

THE TOWN CRIER

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Peoria Promise

By Taylor Peterson

Peoria Promise is a 100% donor-funded scholarship that provides out-of-pocket tuition opportunities for qualifying city of Peoria students to successfully complete coursework at Illinois Central College. Although there has been rumors about the students of Peoria Heights being a part of this organization, that is not entirely true. Students that had lived in Peoria for at least three years and then moved to Peoria Heights still qualify for 50% tuition from the Peoria Promise. The application window opens February 1st. If you have any questions, please see Mrs. Wenzel.

Sophomore MOJO Day

By Charles Schneider

Another MOJO day has come and gone! On Wednesday, January 27th, the sophomores filed into the gym in preparation for games, activities, and dancing of course! MOJO was done a little bit differently than usual for the sophomores. Instead of sticking to the usual games and activities, the MOJO leaders decided on focusing on other things first. First, the sophomores got to listen to Mr. and Mrs. Lowe talk about healthy relationships. Next, we broke into groups of girls and boys to talk about relationships for each gender specifically. After that, it was of course time for some dancing. From the cupid shuffle to the whip, a variety of fun dances were done. Sophomores were then broken into smaller groups, where they played in many different games that built friendships and a better understanding of who their classmates were. Overall, the day was a huge success and everyone seemed to have a great time!



Quinn Miller, Michelle Dang, and Tyler Webb lead their small group in one of the many activities done during sophomore MOJO day.

Wrestling

By Noah Nelson

The wrestling season is almost over. They wrestled in their last tournament of the year on Saturday the 16th in Kewanee. Keshawn Hess placed 2nd, Cole Williams placed 5th, Brandon & David got 6th place. They had a home meet on Wednesday, the 27th. The teams that they faced were Canton and Peoria High. It was also senior night as we recognized Jakob Tinkham as the only senior. The wrestling team has one last wrestling tournament and that will be Regionals on Saturday, February 6th at Eureka. Good luck to all the wrestlers at Regionals!

Congratulations to Hailey Walton, Student of the Month for December!!

Freshman Hailey Walton is the daughter of Tanya and Steve Walton. She has two sisters, Kelsey, a PHHS senior, and Paige a PHGS fifth grader. Hailey was nominated because in spite of some serious health issues that have put her in and out of the hospital, she is still an active member of our community and an honor student at the top of her class!

Sports is one of Hailey's favorite things. She has participated in volleyball and track since sixth grade. She plans to continue to play sports as soon as she is able, which will be hopefully when she recovers from this next surgery. This year she has acted as manager for volleyball and girls' basketball.

Another of Hailey's activities is Scholastic Bowl, and she plans to continue that as well. She plans to be as active and involved as she can.

Hailey's favorite classes are science, which isn't surprising since her plans for the future are to go into a medical career. Her current interest is neurology, but we know she will do well in whatever she chooses!

Faculty members had some great things to say about Hailey. "I nominate Hailey Walton. Despite her inability to be at school because of medical reasons, she completed her work at the highest level. I believe she earned all A+ and 1 A. I think her class rank is 1. This is rather amazing considering her struggle with constant pain, medical conditions, and absence from school." "I nominate Hailey Walton. Even though she has been out on medical leave, she had gotten every scrap of work done perfectly. I think she might be #1 in her class. Pretty impressive!" "I have worked with several students that have been on medical leave from school. Hailey has shown the most dedication and desire to stay up to date with her peers that I have ever seen. She works not only during tutoring, but she also puts in several hours at home. She is a hard working student that deserves the recognition. All A+s and 1 A, plus #1 in her class is a HUGE accomplishment to do while here at school, let alone while being home based. She is very deserving of this recognition." "I love that nomination. Hailey comes to games when she can. All around great kid." "She is a great student! Even with being gone so much, she stays on top of her homework and maintains an overall A+/A average." "Hailey has worked so hard and stayed so positive in this tough situation! What a great example for all of us!"



Congratulations to Hailey Walton for receiving Student of the Month for December!

Who's who?

By Sarah Knott

Who's who is out, which means it's time for who's who pictures! Make sure you look at the sheet on the walls so you know when your picture date is. Meet in Mrs. Gibbon's room during advisor on the day of your picture. Have something in mind on where you want to take it or what pose you want to do, and please try to plan it with your partner because it will make taking pictures a lot easier. Try to have an outfit picked out, but don't forget your picture day so there will not need to be a reschedule!

ACT

By Madilyn Tortat

The ACT process is going to be a little different this year for juniors. The test will no longer be paid for by the school, rather the students will have to register and pay for it themselves. To register, students must register online at actstudent.org in advance. Registration closes around a month prior to the test, so be sure to register early! Students should sign up for the test plus writing, which is \$56. Students who are in the free or reduced lunch program are eligible for a fee waiver. If you think you qualify, see Mrs. Wenzel for details. The test will take place on a Saturday morning at a location of the student's choosing. A few of the potential locations are Richwoods, ICC, and Bradley. If you have any questions regarding the registration process, Mrs. Wenzel is available for advising. Colleges are still requiring the ACT for admission, but Illinois is attempting to switch to the SAT test in the near future. The PARCC right now is just a measurement for the state to determine students' skills in math and science, and may be required for college entrance in the future. At the moment, the ACT is still the most important test if you are going to college, so be sure to register early and prepare often!

