



PONTIAC TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL

# The Chief Online

September 2015

## Welcome Back from the Editors of *The Chief*

Welcome to the 2015-2016 school year!

It's crazy to think that just a short few months ago we were all leaving the school hoping for a great summer. Well, hopefully everyone had an awesome summer, but unfortunately it's time to put away the sunscreen and pull out the books. Sure, coming back to school can sometimes seem like a drag, but there are some ways to make the year great. So, here are some tips to ensure a fun year.

Dear Freshmen,

Welcome to your first year at PTHS! We're sure you've all heard about how fun and awesome high school is, and we don't want to scare you, but that's not all there is to it. High school is a lot of work, involves a lot of late night study sessions and tons of homework, but yes lots of fun. Freshmen year is a great time to get involved and try new things. Don't be afraid to branch out and find what really makes you happy. Even though it's hard, find the right balance between work and fun because that's what will make high school the best. Good luck!

Dear Sophomores,

Welcome back! Sophomore year can be a tricky year because we're not on the bottom but not quite the top, either. Sophomore year is immensely harder than Freshmen year. We have more difficult classes and more responsibilities. At times we'll feel overwhelmed, but just remember that we have one more year until we are upperclassmen. So just hang in there, work hard, stay involved, and make memories to last a lifetime.

Dear Juniors,

Well, you're officially upperclassmen. Unfortunately, Junior year is a time that you'll most likely be the most stressed and worried. The ACT may seem like a long way away, but it will be here faster than you know it. Start preparing now and figuring out what you need to do to be ready. You may think that you're too big to ask for help but we promise you, you're not. The biggest perk is most likely your first prom! So make sure to keep moving forward and try to take some time to relax. You're almost there!

Dear Seniors,

Congratulations! You've finally made it. You're the "top dogs." Sure, it's a lot of fun to be able to paint up and sit on the first two rows of the student section, but Senior year is the year of decisions. It's time to decide what you actually want to do with your lives. You might be thinking that you have all year, but it will be here faster than you know it. Have fun and enjoy this final year, but don't forget you're still in school so you have to work!

Here's to an amazing school year!

**Kamryn Moore & Lexi Hall**, Editors-in-Chief

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## PTHS on Social Media

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



**CATCH UP WITH PTHS EVENTS AT HIGH SCHOOL CUBE**

# FFA Update

By Victor Johns

The Pontiac FFA Chapter had a very busy and EXCITING summer! The newly elected officers are Mackenzie Roahrig, Jenna Leonard, Jennifer Stone, Victor Johns, Tyler Lowe, Aaron Newsome, Gabby Deacetis, Colin Stark, Mark Raube, and Ryan Lauritsen. The officers, along with Mr. Bane and Mr. Faber, spent three days at the Stoney Creek Inn in East Peoria. We



planned activities for the upcoming year and went canoeing as a team-building activity. On June 6<sup>th</sup>, the Alumni and about 10-15 FFA members sold food at the Chuck Pearson Estate Sale. Mr. Pearson was an alumni member and a supporter of the Pontiac FFA Chapter who passed away earlier this year. He served as an auctioneer for the Chapter Auction for many years.

The 87<sup>th</sup> Illinois State FFA Convention was held June 9-11 in Springfield at the Prairie Capital Convention Center. There were three areas in the Program of Activities: Student, Chapter, and Community Development. Pontiac won two of the three areas in Student and Chapter Development and for the third year in a row Pontiac is the Top Chapter in the State as the Winner of the Banker's Plaque! Amy Wyant won a Proficiency Award in the area of Veterinary Science, Rachael Carroll was High Individual in the Food Science Career Development Event, and Gabby Deacetis and Rachael Carroll also won the category of Plant Systems in the Science Fair and will be presenting at National Convention at the end of October.

At the convention, Jordan Johns, a PTHS Alum, was selected to serve as the State FFA Treasurer for 2015-2016! Jordan is only the second Pontiac FFA member to serve as a State FFA Officer.

On July 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>, Aaron Newsome and I attended the Washington Leadership Conference in our nation's capital. Throughout the week, we participated in numerous team-building activities with 300 FFA members from throughout the U.S., visited Arlington National Cemetery, went on a night tour of the monuments, visited the Capital, toured the Museum, visited a few of the Smithsonian's, and met our U.S. Representative, Adam Kinzinger.

