



The Chief Online

February 2016

PTHS WRESTLERS WIN AT STATE COMPETITION



Congratulations to Kevin Gschwendtner who took fourth in his weight class, Jake Lanning, who earned sixth, and Levi Ransom, who placed in the top 16. All three of our state qualifiers were named All-State. This is the first time we have had multiple All-State wrestlers in Class 2A!

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CATCH UP WITH PTHS EVENTS AT HIGH SCHOOL CUBE

PTHS on Social Media

Check out PTHS on Facebook and Twitter using the icons at the top of our page or click [HERE](#).



Winter Choral Showcase Concert



The Pontiac Township High School Music Department proudly presented its Winter Choral Showcase Concert on Thursday February 18 at 7:00pm in the PTHS Auditorium.

Listeners enjoyed selections from the Concert Choir, our two women's ensembles Bel Canto and Cantabile, our Men's Choir, male barbershop quartet, We'll Take it From Here and Vocal Jazz Choir Route 66! This concert focused on selections from the 80's including Vocal Jazz, Pop and Musical Theatre. Also featured were soloists who earned Superior Ratings at our Solo & Ensemble Contest. The audience was treated to an evening of toe-tapping music recognized and loved from radio, TV, film and stage.

PTHS Band to present Winter Concert

The Pontiac Township High School Band Department will present their annual Winter Concert Thursday evening, February 26, at 7:30 p.m. in the high school auditorium. The concert will feature the Symphonic and Concert Bands, Swinging Bridge Brass quintet, and student soloist, Danika Mayback, Eric Campbell, Jeffery Elem and Henry Woodburn. Also performing will be a Trumpet Quartet consisting of Eric Zega, Noah White, Brandi Mueller, and Kevin Kuska.

The Concert Band has prepared Ralph Vaughn Williams "Flourish for Wind Band", James Barnes "Yorkshire Ballad", and Kentucky 1800 by Clare Grundman. The Symphonic will perform Itaru Sakai's "Fanfare of Wakakusa Hill", Eric Ehitacre's "Lux Aurumque", and "With Heart and Voice" by Gillingham.

The concert will be directed by PTHS band directors Scot Schickel and Corey Brown. Admission is \$3 for adults and \$2.00 for students and seniors at the door. Golden Age passes are honored and all PTHS students are admitted free.

Music Department Update



By Matthew Birkett

Before we begin, let's remember Tina Freer, one of our Band Moms who passed away on January 27th. She was a great help and a good person. She will be missed. Services were held on February 6th, and her obituary can be found [here](#). Please keep the Freer family in your thoughts as they go through this.

In further news, two concerts came up in February. The Choral Showcase Concert was Thursday on the 18th. In band, the concert will be on the 25th.

Solo and Ensemble took place on Tuesday, February 9th. For those who don't know, Solo and Ensemble is an event in which people find pieces to perform either by themselves or with others. There are three divisions that a person can get: 3rd division, which is the lowest, means that your skill does not match the requirements of the piece, 2nd division, which means that while it was clear you put forth effort and your skill matched the piece, something kept you from performing your best. A 1st division is when it is clear to your judge that you not only put forth enough effort and time, but your skill level meets the requirement of the piece, making your performance the best you could do. These, however, are just a generalization of the rating scale. The factors include such things as stage presence, tone, and memorization, among other things.

Let's thank our musicians for a job well done!

Click [HERE](#) for the Music Department website

Upperclass Acts



Britni Jade Hones

Nicknames: Britni Jade, Brit Hones, Brit, Britni J, Lil Hones, Honesenator, B. Hones

Role Model: My mom

Activities: Law Enforcement Club (President), Key Club, Cheerleading

Fondest Memory Of High School: Homecoming week all four years

3 Major Areas of Interest: Art, Law Enforcement, Taco Bell

Plans After High School: I will attend Lindenwood University – Belleville where I will continue cheering while studying Criminal Justice w/ an emphasis in Law Enforcement.

Favorite Movie: *The Lion King II*

Most Inspirational Song: “See You Again” by Wiz Khalifa

Favorite Teacher: Mr. Nollen

Favorite Class: Law Enforcement

Favorite Book: *The Last Song*

Most Positive Moment: Getting recruited to go cheer.

Pet Peeves: NOISY EATERS

What my friends will remember about me: My sassy attitude and my loud voice.

How Would You Spend a 1,000,000?: I would donate part of it, pay for mine and my siblings school, my parents costs they have, and buy a Taco Bell restaurant.