ISIS- What You Need to Know

By Charles Schneider

The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, more commonly abbreviated as ISIS, is an Islamic militant group that has taken control of parts of Syria and Iraq. Most recently known for the attacks on Paris in France and in San Bernardino, California, ISIS has gained incredible strength over the past couple years. The United States, United Kingdom, France, Russia, several Arab nations, and the Kurds are all against ISIS and have come together to fight ISIS. With all of these military superpowers fighting ISIS, a valid question is why hasn't this group been destroyed yet? The main reason is because ISIS is a very smart organization. They are the best-funded terrorist organization in history, they communicate mostly on untraceable sources, and they are continually growing in size. All of these qualities make ISIS difficult to eliminate. However, with continued efforts, it is hoped and expected that ISIS will eventually be destroyed.

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Pre Super Bowl!

By Shawna Stewart

These last few weeks of football have been intense due to the fact that we now know who will play in Super Bowl 50. On January 16th, the New England Patriots beat the Kansas City Chiefs 27-20. Also on January 16th, the Arizona Cardinals beat the Green Bay Packers. They were tied 20-20 going into overtime. The Cardinals ended up taking the win with a score of 26-20. On January 17th, the Carolina Panthers beat the Seattle Seahawks. The score was 31-24. Also on this day, the Denver Broncos faced the Pittsburgh Steelers at home. Denver beat the Steelers 23-16. On January 24th, the New England Patriots faced the Denver Broncos and the Carolina Panthers faced the Arizona Cardinals in the Conference Championship game. Denver beat the Patriots 20-18 and the Panthers beat the Cardinals 49-15. So the Broncos will face the Panthers in Super Bowl 50. The Super Bowl will take place on Sunday, February 7th, at 6:30 PM. The game will be played at Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara, California. Good luck to both teams!

Scholastic Bowl

By Kensey Schol

The Scholastic Bowl team has had a couple of meets since the last article. They had one at Central, but sadly lost. It's a tough competition this year but they're still working hard to improve. The meet at Elmwood went well. They lost two and won one against Knoxville. It was good, close match against A-town though. The toss ups for the Varsity members are: Rachel – 23, Katie – 3, Anna – 3, Lily – 1, James – 4, Michelle – 13, and Emmy – 4. The coaches still have a lot of hope for the students. The next home meet is February 9th. Anyone is welcome to come and watch for free. Come out and support them!

Spirit Week

By Cole Reilly

Spirit weeks are always the most exciting parts of the school year for myself, and I know that many other students feel the same way. Usually we are limited to one, but a few students and faculty members got together this year and decided that we were going to attempt to organize a second and a third. In the midst of the second, I can say that it has been a success. Students and teachers alike are buying all the way in, and I have seen some of the most creative and well put together costumes during this winter spirit week than ever at our school before. The days came in this order, with each getting better, Wacky Tacky Day, Duo Day, Sports Day, Movie Character Day, and finally Patriot Day on Friday. The volleyball tournament is also a huge factor in the hype swirling around the spirit week and Friday night game. This year was full of close battles, with no team beating another by over 10 points.

Spirit Week (cont.)

The seniors and juniors played each other in the class championship game (a rivalry that had been brewing since last year), but ultimately the seniors came out on top as two point victors. The faculty has never lost in an assembly game, but the students are confident that this is their year. The spirit week is leading up to a game against Abingdon-Avon which coincidentally is the game that our football spirit week fell upon as well. Come out and support the team tonight at 6, and make sure you are ready to cause some chaos!



Journalism students dress up for wacky-tacky day on Monday.

Boys' Basketball

By Sarah Knott

On Tuesday, January 19th, the boys' basketball teams played against the Farmington Farmers, unfortunately both JV and varsity lost. The varsity team lost 70-74, and they fought hard, but it just did not turn into a victory. Friday, January 22, the team played against the West Prairie Cyclones, and great news; both teams won! They all brought their A game and got that victory that everyone wanted. On Tuesday, January 26th, the team played the North Fulton Wildcats. JV won 50-40 and the Varsity team won 57-29, both teams liked the feeling of winning the other night against West Prairie, so they fought just as hard again against North Fulton to get another Victory. With that victory, it leaves varsity 8-11. On Friday, January 29, there is another home game against Abington Avon Tornados. Come out and support your basketball team! They would love all the support they can get!



A quick pep-talk before the game gets the Patriots ready for another great game.

Wise up for WYSE

By James Janis

You've heard the announcements and maybe you thought about joining, but what exactly is WYSE? WYSE is a "competitive test-taking" competition. It is taken at the ICC East Campus during school and you get to have free roam of the campus after the tests.

WYSE stands for Worldwide Youth in Science and Engineering, and many of the tests fall under those categories. The two most popular, and easiest tests, are English and Biology, but there are many other tests besides that. There are other tests such as physics, graphics, computer science, math, and chemistry just to name a few.

If you think you'd be interested in WYSE, or would just like to take a look at one of the practice tests, take a stop by Mrs. Tallon's room during one of our practices during B lunch on Thursdays and take a look at the test. We always have room for more people on our WYSE team, and we would love to have you! For any other questions, or to participate, please see Mrs. Tallon for more information.

Girls Basketball

By Seth Boyer

The girls' basketball team has been putting in a lot of effort this year. The team is extremely small, only having a total of 9 players that play this year, and it has been full of injuries. Along with injuries, the team only has two seniors, Kelsey Walton and Jessi Webb. Due to the lack of players, they had to have Freshmen take on the role of starting on Varsity. Due to two recent wins, the team is extremely hype and gaining more chemistry with each other on and off the court. The team's senior night will be on February 4th, and we wish good luck to not only the two seniors, but all of the team. Senior night is not the only event coming up, but Regionals on February 8th. The team is improving slowly, which is a good sign. Keep reading the TownCrier for more updates.



After a great game, Henry and the Lady Patriots come together to congratulate each other on a great game.