

The **PV** Buzz

An Official PVRHS Publication



The Buzz | Spring 2022

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2022!



Photo taken by Al Cappello

On Friday, June 24, 2022 the Senior Class overcame a milestone of a lifetime...graduation! Whether attending college, learning a trade, joining the armed forces, or taking time to figure things out, we are equally proud of all of you. Our senior class had an outstanding year - they were accepted into Harvard, Cornell, Brown, Johns Hopkins, Georgetown, Fordham, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Stevens Institute of Technology, George Washington, NYU, Vassar and more. These newly-minted graduates were part of a new breakthrough era at PV. They welcomed new Superintendent Dr. Healy as their educational leader, alongside Ms. Voorhis as their new Vice Principal and Dr. Christopher as their new Assistant Principal. With a new leadership team in place and positive change initiated, Hornet pride and tradition radiated through the halls of PV more than ever this year. We are extremely proud that this was the **first class** to receive their diplomas on our new turf field. Congratulations and good luck on your next journey!



TOP 10 STUDENTS EMBARK ON THE NEXT PHASE OF THEIR ACADEMIC CAREERS



Valedictorian Christopher Perez and Salutatorian Lia Trehwella celebrating their achievements with Guidance Counselors Mrs. Vigliante & Mrs. Pasquariello.



Congratulations to the top ten of the Class of 2022, who have achieved academic excellence with their high ranking GPAs. Left to right: (9) Sarang Takahashi - NJIT, (3) Thomas Gaita- Georgetown, (2) Lia Trehwella- Cornell, (4) Lily Zamora - Brown, (7) Maram Adham-Ramapo, (8) Nicole LaRiccia- University of Delaware, (1) Christopher Perez- Harvard, (6) Gabriella Cielo- Franklin & Marshall, and (5) Chyna Sinclair- Johns Hopkins. Not pictured: (10) Abigail Ostolaza- Service Year

That's a wrap!

Finishing the school year strong



Senior Prom 2022

On June 9, 2022 Seniors celebrated prom in style at Il Villaggio's, in Carlstadt, New Jersey. A Masquerade Ball theme that exuded sophistication and a strong theatrical presentation took the night. Thank you to Class Advisors Mrs. Joseph and Mr. Feinstein for organizing the evening and calling on a giant robot to take over the dance floor as a surprise guest! "Senior Prom was awesome and I had a great time," said Sophia Covello. "I enjoyed everything about the night, including the food, atmosphere, and the place." Everyone in attendance enjoyed a magical evening of dancing and fun with friends.

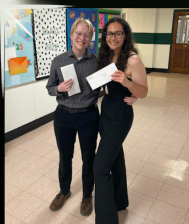
SUPERINTENDENT AMBASSADORS LEAD FUNDRAISER TO SPIKE DOWN CANCER IN HONOR OF DOMINIC CAPPELLO



Our #SwarmUp and Spike Down Cancer Spikeball Fundraiser was a huge success! We raised \$3,000 for Dominic Cappello in his fight against cancer. Big shoutout to Dr. Healy's Superintendent Ambassadors for organizing the event and making it happen. This was their idea and they executed it perfectly. Also, a big thank you to everyone who got involved, played and donated!

SENIOR AWARDS

On June 8, 2022 Passaic Valley held their annual Senior Awards Night. The evening put a spotlight on student excellence and achievement with scholarships presented by local business, educational, community, and military sponsors. Members of the Class of 2022 received generous scholarship awards that will profoundly impact their academic futures. Congratulations to all Senior Awards recipients and a special thanks Ms. Waryas, Ms. Pasquariello and all of those who made the event a success!



#NewNew Program Initiatives & Facility Enhancements



It has been an outstanding school year filled with accomplishments and successes for both our students and our district. The first year of open campus lunch for seniors was a huge success. The new turf field and our electronic marquee have been installed, and the renovation of the track is in the works. The chromebooks 1:1 roll out has begun, and our website has been updated with a cleaner, user-friendly appearance. Over the summer months, the Schneider Auditorium is scheduled to receive a complete renovation and our Energy Improvement project will kick off reconstructing the entire school with new LED lights and Honeywell ventilation systems.

