



PONTIAC TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL

The Chief Online

January 2016

Read for Respect Marathon 2016

Inside this Issue:

Last year's marathon was a great success with over forty students and staff participating. So far this semester, we have almost thirty people registered and would love to have more! Students who have not already signed up are encouraged to do so in the library during the month of January.

Details:

Read a...

Marathon: 26.2 books

1/2 Marathon: 13.1 books

10K: 6.2 books

Mighty Miler: 5,280 pages

READY, SET, GO!



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How It Works

- *Choose the reading race in which you would like to participate.
- *Print off the correct form below.
- *Keep track of the books you read individually or with a younger sibling/Peer Partner, etc.
- *Turn in your completed form when you have finished the race.

Two "Snack Break" parties will be held in the library on February 9th and April 12th. "Finish Line Celebration" will be held May 10th also in the library. Prizes will be handed out at each celebration. Participants have until May 10th to complete their chosen race, so get started on your "race" today!.

Race sheets can be picked up in the library or printed off by following the link on the Library homepage: <http://libguides.pontiac.k12.il.us/readforrespect>.

Questions? See Mrs. Mueller, Mrs. Baumgardner, or a Project Unify Member for Details!

CATCH UP WITH PTHS EVENTS AT HIGH SCHOOL CUBE

Congratulations!
 Champions at the Pontiac Invitational Wrestling Tournament:
 Payton Pulliam (126) – Outstanding Wrestler lower weights,
 Jake Lanning (170) – Outstanding Wrestler upper weights,
 Levi Ransom (182), and 4th Place
 Liam Melvin (220)!

New Teacher Report: Mrs. Dodson

By Jeanette Wooldridge

This year at PTHS there is a new teacher hanging out in the English Hallway named Mrs. Dodson. She is a paraprofessional and this is her first year teaching. She has always loved helping others and when she found out that there was a position here at PTHS she jumped at the opportunity. Mrs. Dodson believes that family is very important loves to spend her free time with her two young children and her sister doing activities like crafts and shopping. One fun thing that she and her family did this summer was go to Wisconsin Dells.

Mrs. Dodson, who also graduated from PTHS, has been impressed by the respect the students have for teachers and for one another, commenting on how connected the school is as a whole. When asked if she could give the student any advice, she said, "Keep up the good work and make these four years count because they fly by quickly!" Thank you, Mrs. Dodson, and we hope you have a wonderful time here at PTHS!



PTHS Student Advances to State in Voice of Democracy

Olivia Welshans' Voice of Democracy essay, "My Vision for America," was the winner in Livingston County and Department judging through the VFW. She will be advancing to the state scholarship competition at the Department of Illinois VOD weekend in Springfield on Feb 12th. A banquet will be held on February 13th where the state winner will be announced. The state winner goes on to National judging in Washington D.C. Please congratulate Olivia on her achievement.

Student Art

Art II students work on their expressive color portraits inspired by Andy Warhol.



Maggie Melvin



Shelby Jennings

FFA Update

By Victor Johns

The FFA Chapter has a few exciting weeks coming up!! Over the long Martin Luther King weekend, Mr. Bane, Mr. Faber, and around 15 students will be traveling to Norco, California, for a Chapter Exchange with the Norco FFA Chapter. Our monthly chapter meeting, scheduled for January 20, 2016, has an Italian theme. Members are preparing for the Section 9 Proficiencies which will be held on February 10, 2016, at PTHS. Seniors are also preparing for their State Degree Interviews which will be held in early February. Mark your calendars!! The Chapter will be holding its Annual Auction on February 20, 2016. We will be serving dinner and having a Silent and Live Auction. We hope to have a great turnout and look forward to seeing you there!

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

Editors Note

Happy 2016 and welcome back to school! It's a new year which means a new semester. I hope that everyone had a wonderful holiday season, but now it's time to get back into school mode. This semester is a chance to start fresh. If you had academic struggles in the first part of the year, this is your chance to work hard and turn your grades around. Let's make this last semester count! I hope you all have a semester full of success.

Happy New Year!

Written by Kamryn Moore

2016-2017 Dual Credit

Any Sophomore or Junior that successfully submitted the Heartland student application by the deadline to participate in the program through the Guidance Department during next academic year, your next step is to make a reservation to attend a College NOW Basic Skills Assessment session. You must complete all required placement tests through Basic Skills Assessment within the timeline provided unless you have acceptable ACT scores. If you already know that you do not have acceptable ACT scores, please review the general information about Basic Skills Assessment before making reservations. The Basic Skills Assessment is available through February 27. Make reservations for Basic Skills Assessment on...