Three Items in the Desert: Water, my phone, and a solar powered phone charger

Last Words of Advice: “Don’t slack off, you WILL REGRET IT come senior year. I am.”

Jeremiah Rowland

Nicknames: Miah, J.R.

Role Models: Mr. Durbin, Julie Peterson

Activities: National Honors Society, Key Club, Tri-M, Madrigals, Jazz Choir, “We’ll Take it From Here” Barbershop Quartet, Thespians, All-State Honors Choir.

Fondest Memory of High School: Making the barbershop quartet my junior year.

3 Major Areas of interest: Music, Science, Technology

Plans After High School: I plan to accept my full tuition scholarship to the University of Alabama in order to study Pre-Med.

Favorite Movie: *The Purge* or *The Spectacular Now*

Most Inspirational Song: “Afire Love” by Ed Sheeran

Favorite Teacher/Class: Mr. Christie for AP US History

Favorite Author/Book: *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee

Most Positive Moment: When I discovered that I passed all three of my AP exams this summer. I was very nervous because I worked very hard. I earned 22 credit hours of college credit at the University of Alabama (almost one full year).

Pet Peeves: When people do not try their hardest to achieve success.

What my friends will remember about me: I am the hardest working and most perseverant person.

How Would You Spend \$1,000,000?: I am pretty boring. I would buy a small house and pay off my medical school tuition, after that I would hang onto the money and invest it.

If You Were Stranded on a Desert Island, What 3 Items Would You Want With You?: I would want a fishing rod, my book collection, and a satellite radio so that I could at least listen to music or other people.

Last Words of Advice: “No matter how bad your life may get, it will get better. Hard work and determination can break all boundaries.”



PTHS Junior Places at State Level in Voice of Democracy Contest



Congratulations to Olivia Welshans for placing 5th in State in the 69th annual Voice of Democracy Contest. Olivia has won over \$1,000 in scholarships as a result of the success of her speech.

FFA Update

By Victor Johns

The Pontiac FFA Chapter has had a busy February. This past week, Jenna Leonard, Ashley Harfst, Mackenzie Roahrig, and Victor Johns were recommended to receive their State FFA Degrees at Convention in June. Ashley Harfst chosen as the Star Placement finalist for Section 9. Section 9 Proficiencies were held on February 17, 2016, at Pontiac High School with students being interviewed on their record books.

Saturday, February 20, was our annual auction. We served \$5 dollar Pork Chop and Ribeye meals and \$1 kids meals which included hot dogs. Dinner was served from 3:00-5:00 P.M. with a silent auction table and a live auction starting at 5:00 P.M. Many came out to enjoy a fun night.

To conclude the month, we will be celebrating National FFA week with a theme for each day.

FFA information can be found [HERE](#).

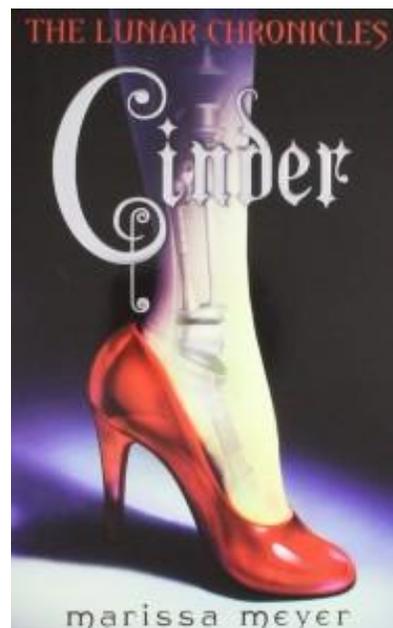
Book Review: *The Lunar Chronicles #1: Cinder* by Marissa Meyer

Review by Allyson Shoff

Set in a futuristic nation of New Beijing, China, *Cinder* tells the story of a cyborg mechanic, Cinder, who manages to fall in love with the prince. As a deadly plague ravages the Earth, the prince must make an alliance with the enemy, the moon, Luna. In this dramatic retelling of a classic mix of fairy tales, Cinder finds herself in the center of an intergalactic struggle. As she faces the secrets of her unknown past, the world learns that their fate lies in the hands of someone not quite human.

Cinder is a clunky read of almost 400 pages that feel more like 100. After the first few chapters of setting up plot and introducing characters, throwing a death or two into the midst, the plot speeds ahead in full force until the very end. As well as being a great debut novel for this super awesome author, *Cinder* happens to be the first book in one of few series that just gets better as it continues instead of drying up into unneeded content. With lovable characters, an interesting, yet familiar plot line, and a whole lot of action, *Cinder* is an epic masterpiece.