ART SHOW

ART IS AN INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE, UNDERSTOOD BY ALL. -IGOR BABAILOV

The Passaic Valley Art Department presented their annual Art Exhibition on May 24, 2022. High school art students showcased their pieces from a wide variety of media which include drawing, painting, 3D Sculpture, 2-D printmaking, digital media and photography. Over 100 students were represented in the exhibit.

Culinary Arts collaborated with the Arts to showcase their "Food Truck Wars" project, where students stood outside the show and served tasty treats from each truck upon entry. The Art Club students, in collaboration with the Multicultural Club, provided henna tattooing - adding a space for viewers to learn about art from other cultures and enjoy a hands on experience.

Thank you to all the artists that shared their work with our community at the 2022 Art Exhibition. Your art tells stories and inspires us to think and relate in new ways. Thank you to the community for supporting our young artists and contributing to a beautiful event.



IMAGES 2022 LITERARY & ART MAGAZINE



From beginning to end, Images 2022 is produced by the students of PVRHS. The poems written, artwork created, and layout compiled were done so at the hands of the artists, writers, and editors we have here at our school. Thank you to all students involved in this publication; we are honored to be able to share your talents with the community. You can find the *Images 2022* Magazine on our Passaic Valley YouTube channel.

RUBE GOLDBERG

The AP Physics and AP Calculus classes ended their year with their annual Rube Goldberg Projects. These group projects are a 13 year tradition passed down from Ms. Shtraks, now led by Mrs. Feo, and Mr. Haimowitz. The 2022 Team captains were, Anthony DiTaranto, Emma Seber, Johnny Sahdou and Gabby Cielo and the themes are Disney Pixar's, *Monsters Inc.*, *Pirates of the Caribbean*, *Avatar*, and *Alice in Wonderland*. The t-shirt design was created by *Alice in Wonderland* member Lily Zamora. The groups displayed their ingenuity and creativity to crowds of students and staff in the Physics Room on June 16th and 17th.



Rube Goldberg projects were named after the political cartoonist of the same name. Goldberg drew satirical cartoons depicting complicated chain reactions that achieved a simple goal as a way to comment on the politics of his time. When he eventually turned these devices into sculptures, it inspired a wave of sculptors and engineers to follow suit, leading to what are now known as "Rube Goldberg Machines."



DISCOVERY LEARNING

New York Jet's Business Day

Mr. DeSalvo's Sports and American Society students attended the annual New York Jets Business Day! Students took an educationally enriching trip to MetLife Stadium, where they learned the business and marketing strategies of the New York Jets. They were fascinated by the hard work and teams of people it requires to organize marketing, ticket sales, media, game/party planning and promotions. At Passaic Valley, we believe in the importance of exposing students to the world of work and introducing them to jobs they did not know existed during high school. Something that seems so effortless, like million-dollar athletes taking the field each Sunday, takes so much behind the scenes work from numerous teams of people. A big thank you to the New York Jets and MetLife Stadium for having us!



TOP CHEF 2022



Aixa Herrera and Sayeda Ali win Top Chef 2022, with their own version of chicken empanadas and a chocolate dessert shooter topped with a deep fried Oreo. This is the eleventh year Passaic Valley Culinary Classes have competed in a Top Chef-style competition. This two day event encourages students to think, problem-solve, and be creative. It also gives them the opportunity to use the knowledge they have and apply it by counting, measuring, following a sequence, following directions, and exploring cause and effect. Our Culinary program is tailored specifically for young learners to learn to enjoy the art of cooking in a productive learning environment. Thank you Ms. Geleta for keeping this tradition strong, and congratulations to all the students involved in this scrumptious event!