On July 28<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> Jacob Larkin, Gabby Deacetis and myself attended the Illinois FFA Leadership Camp in Monticello. Members participated in the Ag. Olympics, which included tackle football in a pond with a watermelon covered in Vaseline. We also held small group sessions about ways to lead and make a difference in our FFA Chapter. On Thursday, we had a blue vs. red war which is a water balloon fight with all the camp participants split in two teams.

At the start of August, the National FFA Organization announced the Pontiac FFA Chapter was a Model of Excellence Finalist for the Top Chapter in the Nation for the third year in a row! On August 23<sup>rd</sup> the Chapter had its 3<sup>rd</sup> annual

Article continued on next page

## FFA cont.

Back-To-School Picnic for FFA members and their families. We would like to thank Officer Jennifer Stone for planning Cream and Jason Webster for donating sweet corn. On September 1<sup>st</sup> the Pontiac FFA Chapter took three buses to the picnic. The Chapter would also like to thank alumni member, Don Mackinson, for donating Prairie Farm's Ice the Farm Progress Show in Decatur. Every student enjoyed getting free gifts and talking to different Agribusinesses. Over Labor Day Weekend, the Chapter helped out at the Rusty's Drive-In at the Thresherman's Reunion and helped carry sponsor signs in the parade on Sunday.

Pontiac FFA had an awesome summer and we are looking forward to another great year!

## Environmental Club

By Kamryn Moore

This year Environmental Club has a lot planned for the new school year. We are currently working on two new projects, P2D2 Green Day and The Tombstone project. The P2D2 Green Day is a day that we hope to spread awareness about the proper disposal of prescription pills through an activity-filled day. In other news, the Tombstone project is going to put in three tombstones for Civil War Veterans that were recently identified in Odell. We hope that everyone can come out to support these events!



**Operation Endangered Species - The Alligator Snapping Turtle Project**  
[State Farm Advisory Board](#)

Click [HERE](#) for the Live Turtle Cam!

## 2015 Girl's Golf

By Taylor Parsons

Meet your 2015 girl golfers. This year on the team there are two seniors, Molly Ruddy and Hannah Schertz, one junior, Olivia Welshans, two sophomores, Lexi Hall and Valerie Hurt, and last but not least, two freshmen, Ali Schrock and Taylor Parsons. The coaches for the team are Mr. Brunner and Ms. Babb.

The girls practice every day after school and have a few matches every week. They work hard daily to improve their skills and to make sure that their game is "up to par." So far the girl's golf team is undefeated. The season has just begun for our girl golfers and they came out



swinging; so let's all wish them luck to drive it home.

## New Teacher Report: Mr. Brown

By Jeanette Wooldridge



This year at PTHS the Music Department has welcomed a new teacher into their mix and his name is Mr. Brown. He grew up in Graymont and is an alumnus of PTHS. He attended Western Illinois University and received his teaching degree in music. Mr. Brown has also taught at South Shore Fine Arts Academy on the south side of Chicago. The most interesting thing that Mr. Brown did this summer was that he went to Michigan, stayed by the lake, and relaxed as much as he could.

Some of his interests are music, playing the baritone, and animals of all kinds. Mr. Brown even has three lizards, six snakes, and one dog! So far at PTHS his favorite things have been the Marching Band and getting to know the students. Please join *The Chief* in welcoming Mr. Brown to the staff.

## Upper Class Acts

### Mary Kate Cupples

**Nicknames:** Mk,  
Mary, Mary Katherine



**Role Models:** Mrs. Christenson, Mr. Blair, Mrs. Buchanan, Mr. Schickel, and Mr. Ritter

**Activities @ PTHS:** Student Council, Band, Flags, Science Club, and C.A.P.T.A.I.N.S.

**Fondest Memory:** Making flags my freshman year

**3 Major Areas of Interest:**

Psychology, Childhood education, Special Ed

**Plans after High School:** Attend IVCC for two years, transfer to ISU for a teaching degree in Special Ed.

**Favorite Movie:** *The Dark Knight*

**Most Inspirational Song:** "For Good" (from *Wicked*)

**Favorite Class:** Band

**Most Positive Moment:**

Becoming co-president of Student Council

**Pet Peeves:**

people don't walk on the right side of the halls

**What My Friends will Remember About Me:**

Giving good advice, being positive, and being involved

**How would you spend \$1,000,000?:**

Some of the money to buy my own car, and the rest of the money to use for college.