I would recommend *Cinder* to readers who enjoy pretty much every genre. Fantasy, science fiction, romance, even the classic fairy tale retelling makes its way into this book. While the size may seem daunting (the final book in the series clocks in at over 800 pages) it's well worth the ride.



Author's official website:
<http://www.marissameyer.com/>

Editors Note

Hello and welcome to the February edition of *The Chief!* I hope that everyone has been having a great semester so far. February is a time for love, so I hope everyone is feeling the spirit. This February is extra special because this year is a leap year! So for everyone who has a birthday on Leap Day, I'm glad you can finally celebrate your actual birthday and I hope it's everything you've been waiting for throughout the last four years. Continue to work hard and have a great month!

Kamryn Moore, Editor-in-Chief

Music Review: Twenty One Pilots

By Shelby Jennings

The Twenty One Pilots fan base is continually growing thanks to their latest single on the radio, "Stressed Out." The song relates how stressful life is today compared to how it was when we were little and sung to sleep by our mothers. Played by the band's two members, Tyler Joseph and Josh Dun, every student has probably adopted this song as their personal motto. The fan base, called the "Skeleton Clique," has the song currently holding #2 on the iTunes Charts.

The band in entirety is something to hold onto. They deal with societal and mental issues common today; furthermore, they're there to help you get through it. If you need encouragement or to be introduced to a good band, give Twenty One Pilots a listen.



Official website:

<http://www.twentypilots.com/>

History of Valentine's Day

By Carlie Weaver

Once Valentine's Day starts to roll around, you'll hear people talk about Saint Valentine and see red and pink hearts and candies. What you don't hear is what Saint Valentine has to do with all this romance. One legend says that Valentine's Day originally was a pagan festival in Ancient Rome. The festival, celebrated on February 15th, was called Lupercalis or Lupercalia and celebrated fertility. Because Christianity was rising and paganism was falling in Europe, Pope Gelasius called to rename the festival and change the date to a day earlier. Pope Gelasius decided this day should honor a priest, Saint Valentine, and was now a Christian Feast Day. This Saint Valentine is the one you hear about every year, but there were two others of the time also named Valentine. Legend has it that all three of these Valentines were martyred on February 14th. The first Saint Valentine angered the Roman emperor Claudius II. Claudius II had outlawed marriage for young men, but Saint Valentine held secret ceremonies and married these young men anyways. Saint Valentine was imprisoned for his actions. In his jail cell, a guard asked him to heal his blind daughter's eyes and he did. When Claudius came to meet Valentine, he was impressed by this feat but attempted to convert Valentine to worship the Roman Gods. He was unsuccessful and Valentine tried to convert Claudius to Catholicism. This exasperated Claudius and he prepared for Saint Valentine to be executed. The end of Valentine's legend says that he grew very close to the guard's daughter and, before he was executed, he asked for a pen and paper and wrote a letter saying, "From your Valentine." Valentine's legend lives on in celebrating relationships on the day of his execution.

Student Poetry

"Poetry All Day Long"
by Jasmine Davis

Band, my favorite time of day
Songs that involve Andante, slow and steady
Marcato, fast and short
Cantabile, smooth and sing-song like
Notes, traveling up and down in different rhythms
Music, taking control of the mind
Treble Clef, the best clef of music
Staccato, short and to the point
J.S. Bach, master of the baroque music era
Solo and Ensemble, stressful and maddening

Interview with a Staff Member: Mr. Tibbs



By Jeanette Wooldridge

Last summer, Mr. Tibbs took over as the Facilities Director here at PTHS. Before working here, Mr. Tibbs ran his own construction business. He said that he took the job opening because he was looking for a change of scenery and a change from self-employment. In his free time, Mr. Tibbs likes to hunt, fish, and relax. When I asked him what was he missed from owning his own business, he said that he misses the technical drawings he would have to draft up. Another thing that Mr. Tibbs loves to do is go on little mini-vacations; his last one was at the Lake of the Ozarks.

The biggest thing that has popped out at him about PTHS so far is that it is a very nice place filled with a massive amount of respectable people. He would like to advise students, "You should never lose your focus. Not just in high school but in your goals, careers, dreams, and in life in general." Thank you, Mr. Tibbs, and I hope that your career here at PTHS will be very memorable!

