would have to be anything *Hunger Games* related.
- **What are some of the things that motivate you?**
  - ↳ Some things that motivate me are success and personal growth.
- **What would you do if you had a million dollars?**
  - ↳ I would definitely go on a shopping spree.



## 🎄 Thomas Byrge: 🎄

- **Why did you choose to be an editor?**
  - ↳ I wanted to participate in something at school.
- **What is your favorite movie?**
  - ↳ My favorite movie is *Scream*.
- **If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go?**
  - ↳ I would go to the Island of Sicily.
- **Do you have any hidden talents?**
  - ↳ My hidden talents are sleight of hand and cardistry.
- **What do you enjoy spending money on?**
  - ↳ I enjoy spending money on decks of playing cards and video games.



# Dear Mr Jackson: *By Thomas Byrge*

## What were your early days like in a band?

My times in Shortchanged (the name of my high school band) were great. I loved music as a way to blow off steam and spend time with friends. The truth is the band had formed prior to me joining. They had a vocalist who couldn't make it to a gig and I subbed in because I knew some of the songs. It was a good time and I formed a lot of great relationships across several years.

## Why did you want to become a teacher?

I was originally inspired to be a teacher by influences like my parents who taught and coached me in my early years, and then throughout my own schooling. I'm not going to lie, I had positive role-models who I wanted to emulate; however, I also had plenty of not-so-great teachers whom I felt oddly inspired-by to be better for students than they were for me.

## Are you a Star Wars or Star Trek fan?

Unpopular opinion. I don't like either and have never been able to get through a full movie or episode of any one of them. I don't do sci-fi. I don't like *Lord of the Rings*, *Harry Potter*, *Game of Thrones*, etc. Aliens, dragons, goblins, elves, dwarves...just not my thing.

## What is your favorite movie?

This one is a three-way tie: *Shawshank Redemption*, *The Rookie*, and *The Greatest Showman*.

## What is your favorite National park?

I'm torn because the National Parks are all so awesome. With that being said, when you're driving west through the plains and corn fields and suddenly stumble upon The Badlands, it's quite an awe-inspiring moment. From there it seems like it just gets more and more magnificent as you head into the mountains. I can imagine, for those who live in the mountains, they would feel the same though about the seashores!

## What is the next place on your travel bucket list?

My wife and I are going to Miami in January for a weekend. We hope to see Little Havana, South Beach, The Florida Keys, Biscayne National Park, and the Everglades National Park (and of course eat good food and pizza on the trip!)

## Do you enjoy fishing?

I love fishing.



## Swim: *By Katelyn Blanford*



PV's Swim team has been working very hard during the season through both their practices and swim meets. They've shown dedication to the sport since it can be very challenging at times. It first requires driving 40 minutes up to SPIRE then they have intense 1.5 hour practices. Each swimmer has grown and improved greatly from the beginning of the year. They just had their PV Invitational on the 15th which is very important to our swim team. This meet included 7 teams and swim meets can last many hours due to some events having different heats depending on the meet. There are different strokes and lengths that swimmers have to swim and some are harder than others to compete.

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## BYE BYE BIRDIE CAST LIST (DEBUTING MARCH 8TH 2024)

**ALBERT PETERSON-** Nathan Jernigan

**CONRAD BIRDIE-** Issac Varela

**HARVEY JOHNSON-** Mason Spencer

**ROSE ALVAREZ-** Ella Poole

**HUGO PEABODY-** Justin Summers **MAUDE-** Davon Lowe

**URSULA MERKLE-** Karis Peyton

**REPORTER 1-** Davon Lowe **MRS MERKLE-** Riley Whitt

**ALICE/DEBORAH SUE-** Mya Huffman

**REPORTER 3-** Mason Spencer **KIM MACAFEE-** McCamey Compan

**MARGIE-** Cecelia Hall

**MAYOR-** Allan Billman **PENELOPE/SAD GIRL-** Katelyn Blanford

**MR. JOHNSON-** Donovan Warner

**MAYOR'S WIFE (EDNA)-** Anna Poole

**MRS. DORIS MACAFEE-** Baylee Fogus

**GLORIA RASPUTIN-** Bella Limestoll

**MR. HARRY MACAFEE-** Gavin Hodge

**MRS. MAE PETERSON/HELEN-** Claire Jewett

**TEENS/ADULTS-** Gregory Babb, Allan Billman, Davon Lowe, Morgan McGinnis, Sophia Marcin, Anna Poole, Makayla Racey, Mason Spencer, Donovan Warner, and Riley Whitt



# National Honor Society Helping Out the Community:

*By Emily Blanford*



On Friday, December 15th, 2023 some of the National Honor Society members went to the local food bank and pantry to help them out on one of their big delivery days. They get two trucks full of food delivered to the church and all of the food is bagged up to be distributed to people in the community by local volunteers. The food drive that NHS hosted at the school went towards the same food pantry. The pantry is mainly cans and dry goods that are bagged up and distributed later to families that need it around the Pymatuning Valley School District. The bank is where all of

the fresh produce and meat that is delivered gets distributed to local families on their distribution days. The members of NHS helped distribute food to families on this month's distribution day and they helped make bags of meals for the pantry. Overall, the members of the National Honor Society had a really fun time working with the volunteers and runners of the food bank and pantry in the Methodist Church and would happily do it again.



## **Upcoming Events:**

**Classes Resume** for students on January 3rd, 2024.

**Midterms are on** January 11th and 12th, 2024.

**The Senior Panel** is happening on January 3rd, 2024.

**Trumbull County Prep Bowl** is on January 20th, at Lordstown High School.

**Graduation Day:** May 26th at 3:00 p.m.

