



Wednesday  
May 1  
2019

# RAMPAGE

## Choir, Band, and Orchestra Trip

*PR Travels to Florida*

CAMERON PERKINS STAFF REPORTER

On Wednesday, April 10th over 300 students from PR's high school music department flew to Orlando, Florida for an opportunity to perform at Walt Disney World.

Disney Performing Arts is a program that allows students to show off their talent in the parks in front of new, large audiences.

The choir performance was on the second day of the trip after an exciting day at Animal Kingdom. The choir's experience was unique because they performed on an

outdoor stage at Disney Springs, which is much different than the high school auditorium. The weather was warm, and the sun set behind the stage which made the concert very enjoyable and special for students. A bird even made an appearance towards the end of the night, almost hitting the back row of students on the risers.

It was band's turn to showcase their music the next day. They started the morning marching down Main Street in Magic Kingdom as everyone nearby cheered them on. It was an exciting experience that everyone will remember for a long time.

Orchestra had the chance to take a master class and learn a new piece the following day. Members said the music was fast and challenging at first, but they were excited and surprised to hear the finished product.

This year's band, chorus, and orchestra trip was a success and students have new memories and experiences that they will never forget.



**DANCE TEAM:** Anyone interested in trying out for the 2019 - 2020 PRHS Dance Team should email Mrs. Deal at her e-mail address, [kdeal@pinerichland.org](mailto:kdeal@pinerichland.org). Tryout nights are May 14<sup>th</sup> through the 16<sup>th</sup> at the middle school right after school.

## ETHAN'S THOUGHTS

### Is Cursive Relevant in Today's World?

ETHAN SILIPO STAFF REPORTER

I remember sitting in first grade, trying to pay attention as I think about recess. As I dazed, my teacher frantically stood at the front of the room trying to teach 20 six-year olds how to write a cursive K. For a month, this process would go on, each day learning a new letter, the uppercase and lowercase. Looking back, I understand that cursive was part of the curriculum, but what has being able to write curly letters ever done for anyone?

The whole idea behind cursive is to give students a way to write, but nobody uses it. I think I know maybe one person who writes in cursive, but when you consider all the people that do not write in cursive, it makes you wonder if spending a month learning cursive was worth it for 0.00001% of people who go on to use it. Cursive may have been relevant back when writing letters was the most modern communication, but definitely not today with all the phones and technology.

The only other times I see cursive is on a test I get back. Teachers tend to write in cursive, but it is a pain to read. It is not that their cursive is hard to understand, it is just that I have not read or written anything in cursive since first grade. I often sit, squinting at what I think is an M but what turns out to be a Q somehow.

An argument in favor of cursive would be for signatures. Everyone has a unique signature, and a large percent of people use cursive to sign their names. However, many people write their signatures with simplicity. Whether that means just writing your initials or just scribbling a few letters, signatures do not in any way have to be complex. Signatures would still work perfectly fine if cursive was never taught. Even so, many people write their names in their own form of cursive that is unrelated to the cursive they were taught in school.

Much like trains, shopping in a store, and DVD players, cursive has lost its importance with time. Handwriting is an essential skill, but why must students learn a second way to write the same words in a more difficult and complicated manner?

What are YOUR thoughts, PR? Contact the newsroom in 217 to share your opinion.

### Spice Up Your Snacking Pt. 2

*The Evil Within Cinnamon Flavored Jelly Beans*

ETHAN SILIPO STAFF REPORTER

Spices are great. They are used to give some flavor to a lot of foods, and some of foods are not good without spices. Pepper, salt, and basil are some of the more popular spices today. As useful as spices are, they are not meant for every situation. In recent years, spices have been developed into candies, but whose "brilliant" idea was this? What spice is pleasing to eat on its own? We do not eat salt or pepper in candy form, so why do cinnamon jelly beans exist?

Jelly beans are a popular candy, especially around Easter. There are somewhere around 50 different kinds of jelly beans on the market today. Buttered popcorn, cherry, black licorice, and watermelon are some of the most popular flavors. The idea behind jelly beans is to have a small candy that is fun and flavorful, not spicy and overwhelming.

One of the great things about jelly beans is that you can grab a handful and the flavors will coexist and taste good together, unless cinnamon is in that handful. Cinnamon is so overpowering, so when it is mixed, it is the only flavor that can be tasted. You could have 100 cherry flavored jelly beans and one cinnamon, but despite the odds, the cinnamon is the only distinct flavor and the cherry becomes tasteless.

If a flavor is going to be so overpowering, it should at least taste good, right? Wrong. Cinnamon has no taste. It is just spice. Spicy foods like Takis and Hot Cheetos have a chili flavor, but cinnamon is just straight spice. There are no background tastes. Just cinnamon.