PRIORITIZING STUDENT SUPPORT & SCHOOL SAFETY

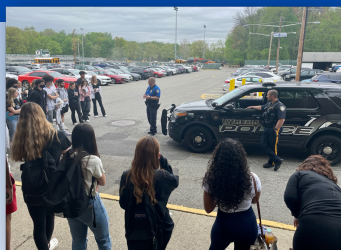


We remain steadfast in our commitment to protect students and staff by providing the highest level of services possible. PV has a Director of Counseling, five trained counselors, a student assistance counselor, two mental health clinicians, a school psychologist, a social worker, a learning consultant and a fully-staffed Teen Center that provides daily programming for all students.

Passaic Valley also stands alongside thousands of schools and youth organizations across the United States for Sandy Hook Promise's "Say Something Week" program. During this week long program, March 14-18, 2022, we empower our students to stand together and be a part of the solution to reduce school violence. We encourage lessons in kindness, identify what it means to be a "Trusted Adult" and promote pride in our school and community. The program aligns seamlessly with Passaic Valley's existing social-emotional learning (SEL) curriculum, instruction, and programming. We are also fortunate enough to have a six member security team with three armed officers working during school hours. Strong mental health support and physical safety are paramount in our district.

Criminal Justice Program Partners with the Little Falls Police Department

The students in our Criminal Justice Program step outside the classroom to learn about traffic stop etiquette and safety, common courtesies when pulled over, how radar units work, probable cause and search under Title 39, and tips and tricks police officers do to keep themselves protected on the job. This program thrives on respect, professionalism, and hard work. Our goal is to prepare our students for the demanding physical, mental, and instructional experience commonly associated with basic training at the respective policing academies. A huge thank you to Corporal Jon Vanak & Patrolman Alfonso Pinola from the Community Policing and Crime Prevention Division of Little Falls Police Department for an insightful presentation.



HORNET SPOTLIGHTS



Mrs. Vigilante

2022 PASSAIC COUNTY COUNSELOR OF THE YEAR

On Wednesday March 23, Mrs. Danielle Vigilante was presented as "Counselor of the County", by the Passaic County School Counselor Association. Nominated by her co-workers, Mrs. Vigilante was honored for her dedication to Passaic Valley students and the community. Congratulations! We are so lucky to have you as one of ours!



PV WINS BIG AT THE PASSAIC COUNTY FILM FESTIVAL

PVTV students achieved sweeping wins at the Passaic County Film Festival! TV Productions student Jenna Anevski received 1st and 2nd place in the PSA category, where she produced public service announcements for PVTV and Covid-19. Visual Communications students Hailey Shafer and Noah Fuchs' *Holiday Activities* placed 2nd in the General Short category. Congratulations on your outstanding achievements!



#WHOWENT THEFURTHEST

Senior Melissa Villegas will be studying Business Administration at John Cabot University in Rome, Italy this Fall! That is 4,295 miles away from home! She looks forward to experiencing a new place and culture, while making new friends from around the world. We are beyond excited for her to take on this next big adventure!



PASSAIC VALLEY'S UNSUNG HERO THOMAS GAITA

Congratulations to Thomas Gaita, our nominee for the 2021-22 NJSBA Unsung Hero Award. He is smart, kind, genuine, and inspires others to work hard. Despite the challenges of being almost legally blind, he is graduating third in his Senior Class and will be attending Georgetown University in the Fall. We are beyond proud of this young man!



In honor of Teacher Appreciation Week, Dr. Healy and Ms. Voorhis guest anchor and add a new creative twist to PVTV's Morning Show, *Good Morning Hornets*.

SPRING HORNETS OF THE MONTH

Academic Spotlight



Yastika is a leader in the classroom and a strong role model for PV students. She is a member of the Interact Club and Junior Statesmen of America. Yastika has earned the rank of first in her sophomore class of 241 students.



Audrey has demonstrated an exceptional ability to utilize both creativity and critical thinking skills to achieve at a high level in her computer science courses. This was particularly evident in her most recent "Creative Task" project in which she was able to create a detailed prehistoric landscape by using the Python programming language.