Attention Teachers!

Check out the Teacher Resource Webpage @

<http://libguides.pontiac.k12.il.us/content.php?pid=495677>

Student Council Update

By Shelby Jennings

With the Holiday Tournament at an end, it's safe to say it's been a successful semester for our school's Student Council! Despite the power outages that occurred on the first day of the tournament, Student Council still pushed through running the concessions into the extended day of the tournament. Other holiday activities included ringing rang bells for the Salvation Army out at Walmart, wrapped gifts with donations to St. Jude! If you are 16 or older, keep your eye out for our upcoming blood drive in the spring.

Music Department Update

By Matthew Birkett

As the New Year comes and passes, the Music Department doesn't miss a beat as we begin practice for the musical and Solo Ensemble.

Our chorus is working on music under the theme of the 80's for the Pops Concert. PTHS alum John Ramseyer visited and worked for a little bit with the choir.

In other news, the musical is underway with weekly practices going well. Not only are we working on our lines, but we're getting the music ready and memorized too. Jazz Band had a brief meeting and sign up; practices will most likely begin in the next few weeks.

Our Concert and Symphonic bands are hard at work on their own music. While I can't say for certain what we will and won't be playing, I can say that the music we are working on is very exciting, and we hope you look forward to it as much as we are.

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

STUDENT COUNCIL BLOOD DRIVE FEBRUARY 12TH

Student Council is sponsoring their annual Red Cross Blood Drive on Friday, February 12th from 8:30am – 1:30pm. Due to weather and sickness, blood drive donations are low right now, and the Red Cross needs our help. People who would like to donate blood during their study hall should sign up with Mr. Blair this week. Donors must be at least 16 years old and need two forms of ID on the day of the drive. Members of the public are welcome to come in to donate as well!

As an incentive to donate, all seniors who donate blood will be put into a drawing for a scholarship that will be announced at Awards Night this May!

Upperclass Act



Kendra Farney

NICKNAMES: Ken, Kenny

ROLE MODEL: My Sister

ACTIVITIES@PTHS: Cheerleading, FCCLA

3 MAJOR AREAS OF INTEREST: Art, Culinary Arts, Technology

PLANS AFTER HIGHSCHOOL:

Major in Graphic Design at Heartland Community College

FAVORITE MOVIE: *Tarzan*

FAVORITE TEACHER/CLASS: AP Art, Mr. Vogt

FAVORITE AUTHOR/BOOK: Walt Whitman, *Leaves of Grass*

MOST POSITIVE MOMENT: Being on National Technical Honor Society

Student Survey:

What do you do on snow days?

Watch Netflix
– **Kaitlyn McKee**

“Vidya game” – **Zak Lemke**

Cuddle with my dog
– **Haley Hurst**

Shovel snow
– **Jacob Matern**

Sleep in – **Skylar Gahm**

Sleep in and wait for basketball practice
– **Alex Olson**

Sleep! – **Jeremiah Rowland**

Lift weights
– **Adam Holzhauser**

Role play, draw, and play video games
– **Becca Lemke**

Disney movies and hot chocolate
-- **Lucy Hodgson**

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



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Victor Johns

Allyson Shoff

Becca True

Charlie Weaver

Jeanette Wooldridge

[Mr. Soares, Faculty Sponsor](#)

Upperclass Act

Blake Whittle

ROLE MODEL(S):
My Parents, Steve Jobs

ACTIVITIES @ PTHS: Director of PTHS.tv, Key Club, NHS, NTHS

FONDEST MEMORY OF HIGH SCHOOL SO FAR: Broadcasting the Holiday Tournament

3 MAJOR AREAS OF INTEREST: Technology, Broadcasting and Business

PLANS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL: Attend ISU, major in Cyber Security, and eventually move to California.

FAVORITE MOVIE: *Jobs*

FAVORITE TEACHER/CLASS: Masching's Classes and Discrete Math with Ms. Janz

FAVORITE AUTHOR/BOOK:
Steve Jobs by Walter Isaacson

MOST POSITIVE MOMENTS: Founding PTHS TV; switching to The Cube

PET PEEVES:
When people walk slow.

WHAT MY FRIENDS WILL REMEMBER ABOUT ME: My loyalty/commitment and my obsession with Apple.

HOW WOULD YOU SPEND \$1,000,000? Pay for college, give some to my family, invest some and put the rest in the bank.

IF YOU WERE STRANDED ON A DESERT ISLAND, WHAT 3 ITEMS WOULD YOU WANT WITH YOU? My iPhone, food, and water

LAST WORDS OF ADVICE:
"Have fun, be efficient and always do something productive."