**If You Were Stranded on a Desert Island, What 3 Items Would You Want with You?**

Cell Phone, my cat, headphones

**Last Words of Advice:** "Do something you enjoy and be involved because time flies so enjoy it while you can."

### Tyler Lind

**Nickname:**  
Lil Matt



**Role Model(s):** Grandpa, Dean Martin

**Activities @ PTHS:** Law Enforcement, C.A.P.T.A.I.N.S., Wrestling, Cross-Country

**Fondest Memory of High School so Far:**

Pulling together as a team last year in wrestling

**3 Major Areas of Interest:** History, older music, wrestling

**Plans After High School:** Unites States Marine Corps (currently enlisted), homestead in Alaska

**Favorite Movie:** *The Godfather*

**Most Inspirational Song:** "The Dance"

**Favorite Teacher/Class:** Mr. Bristow / Law

**Favorite Author:** Mario Puzo

**Most Positive Moment:**

My involvement with Teen Serve mission trip

**Pet Peeves:** Being interrupted

**What My Friends will Remember About Me:**

All my goofing around

**How would you spend \$1,000,000?** Charity and family

**If You Were Stranded on a Desert Island, What 3 items Would You Want with You?** A large cutting item, strip of clear plastic tarp, and a metal bottle

**Last Words of Advice:** "Never hate those who would you, it clouds your reason and affects your judgment."

## Ask Lexi and Sar

Welcome to the 2015-2016 school year. We hope this year has started off well for all of you! Hopefully, you don't have any problems, but if you do, you have come to the right place. This is the advice column run by Lexi Hall and Sarah Albrecht. We want you to get to know us better so here's a little bit more about us. We are both sophomores. Sarah is involved with cheerleading, Student Council, Key Club, Chorus, and HOSA. Lexi is involved with golf, Student Council, C.A.P.T.A.I.N.S, Eco club, and Chorus. We will be serving up our advice on your questions and problems every month in the *The Chief*, but everyone's names will remain anonymous.

If you want your question to be included in next month's issue, send it to [18salbre@pontiac90.org](mailto:18salbre@pontiac90.org). **XOXO, Lexi & Sar**

## Music Review:

By Lexi Hall

We all have at least one new song by Taylor Swift stuck in our head whether it's "Bad Blood" or "Style." Taylor Swift is hitting up the music charts like there is no tomorrow and is taking the world by storm. Her newest album *1989*, dropped last year, yet she is still a high number up on the charts. Taylor Swift began her career when she was young and presented her music creations at a school talent show, ever since then, she became popular and her videos were going viral! When Taylor was just 14 years old, she moved to Nashville, Tennessee to develop her country music. She became the youngest songwriter that was ever hired by Sony Music. She is the type of songwriter who tells a story inspired by her personal experiences when she sings. In 2014 she changed her genre of music, moving from country music to becoming a pop icon.

Taylor Swift is a widely known singer and songwriter who everyone knows. Videos of "*Shake it Off*" is going viral with many people all over the world singing it in the car. Check out her YouTube channel for more! <https://www.youtube.com/user/taylorswift>

## The Chief Staff

Kamryn Moore, Editor-in-Chief  
Alexis Hall, Editor-in-Chief  
Victor Johns  
Taylor Parsons  
Allyson Shoff  
Carlie Weaver  
Jeanette Wooldridge

[Mr. Soares, Faculty Sponsor](#)

**Do you like to write? Are you interested in being part of the PTHS newspaper staff? Contact Editors Kamryn Moore or Lexi Hall, or see Mr. Soares in room 136.**

## Pop Culture Update

By Lexi Hall

Unless you have been living under a rock, you probably know about Nicki Minaj and Miley Cyrus having a misunderstanding or disagreement about the things Nicki said in her tweets about the nominations for the music video of the year. After that was cleared up, everyone thought that the beef between the stars was over. That was until Miley said some pretty opinionated things about Nicki's tweets in an interview, calling Nicki out for "making it about herself" and "being angry and irrational." Again, most of us thought this would be the end of the feud between the pop stars, until the night of the VMA's. Everything seemed to be going smoothly, as smoothly as they could, considering the fact that Miley Cyrus was the host. Then Nicki came on stage to accept her award and things became heated, asking, "Miley, what's good?" Miley responded, saying that the media changed things and that she didn't put Nicki on blast. Saying these statements on television was bold move on both of their parts and many people believe that this is just the beginning to the feud between Miley and Nicki. The drama between Nicki and Miley wasn't the only interesting thing that happened at the VMA's, though, Miley also announced the debut of her free new album, and Kanye announced that he will be running for president in 2020.