Joe is a delight to have in class and has an easygoing personality; he is committed to his studies and his respectful disposition as a young man is refreshing! When it came to his college planning, Joe was ahead of the game. Guidance Counselors were so impressed with his foresight and how much thought and planning he had done on his own!



Character Spotlight

Athletics Spotlight

Brian concluded an amazing basketball career with over 1,400 points. Brian was voted Athlete of The Week in North Jersey Sports this season and was also nominated twice for Player of the Week. He averaged 28 points per game this season, leading his team to 16 wins and a playoff berth.



Jess exemplifies spirit, sportsmanlike conduct, and concern for her fellow peers. Her actions should serve as a model for all students. She is kind, friendly and has a truly honorable character.



This season, PJ won gold medals at the Passaic County, District 6 and Region 2 Tournaments, and made the NJSIAA State Finals in Atlantic City where he was selected to wrestle in the main event match of the tournament. Ultimately, PJ took 2nd place in the state of NJ which was his 3rd state tournament medal of his career.

Julia is a born leader, always cheerful and striving to be a positive influence on the others. She encourages her classmates to work hard, offering advice and positive feedback. In light of her demanding workload inside and outside of the classroom, Julia treats it all with great effort and determination.



Mia Aquino has shown tremendous courage, heart, leadership and improvement. Her commitment and work ethic is extremely admirable and her teammates are better with her on their team. Mia always brings nothing but positivity to the field. Mia is a strong, wonderful student-athlete.



Gabriella Gutierrez is a student who gives 100% of her time, attention, and care to everything she does. She encourages peers to take advantage of all PV has to offer. She is a young woman who gets things done, calmly and deliberately.



Softball had a successful season with 13 wins this year and making it back to the Passaic County Championship Game. The Hornets were runners up in the County and League this year. The team made the state playoffs but ultimately lost in the quarterfinal round of the NJSIAA Group 2 North 2 Sectional Tournament. 3 players were selected 1st Team All County and 1st Team All League. (Sophia Payne, Jenna Alesandrelli & Mia Aquino).



Baseball collected 10 wins this season and a home game in the NJSIAA State Sectional Playoffs. The team was young this season and returns a great deal of players that earned significant varsity action. The Hornets Baseball Team fought hard each time out on the diamond. This team was involved in 10 games that were decided by 2 runs or less. Johnny Bucher was selected 1st Team All County and 1st Team All League.



Boys Tennis earned victories over JFK Paterson and West Milford this season. The team was led by Michael Hearney, Michael Preziosi and Jeet Paldiya.



Boys Lacrosse was led by leading scorer, Damian Kribs. This sophomore has already collected 200 pts and nearly 100 goals in 2 short seasons with the Hornets. The Hornets had an exciting victory over Parsippany (9-8) this season. Most of this young team will return next season, and that has the Hornets excited about the future of this lacrosse team.

SPORTS REPORT

IT'S A GREAT DAY TO BE A HORNET

#SwarmLife



Girls Lacrosse was led by 9th grader Lilliana Kalokitis, who led the team with 10 goals. Jenna Anevski was a senior leader with 9 goals and ended her career with 25 goals in total. As a goalie, Morgan Aue had 80 saves on the season. This young squad will grow and return even stronger next year.

Golf collected 5 wins this season. The team was led by Sophomore Travis Leech who had the best average on the squad and many rounds that were in the mid 40's.

Track had a season to remember with many records broken and a prestigious Penn Relay Wheel earned at the Penn Relays, hosted at the University of Pennsylvania. Jessier Soriano, Brian Whitney and Nehemiah Redden were all 1st Team All County & 1st Team All League athletes for the boys team. Katharine Cottone was our 1st Team All County and 1st Team All League female athlete. Both the Girls' and Boys' teams had their best ever finishes at the Group 2 North 2 NJSIAA Sectional meet to end the season. The team sent more than a dozen athletes to compete at the Group Championships to conclude a historic season in the PVHS Track program.