Student Poetry

Hannah
Who wants to become a detective
Daughter of Amber and James
Loud, sweet, and friendly
A basketball player, a volleyball player, a trombone player
Friends with Emily, Lexi, Haley
Resident of Franklin Way, Pontiac, IL
Blankenbeckler

Sean
Who wants to become a computer technician
Son of JR and Barb
Friendly, funny, and tired
Videogames, computers, and phone
Friends of Jake, Andrew Hart, and Mr. Soares, I guess.
Resident of Odell, IL
Anderson

Abby
Who wants to become a YouTuber
Daughter of Paul and Deb
Funny, talkative and crazy
A reader, Beatles fan, and driver
Friends with Julianna, Emily, and Jacey
Resident of Pontiac, IL
Wargo

Brett
Who wants to be the illest rapper
Son of Ye and Jay
Greatest, dopest, illest
A rhymer, rapper and swimmer
Friends with Bubbles, Julius, Ricky
Resident of Compton
Spire

Nick
Who wants to become a Marine
Son of Dave Kelley Sr. and Sandra Van Pelt
Quiet, busy, and funny
Auto Mechanics, baseball, listening to music
Friends with McKenzie, Stephanie, and Jacob
Resident of Pontiac, IL
Kelley

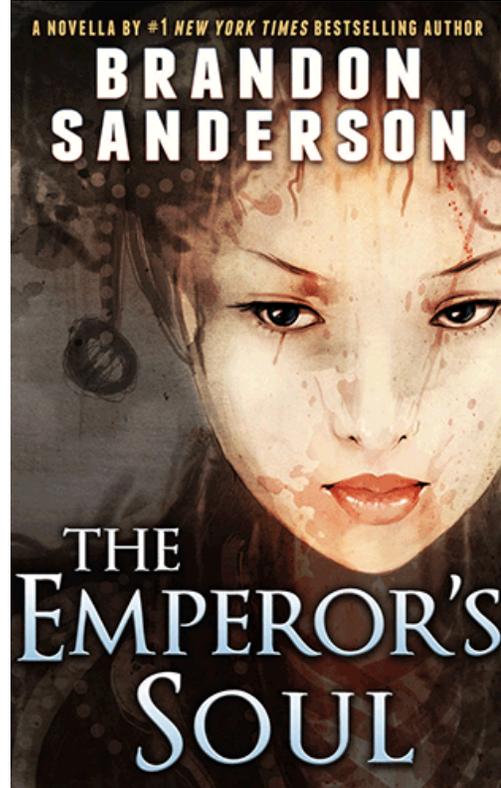
Book Review: *The Emperor's Soul* by Brandon Sanderson

Review by Allyson Schoff

The fate of an entire empire falls into the shoulders of a powerful thief. After a failed assassination, the Emperor is left brain-dead. With the help of a powerful stamp maker, recently caught in the act of thievery against the palace, those loyal to the Emperor do all they can to preserve his mind. Shai is a forger, the stamp maker. With her powers she can make a stamp to shape the personality of the person it is placed upon. She is given 100 days to create a stamp to shape the Emperor's Soul. Placed in the same world as Brandon Sanderson's first novel, *Elantris*, *The Emperor's Soul* is full of magic.

The Emperor's Soul is a quick but interesting read that follows Shai through her attempts of escape and her creativity as she forges a new soul for the emperor. In order to save herself, she decides she must turn the Emperor's greatest ally, Counciler Gaotona, to her side. Shai is a quickly but well-developed character and the main focus of this story. Although she is a thief, she takes pride in everything she does, from the forging of paintings to the forging of souls. Gaotona is a more simple character, but he still gets development. As a long time friend of the Emperor, he just wants what is best for his friend and kingdom.

Even though this book is written as a companion to *Elantris*, it can easily be enjoyed on its own. It was a quick read for a nice winter day of sitting, reading, and drinking tea. I would recommend this, and almost any of Brandon Sanderson's books, to those who enjoy fantasy stories.



Author's official website:

<http://brandonsanderson.com/books/elantris/the-emperors-soul/>

Pop Culture 2016

By Alexis Hall

This past month has been a month of new relationships and rumors. Let's start off with Justin Bieber. On December 13 *Us Weekly* posted an article about a rumored relationship between Bieber and Kourtney Kardashian. Along with multiple sources close to the pair confirming the relationship, there were pictures of them holding hands while leaving a party. These rumors were quickly quieted by a not-so-subtle Instagram post by Justin. The picture shows he and Hailey Baldwin kissing while on vacation in Mexico. Although Bieber has neither officially confirmed nor denied the relationship, it seems pretty obvious that the two are, indeed, dating.