## Student Survey

### Favorite TV Show

*One Tree Hill* – Adriana Araujo-Torres

*Friends* – Tyler Rich

*Breaking Bad* – Megan Masching

*The Walking Dead* – Alec Bristow

*Awkward* – Kailey Brinkman

*Sherlock* – Jasmine Davis

*Finding Carter* – Lucy Hodgson

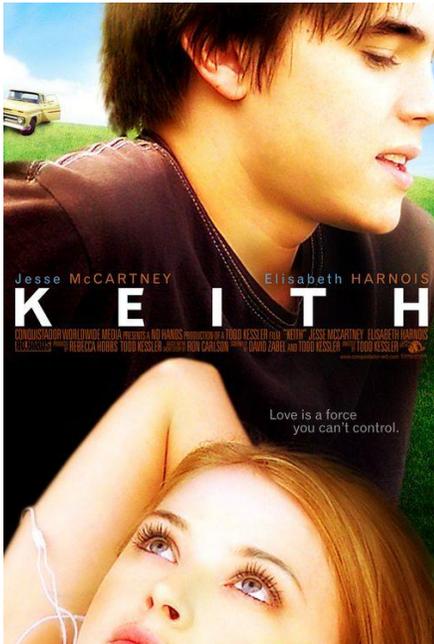
*Dance Moms* – Abbi Orndorff

*Facts of Fishing* – Tanner Hillsabeck

*Girl Meets World* – Kenzie Cool

## Movie Review: *Keith*

Review by Carlie Weaver



*Keith* is an independent drama written and directed by Todd Kessler. The protagonist in this story is Natalie Anderson (Elisabeth Harnois), a popular, attractive tennis player who has her whole future planned out. When she meets her new chemistry partner, Keith Zetterstrom (Jesse McCartney), she's not so sure anymore.

Keith is an outsider with a love for his truck and messing with people. Keith is strange to Natalie because she is so popular and outgoing and he is her polar opposite. Natalie and Keith start to form a kind of bond you can only get through chemistry. They bond over bowling and eating Twinkies and Slim Jims. One day, Keith doesn't show up to school, and he doesn't come back for a long time. Natalie is going crazy trying to figure out what is wrong with him, and Keith is doing everything he can to avoid her. Natalie's grades start to slip and she loses her tennis matches. She even gets suspended. Natalie has lost it. Then, she figures out Keith's secret, and it all makes sense.

*Keith* a great movie with a twist you won't expect. This movie is filled with unexpected, hilarious scenes and extremely colorful characters. As Keith would say, "We're here in a yellow truck, a road ahead of us and nothing but opportunities." This movie is available on Netflix, and I highly recommend it to anyone ages fifteen to thirty.

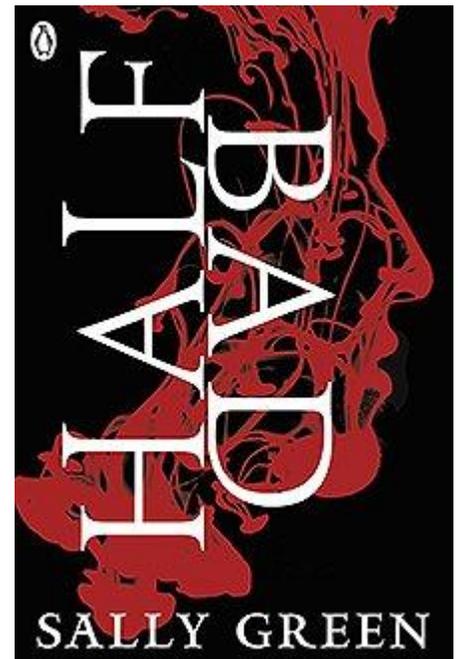
## Book Review: *Half Bad* by Sally Green

Review By Allyson Shoff

Sixteen-year-old Nathan has known all his life that he is not like the other witches in his family. While they are all pure and good, he is half Black witch. His mother, a White witch, is long dead, and gave birth to him years ago with Marcus, the most powerful living Black witch. The council watches him his whole life, but as his seventeenth birthday approaches, they take action to make sure he can't find his father and receive the three gifts required for him to reach his full magical potential. Nathan must escape the council because if a Black witch does not receive his three gifts on his seventeenth birthday they will die.

