

I Know What You Did Last Summer

By Wanda Rogers

Yes it's a movie. (Yes it's a book.) Now it's an article in YOUR high school newspaper...

When I asked what people did over the summer, most said "nothing." But surely they did *something*. They breathed (I hope). They slept (I'm sure). So, as a result, I'll tell you the interesting answers I *did* get.

One sophomore girl wished she could have gone to Warped Tour. Another sophomore got her first job. A teacher bought her first house and got a rescue dog. One sophomore boy spent every day at the library, and a senior girl's parents got married. Many people traveled, even more watched TV. Basically, everyone spent their summer waiting for the inevitable—for school to start up again. So let's make use of all that doing nothing and waiting and make this year the best one yet!



Courtesy of Google Images.

A Summer Home?

By Kirstan Bennett

While the school was being renovated Mrs. Henricks and Mrs. Winters were in a different area they were used to. They worked in the music room where Mr. Stoner also had a summer office to. I interviewed them about how they felt about working in the music room. I asked Mrs. Winters if there were any disadvantages. Mrs. Winters said, "When we had to print or get things from the file room we had to run upstairs." I asked Mrs. Henricks said "we thought we grabbed everything, but we didn't have everything we needed so we had to wait till they let us back upstairs." Mrs. Henricks also told me that they had to use the restroom in the locker rooms, but one day those restrooms were closed off because the floor was painted. They had to walk upstairs to the staff bathrooms because they were closed off. I also asked Mrs. Winters if there were any advantages about being down stairs she said "Mrs. Henricks and I got closer to each other and got more things done this summer more than any other summer." I asked Mrs. Winters if she liked being upstairs or down stairs, and she said she prefers upstairs because she has her own space. Mrs. Henricks said she likes being upstairs because everything is at her fingertips, and she knows where everything is. What an adventure! All in all they prefer to be in their regular spaces.



Secretaries Mrs. Winter and Mrs. Henricks enjoy a quick laugh.

New Year, New School

By Cody Schindler

Have you noticed the changes at our school? Obviously, you notice the new soundboards instantly. The blue and white soundboards hang from the ceiling and deflect sound, making it an easier learning environment for neighboring classrooms. There's also some not so obvious changes. There have been some rule changes to the handbook. Luckily, I was able to interview Mr. Stoner to get the full scoop.

Over the summer, the biggest project was the asbestos removal. Subsequently, we added new carpet and drywall. Outside, we are hard at work adding a new metal roof. Mr. Stoner said he plans for the roof to be done "sometime in September." He also said "I have to give a lot of credit to the maintenance crew, they did a great job." The football team also contributed, as they moved desks and shelves from classrooms into the gym last May.

As for the handbook, the biggest change was on tardies. After your third tardy, it counts as an absence. Also, detention referrals will restart at the semester. And while the next two rules didn't change, the school plans on stressing these rules this year. "We plan on making sure everybody is using their parking permit," said Mr. Stoner. Also, with the new carpet, teachers will be stressing the no food or drink rule. Our school worked hard to improve the building, and we should honor that.



Mr Stoner is glad to be back!

Meet Your New Counselor

By Madison Schneider

Have you met the new PHHS guidance counselor? That's right, we have another new addition to the staff here! Miss Wenzel has filled Mrs. Templin's spot in the guidance office. She is working very hard to get to know the students here, and she's fitting right in.

Mrs. Wenzel has lived in Peoria all her life, so she knows the area well. She attended college at Bradley University, completing the undergraduate and graduate programs. She says that she liked this school because it was a close-knit university and she was able to have a lot of friends in many different departments. "It felt like a family," she added. Attending a smaller college definitely paved the way for her to fit right in here at PHHS.

What exactly was it that made Mrs. Wenzel want to become a counselor? She loves high school kids, to start. Also, she loves the idea of helping us figure out the next step of our lives, whether that be going to college or starting a career. She said that her job is the best job of all, because she gets to hang out with students all day!

So far, Mrs. Wenzel loves working here at PHHS. She loves that it is a smaller school, just like Bradley was a smaller university. Mrs. Wenzel said that she feels the size of the school is a great advantage to her, because she gets the opportunity to meet and get to know most, if not all, of the students.

I asked Mrs. Wenzel if she had any advice or comments for the students here. Her response was, "Get organized and do the best you can. It's going to be a great year, and I am looking forward to getting to know all of the people here." If you have any reservations about meeting with the school counselor, let them go! As I interviewed Miss Wenzel, I could tell she is a very kind person, and willing to help you out with any problems you may run into throughout the school year. Good luck to all of the students this year, let's make it a year to remember!



Mrs. Wenzel, our new counselor, helps senior Cody Schindler.

We Were All New Once

By Kensey Schol

Have you met the new math teacher? Her name is Miss Ahlers and she teaches Algebra I, geometry, and calculus. She is from a Chicago suburb called Buffalo Grove. She always loved math and everyone said she would make a lovely teacher. So, freshman year at Bradley University she decided she was going to be a math teacher. She has now been teaching for two years. Her first year of teaching was at Rock Island High School. Now that she's joined the staff at our odd shaped school, she agrees that having no walls is definitely the weirdest thing. She also says she loves the staff and the students. Her advice for her students is, "Do your homework, life is a lot easier if you're good at math."



New math teacher Miss Ahlers directs one of her classes.