The final evil in cinnamon lies within the simple color of it. Cinnamon jelly beans are red, as anyone could tell you. The problem with this is that there are six other red flavors: red apple, cherry, sour cherry, strawberry jam, raspberry, and pomegranate, all of which are good flavors. Let's say your favorite flavor is cherry. Naturally, you would look for cherry jelly beans, but while grabbing red beans, you would come across apple, strawberry jam, and other red flavors. All the red fruit flavors are good, so there is no problem in accidentally grabbing an apple or pomegranate or something. But when you grab a cinnamon, there are problems. There is zero color difference amongst cinnamon and the other red flavors, so there is no way to avoid the inevitable. Once the cinnamon is in your mouth, you will probably gag and spit it out, but an awful taste will still be in your mouth. At that point, you do not want to eat any red beans just because of that stupid, deceiving cinnamon, and now you cannot eat your favorite flavor cherry. The actual spice is not even red, rather a brown-orange color, so why is it a red bean?

Everyone loves jelly beans. Over 50 unique flavors bless the market, but the cinnamon gives all consumers a sense of fear. With cinnamon beans, eating jelly beans can be stressful and terrifying; furthermore, the misleading color causes six perfectly-good flavors to seem off limits. Despite mass disapproval, a second cinnamon flavor has been introduced, "Sizzling Cinnamon" which is spicier and therefore even worse than the original. Somehow, cinnamon jelly beans exist today and some sick people even consider it their favorite flavor.

# FEATURES

## *Avengers Endgame: What You Need to Know Going In*

*Essential information for the biggest movie of the year*

AIDAN PAVLICK STAFF REPORTER

On Friday, April 26th, Marvel finished their 22-movie saga with *Avengers: Endgame*, ending a story that started 11 years ago with the release of *Iron Man*. *Endgame* has already shattered the ticket pre-sale records and will most likely become the highest grossing movie of all time when it's theatrical run is through. While many, many people will go see this monumental movie, the level of familiarity with the vast Marvel Cinematic Universe varies from proficient to those who have never seen a Marvel movie before. But if you're planning to see *Endgame*, there is a lot of background information that is needed of the previous 22 Marvel movies that have led up to *Endgame*. If you aren't interested in sitting in a 3-hour movie and spending the whole time saying, "who's that?" and "what is going on?", I'd recommend you read this quick recap of the important information of the Marvel universe. There are spoilers ahead for the previous Marvel movies, so be warned.

I'll start with a quick character run down of the major players in the Marvel universe. While these are just four characters in a movie with around 20 different superheroes, these are by far the most important Avengers, and most of the Marvel Universe has centered around these four heroes.

- **Tony Stark/Iron Man**- The one that started it all. Tony Stark is a billionaire and tech genius who also is the superhero Iron Man. Tony has been a member of the Avengers since they began, and has appeared in 9 Marvel movies thus far, including 3 solo Iron Man movies. While he can be arrogant and sarcastic, Tony always does what he thinks is right and has even mentored a younger superhero, Spiderman. Iron Man and Captain America also had a falling out and have not seen each other since they fought in *Captain America: Civil War*, which was released in 2016.
- **Steve Rogers/Captain America**- Born in Brooklyn in the 1920's, Steve Rogers went from skinny kid to super soldier after he was experimented on by the US government. Rogers fought for the US during world war 2 as Captain America but was frozen in ice for 70 years after he crashed a plane filled with bombs into the arctic ocean. Captain America is the de facto leader of the Avengers and is always a great teammate and overall good person. He was accused of treason by the US government and was on the run for 2 years until the events of *Avengers: Infinity War*.
- **Thor**- The God of Thunder, Thor might be the most powerful hero. Thor controls the power of lightning, and up until *Thor: Ragnarok*, used a magical hammer to fight his enemies. And while might be the most powerful hero, he has also suffered the most, as he is the only remaining Asgardian after Thanos destroyed a ship carrying the rest of his people and killed his brother in front of him.
- **Bruce Banner/The Hulk**- Bruce Banner is a mild-mannered scientist, but when you get him angry, he turns into the monster known as the Hulk. Banner has had trouble controlling his Hulk side throughout the Marvel Universe, and most recently was unable to get his Hulk side to come out in *Infinity War*, after Hulk got beat up by Thanos.