Look for the print version of
The Chief in
[The Pontiac Daily Leader](#)



Student Survey

“What I Want From My Valentine”

A giant teddy bear – **Dallas Hones**

Pizza – **Liam Melvin**

Flaming Hot Cheetos – **Dakotah Colman**

All of Shakespeare’s movies – **Max Schertz**

Food – **Jada Ferguson**

Chocolates – **Ashlynn Becker**

Brownies – **Jacob Duffy**

A rose – **Allie Alsdorf**

Candy – **Akaisha Johnson**

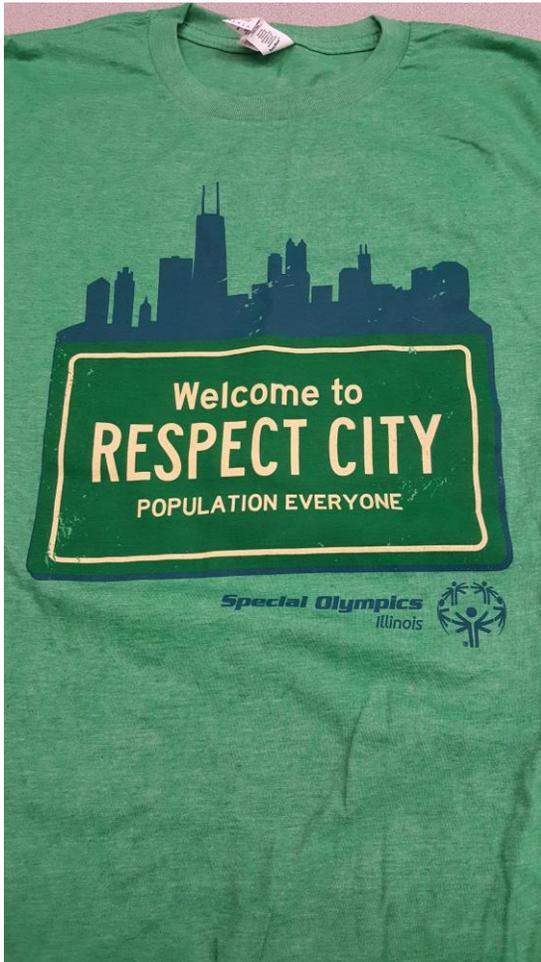
Project Unify Peers in Action Launches PTHS Read for Respect Reading Marathon

Hosted by Project Unify Peers in Action and the PTHS Library, participants have from now until May 10 to read books for the race!

There are four ways to participate:

- o Marathon: Read 26.2 books
 - o Half Marathon: Read 13.1 books
 - o 10K: Read 6.2 books
 - o Mighty Miler: Read 5,280 pages
- Race forms are in the library or can be printed off from the [Read for Respect LibGuide](#) (linked from the Library webpage). To sign up, please visit the [Read for Respect LibGuide](#) and mark which race you plan to participate in.
- For more information or to print off race forms, visit the [Read for Respect LibGuide](#) , or speak with Ms. Baumgardner or Mrs. Mueller.

Respect City: Population Everyone



Ms. Baumgardner is taking orders for the newest Spread the Word shirts. Our theme this year is Respect City: Population Everyone. The cost is \$15.00. Please see her if you would like one.

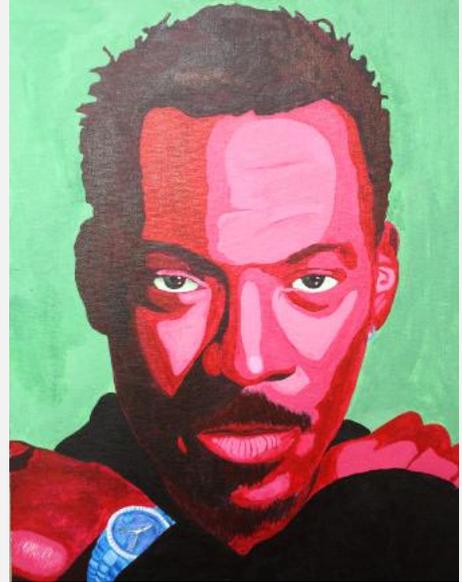
The official Spread the Word day is March 2. We will be having an assembly from 1:20 - 2:00 PM. Be on the lookout for the "What's Your R-Word" photo booth. Please stop out during your lunch to have your picture taken.

Thank you so much for all of your support!

Attention Teachers!

Check out the Teacher Resource Webpage @
<http://libguides.pontiac.k12.il.us/content.php?pid=495677>

Student Art



Examples of portraits stylized after Andy Warhol's Pop Art Portraits. Above: "Eddie Murphy" by **Travis Hurt**. Below: "Beethoven" by Danika Mayback.



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