Football Team Visits Shriners Hospital for Children

By Tiffanie Miller

On Wednesday the 13, the Peoria Heights boys' football team took a trip to Chicago, Illinois. While they were there, they visited and took a tour throughout Shriners Children's Hospital. The main points of visiting this hospital was to learn and understand the importance of what Shriners does for children. Also, to help us realize we have it pretty good. There was also a donation made. They learned that Shriners Hospital never turns down a kid no matter the situation. Coach Adkins's favorite part of the visit was seeing the "walking machine," in which is a \$500,000 machine that helps kids walk for the first time in their lives. They not only met dozens of strong-willed children but they were also able to do multiple different activities with them. The team and patients came together to play wheelchair basketball and ping pong. After a long day, the team sat down for lunch in the hospital. Before they headed home, they stopped at the Navy Pier, in which they walked around, went sight-seeing, enjoyed the day, and realized what all they have to be thankful for. This trip is set to be done every year.

The team opened the season at Ridgewood on Friday. The team waited out a lightning delay but fell 33-0. They host Princeville Friday in their home opener.



The 2014 PHHS varsity football team.

Wait, what's a touchdown again?

By Madilyn Tortat

How much do you know about football? The Peoria Heights football moms learned a lot this summer. Coach Adkins and the rest of the coaching staff put on a "Moms' Football 101," where they learned everything from safety to the basic x's and o's. He came up with the idea at Eastern Illinois University when they held a camp and it was very successful. He combined his ideas with JFL Coordinator Ronnie Foster to create a great experience for all those involved. Jim Simpson, former player at the University of Illinois, and Keri Banning of Midwest Orthopedics were also in attendance and spoke to the moms. I know all the moms had a fun time and also got a better understanding for what exactly it is their sons are doing on the field. Coach Adkins is currently in the process of planning more events for the moms to participate in. If your mom or even grandma's a football newbie, let her know of events to come!



The moms had a great time at the Mom's clinic this year.

Volleyball Is Here!

By Shannon Son

This year's volleyball season has started off great! Since the first day of practice in July, each of us has improved significantly. We are all working very hard and can't wait until the games begin.

This year, PHHS will be hosting Volley for the Cure on October 7. Cookies will be made, raffle tickets will be available, and the team will be giving away a blanket made by them. Also, we will be recognizing all of the cancer survivors, giving them a round of applause

The first game will be September 1, on Labor Day. It will be at home, starting at 7 o'clock, preceding the JV game, and we will be playing Henry. There will be home games that following Tuesday and Thursday, against Williamsfield and against Lewistown.



The 2014 PHHS varsity volleyball team.

Class Meetings

By Seth Boyer

If it wasn't for class meetings, half the time we would be lost on what to do! Thank you, Mr. Stoner, for holding these class meetings to help not only me, but all the other students of Peoria Heights High School as well. For every meeting Mr. Stoner stated that he wanted everyone to know the handbook in and out, and he informed everybody about the new tardy rule which is if you are tardy to a class 3 times it counts as an absence. On Wednesday, August 20, 2014, he held a freshman and sophomore class meeting. In the freshman meeting, he made it very clear that these meetings are to help prepare students for their upcoming years at Peoria Heights High School. He introduced them to Mrs. Wenzel the new guidance counselor. On August 21, 2014, they held a junior and senior class meeting. They talked about the issue with the ACTS and the new online based test called PARCC. He said our goal is to get prepared for after high school. No matter how many years we have left of high school, it will go by really fast. So it's a good thing we are allowed for college visits starting second semester. We are allowed 3 a year and they have to be done before May 1. Keep reading the Town Crier for more updates about this upcoming year!

Life Skills.

By Sarah Knott

Have you ever thought about becoming a special education teacher? I know I would want to be after talking to the special education teacher Mrs. Medlin. She became a special education teacher because she has a cousin with special needs, so she wanted to help people with special needs. To her, she has the best job in the world.

She loves watching them grow as a person and watching them learn new things every day. Mrs. Medlin has 3 very helpful assistants. They are all looking forward to their field trips and the construction base learning they do. And this year, they will be in a new spot, space six, to give the students a bigger and better learning environment. She has many ways to help her students, she tries to increase their self-confidence and keep them motivated.

Music in the Air

By Shawna Stewart

Mr. Piper is teaching Music Appreciation this year. He has 21 students in his class. He's teaching the class in a different way than it was taught last year. He's teaching 1000 year old music and having the students do questions and take quizzes over it. As well as Music Appreciation, Mr. Piper is the marching band teacher. There are 27 people in marching band. Over the summer, the freshman and new students to Peoria Heights practiced three days in early July and went over basics, while returning students practiced scramble drills. They are planning on playing at volleyball senior night and at the Bradford Labor Day Parade. For football games, they are going to play *Strutter* by Kiss, *House of the Rising Sun*, and *7 Nation Army* by White Stripes. If you are still interested in band, and you have played a classical instrument before, talk to Mr. Piper as soon as you can.

Leadership Academy

By James Janis

If you had a choice, what would be your perfect Saturday morning? Would you still be sleeping? Maybe you are more of an outdoor person and would be waking up in a tent and going for a hike. Well, for a few of the juniors and seniors here in Peoria Heights, Saturday mornings are a time for them to learn about leadership from leaders all across Central Illinois.

The Leadership Academy was designed to give students an opportunity to develop their leadership skills and put them in contact with leaders all over Central Illinois. They will learn things such as their personal temperament, which is the way in which they lead others, understand how leadership in local and state governments work, understanding how local businesses work, and many other lessons all on leadership.

The Academy was created with the help of many leaders from all over Central Illinois. Some of these people were Chris Ahart, Deputy Chief of the Peoria Heights PD, Robert Miller, a graduate last year from PHHS, Mr. Stoner, and several other people from Peoria, Peoria Heights, and the Richwoods Township.

The Academy will meet six times over the next few months to learn about leadership and will have their last meeting in October at the Ivy Club for a celebration banquet. If you have any other questions, or would like to be in it next year, listen in the announcements for more information, or ask Mr. Stoner.