Now for a rundown of the events of *Avengers: Infinity War*, the most recent movie in the Marvel Cinematic Universe chronologically. In *Infinity War*, the Avengers faced their biggest threat yet in the form of Thanos, an 8-foot-tall purple alien who was first introduced at the very end of the original *Avengers* movie in 2012. Thanos is from the planet Titan, where he proposed the radical idea of getting rid of half the population randomly in an attempt to save the planet from overusing their resources. He was labeled a madman, and exiled. Titan ended up going extinct due to overuse of resources, and since then Thanos's mission has been simple: to "balance" the universe by wiping out half the population. While this would be very hard to do by going to planet to planet, Thanos came up with the plan to collect the infinity stones. The infinity stones are the most powerful objects in the universe. There are 6 infinity stones: The mind stone, the space stone, the power stone, the reality stone, the time stone, and the soul stone. These stones are scattered throughout the universe and have appeared sporadically throughout the Marvel Universe. With all six of these stones, Thanos could kill half the universe with the snap of his fingers. The Avengers, and the rest of the heroes in the universe set out to stop Thanos in his quest for the stones. But with every stone Thanos added to his Infinity Gauntlet, Thanos grew stronger and the Avengers and the rest of the heroes were sadly unable to stop him, and Thanos snapped his fingers and wiped out half the universe. The heroes that remained after the snap were Captain America, Iron Man, Hulk, Thor, Black Widow, Rocket Raccoon, War Machine, Ant Man, and Hawkeye. Will the Avengers get their friends back and defeat Thanos? Or will those who died in the snap be gone forever? See *Avengers: Endgame* to find out. And I would see it soon if I were you, because spoilers are everywhere.





# PR LOCAL

## Poetry Is....

*Poetry Jam celebrates another successful year*

BEN LUIKEN STAFF REPORTER

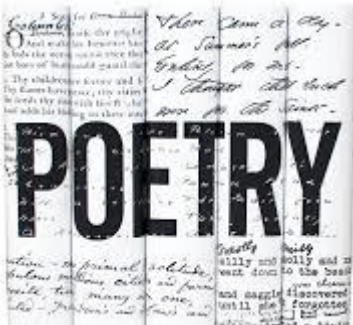
The Poetry Jam has always been an event that shakes up the sometimes routine happenings at PR. Students from across the English department recite, sing, or even shout their poems, some written by a poet or, for the more brave, themselves.

Whether students presented a dark and gloomy poem, upbeat song lyrics, or even a comedic poem about the voracious appetite of a polar bear invading a fridge, there's room for every type of student, and any type of poem.

The main idea about the jam, centered around asking yourself, "What is Poetry?" Students' definitions, some more insightful than others, played on a slideshow on projectors, while Bob Marley's "Three Little Birds" serenaded the audience between poems and at the beginning while the audience filled in the room. The event happened periods one and ten in the STEAM LGI with a full audience of students and teachers.

This year was PR's fifth annual Poetry Jam, and featured nine different students including senior Alec Swartout, juniors Charleigh Hirschhoff and Grace Johnson, and sophomores Ximena Gonzalez, Sarah Heckman, and

Jay Fowler. If you love poetry, be sure to come to next year's celebration of all things poetry.



*Hosts with Heart: Sophomores Gus Wymard, Jerek Stegman, and Lance Bruno act as hosts for the Poetry Jam during period 1 on Thursday April*

## Help is Here: SAP Team Offers Assistance

### What You Know About This PR Program

BRANDON PIERCE STAFF REPORTER

SAP Teams are a requirement for every school district, giving students a chance to get support. The Student Assistance Program (SAP) at PR has the goal of figuring out what is best for an individual student.

The individual may be referred to SAP after struggling or becoming distracted in their classes as well as other needs that a student may want to discuss. Ms. Lang and Mr. Devinney are two teachers as well as certified SAP members. Each teacher who is certified as a part of the program is assigned two to five students to meet up with at least once per week. Every SAP teacher has an assigned to meet with students. The goal of the program is to give students a teacher to regularly talk to and discuss what is best for the student as they move forward.

Ms. Lang said, "I feel like I am a good set of ears."

Lang and Devinney described SAP as a chance to talk more openly and provide a link for resources at PR. However, it seems that many PR students and even staff members are unaware of this helpful program. Not only can teachers refer students to the program, but friends may refer each other, or a student may refer themselves. With parent consent as well as some paperwork, a student will be assigned a teacher to meet with.

Devinney said, "At the heart of this, we are all here to help each other."

### RAMPAGE STAFF

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The RAMPAGE is a student-created publication of Pine-Richland High School, 700 Warrendale Road, Gibsonia, PA 15044. The newsroom is 217. The RAMPAGE is available in print, and online. It is written by students, for students, and will make every attempt to report all school-related news. We welcome freelance submissions, suggestions, comments, story ideas from students and staff.

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