*Half Bad* follows the life of Nathan for the first sixteen years of his life before reaching present day. The book is written in a variety of tenses and points of view that are difficult for the reader to become accustomed to. Once the reader is comfortable with the writing style, it is easy to fall in love with the story. Our main character is Nathan, a half White, half Black witch who only wants to meet his father and receive the three gifts he requires to survive. He struggles through his youth to evade the Council's iron hold on him, but is eventually forced into imprisonment.

While this book did take a little bit of effort to get into, I fully enjoyed the characters, plotline, and the details of the world. I would recommend this book to those who like coming of age stories or supernatural young adult fantasy. *Half Bad* is the first book in a trilogy that also includes a couple novellas.



# Student Poetry Showcase: "Me" Poems

## Mya

Who wants to become a doctor  
Daughter of Danny and Amy  
Funny, great, and ambitious  
Basketball player, tuber, and a boater  
Friends of my dad, Madi, and Savannah  
Resident of Pontiac, Illinois

## Betts

## Sean

Who wants to become a game creator  
Son of John and Barb  
Friendly, creative, and weird  
A video gamer, PC gamer, and a basketball player  
Friends with Jacob and Andrew  
Resident of Odell, Illinois

## Anderson

## Allie

Who wants to become a music teacher  
Daughter of Travis and Brandi  
Friendly, quiet, and musical  
A volleyball player, choir singer, and horse caretaker  
Friends with Brittany, Emily, and Bree  
Resident of Odell, Illinois

## Alsdorf

## Cam

Who wants to become an NFL player  
Son of Steve and Mary  
Athletic, cool, and fun  
A football player, basketball expert, and track competitor  
Friends with Brandon, Max, and Lucas  
Resident of Illinois Ave, Pontiac

## Dawson

## Support Our Troops Care Package Drive

The Heart of Illinois Blue Star Mothers and the P429 School District are partnering together to help support our troops by collecting supplies for care packages. We would like to assemble over 150 care packages so they can experience a taste of "home" while serving our country.

### Supplies Can Be Dropped Off At:

Pontiac Jr. High School, Washington School, Lincoln School, Central School, Pontiac VFW

Have a service member deployed? We can add them to our list to receive a Care package.  
Questions? Contact Michelle Snell [snefmic@pontiac429](mailto:snefmic@pontiac429) or 815-674-8186

### Care Package Ideas

Beef Jerky/Slim Jims  
Peanut butter/Jelly  
Nuts  
Protein Bars/Energy Bars  
Pudding Cups  
Salsa  
Gum/Hard Candy  
Fruit Snacks/Fruit Roll Ups  
Rice Krispie Treats  
Chips in Containers like Pringles  
Sunflower seeds/Pumpkin Seeds  
Microwave popcorn  
Snack cups  
Cheese spread  
Tuna (in foil packets)  
Crackers/Cheese-Its/Wheat Thins  
Ramen Noodles  
Trail Mix/Chex Mix  
Dried Fruit/Canned Fruit  
Mac & Cheese Cups  
Fiddle Faddle Candy Bars  
Cookies  
Instant Oatmeal  
Cereal Bars

Granola Bars  
Hot Sauce/Seasoning Salts/ Sugar  
Kool Aid Mix  
Tea Bags  
Gatorade Powder  
Hot Chocolate  
Protein Powder  
Crystal Light Mixes  
Instant Coffee/Creamer  
Toiletries: (trial sizes are great)  
Sunscreen  
Hand Sanitizer  
Shampoo/Conditioner  
Razors/Shaving Cream or Gel  
Toothpaste/Toothbrush/Dental Floss  
Body Wash/Facial Soap  
Q Tips/Cotton Bails  
Nail Clippers/Nail File  
Chapstick/Lip Balm  
Anti-bacterial wipes  
Bandages  
Bandage Wraps  
Mouthwash  
Advil or Tylenol

Cough Drops  
Deodorant/Antiperspirant  
Lotion/Moisturizer  
Baby Wipes/Kleenex  
Loofah  
Washcloths  
Body powder  
Antacids Sinus Meds  
Nasal Spray  
Insect repellent (non aerosol)  
Eye Drops  
Foot Powder/Foot Inserts  
Feminine Hygiene Products  
Magazines  
Batteries(all sizes)  
DVD's  
Silly String  
Word Puzzle Books Stamps  
Cooling Bandanas  
Hand and Foot Warmers  
Phone Cards  
Dominos  
Notepads/ Notecards Pens/Pencils  
Cash Donations for Shipping Costs