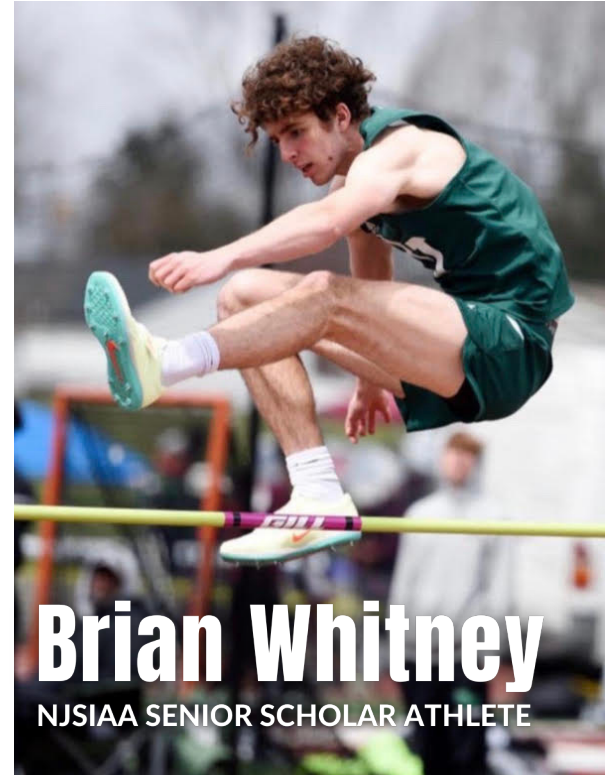


NEW RECORD!

Boys Track & Field won the 1st Penn Relays Wheel ever in Passaic Valley history! The Penn Relays is the oldest and largest Track and Field competition in the United States, hosted annually since April 21, 1895 by the University of Pennsylvania at Franklin Field in Philadelphia. Our boys 4x400 team came in first in their heat and set a new school record with a time of 3:29.68. The 4x100 team also placed first in their heat and 30th overall. Congratulations!



Katharine Cottone
1st Team All County
1st Team All League



Brian Whitney
NJSIAA SENIOR SCHOLAR ATHLETE

Bringing Home the Gold AT THE STUDENT THEATER FESTIVAL AT BUCKS COUNTY



On April 28, 2022, PV Theater Arts Students won multiple awards at the Student Theater Festival at Bucks County. *La Gringa* - Best Dramatic Production, Gabby Cielo - Triple Threat Award, Sarah Zampella and Skylar Smith - Spotlight award for Featured Dancers, *Cell Block Tango* - Best Musical Number. Congratulations to Pia Vanderstreet as the director of *La Gringa* and Jenn Shue as the director of *Chicago*, as well as the entire cast and crew of both productions. Outstanding job by all! Passaic Valley is very proud to promote excellence in the study and teaching of Communication and Theatre Arts.



CHICAGO BLOWS AWAY AUDIENCES WITH AN UNFORGETTABLE PERFORMANCE

PVRHS Board of Education

- Vincent Varcadipane / President
- Peter D'Angelo / Vice President
- Lori Brigati / Commissioner
- Charles Cathcart / Commissioner
- Giovanni D'Ambrosio / Commissioner
- Raymond Luke Damiano / Commissioner
- Nicholas Doell / Commissioner
- Jaclyn Luker / Commissioner
- Sam Yodice Jr. / Commissioner

PVRHS Administration

- Brack Healy, Ed.D. / Superintendent
- Colin Monahan / Business Administrator
- Krista Voorhis / Vice Principal
- Adam Christopher, Ed.D. / Assistant Principal
- David Settembre / Assistant Principal
- Tara Torres / Director of Counseling
- Kelly O'Brien / Supervisor of Special Services
- Joseph Benvenuti / Director of Athletics
- Chester Parlavacchio / Dean of Students
- Bill Pantale / Guidance Specialist
- Mario Gaita / Supervisor of Building & Grounds
- Amani Dyer / Network & Computer Coordinator

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