Other celebrities who have sparked relationship rumors are Kendall Jenner and Harry Styles. There were pictures of the two hanging out and getting pretty cozy on a yacht circulating about two weeks ago. The pair seemed to be keeping things low-key since no other photos of the pair were taken, then on January 8 Khloe Kardashian talked about the pair in an interview with *People Magazine*. She said "Do I think they are dating? Yes," but Harry and Kendall haven't said anything about their relationship status to either confirm or deny what Khloe had to say. We will have to see if these celebs are actually dating or if they just like to confuse us with their ever-changing relationship statuses.

Star Wars: The Force Awakens

By Shelby Jennings

If you've been anywhere lately, you can probably tell the latest buzz. The newest *Star Wars* film hit the theaters in December, and they made quite the entrance. In just 20 days, *The Force Awakens* surpassed *Avatar* as the highest-grossing film of all time. But the record breaking doesn't end there. The movie has broken over 15 worldwide records, not counting the individual records in other countries. The *Star Wars*' fan base is growing, and we can't wait to see what Disney has in store for us next.



Ask Lex and Sar

Dear Lex and Sar,

I can't believe high school is almost over! I'm starting the second semester of my senior year and I'm so nervous to move out and start college. What tips could you give me to calm the anxiety and prepare myself for life on my own?

Sincerely, A Stressed-out Senior.

Dear Stressed-out Senior,

We can't give advice from experience but, we can give advice on change. Change can be very scary but it's a huge part of life, so one way to cope with change is to prepare all you can. You can prepare to move out by packing early and visiting the college to see the dorms if you haven't already. Once the college has announced who you will be rooming with you can get to know your new roommate. Getting to know your roommate is probably the best way to feel better about the move because when you are at college it won't feel like such a huge shift since you have a familiar face around. We wish you the best of luck with your move!

XOXO, Lex and Sar

Movie Review: Scott Pilgrim vs. The World

By Carlie Weaver

Scott Pilgrim vs. The World is a 2010 fantasy/action movie. Michael Cera plays Scott Pilgrim, the bassist in a garage band. Scott has had plenty of girlfriends. When a beautiful (and age appropriate) Ramona Flowers (Mary Elizabeth Winstead) literally skates into Scott's life, he dumps his high school girlfriend and tries to pursue Ramona. What Scott didn't know was that Ramona had been cursed by one of her evil exes. This particular ex did not want anyone else to be able to date Ramona, so whenever someone tries to become a part of Ramona's life, her gang of evil ex's visit her partner one by one in an attempt to destroy him.

If Scott is able to defeat this band of evil exes, he can date the beautiful Ramona Flowers. Will Scott be able to defeat the increasingly powerful exes? Will Scott and Ramona end up happily ever after? This movie is full of references to old video games and is the perfect movie for video game buffs, but it can also be enjoyed by superhero movie fans, teenage girls, and everyone in between! Happy watching!

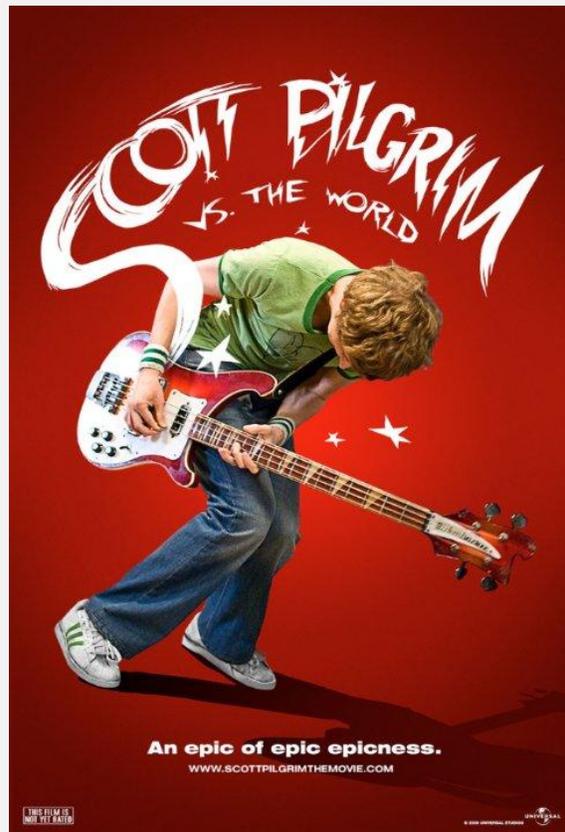


Photo courtesy of Universal Studios

Read more about *Scott Pilgrim vs. the World* at:
<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0446029/>