

Palmer Ridge High School

Monument CO

# Bear Truth

Volume 12 Issue 3

The Bear Truth's top  
music picks  
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**Forver  
homes for  
orphan pets**  
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 The Bear Truth staff views the inclusion of letters to the editor as essential to the journalistic process. The staff feels that these letters provide a means by which readers can voice their opinions or views. However, given the limited amount of space in the school news magazine, the staff reserves the right to set standards for the length and number of letters to be included. Letters should be no longer than 250 words and be signed so the staff can verify authorship. Under no circumstances will anonymous letters be accepted or printed. The staff of the Bear Truth wants to hear from the community we serve. Please email letters to [tpatrick@lewispalmer.org](mailto:tpatrick@lewispalmer.org)

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# Bearly the Truth

Community and school rumors fact-checked

**“Ryan Eells got into a snowmobile accident!”** *True!*

On Friday, February 14, Ryan Eells (12), our student body president, got into a snowmobile accident. “We were heading out to go into town to get lunch, and... about 10 minutes after we left, I crashed,” Eells said in an interview. Nobody knows how he crashed since he has no memory of the incident. However, as soon as one of his friends realized what had happened, 911 was called and Eells was taken to Denver Children’s Hospital. There, he was put on life support for a short period of time. Eells says that he was lucky to recover so well after only three weeks.



Ryan Eells (12) dressed for Royalty Day of Make-A-Wish spirit week.  
 Photo by Amber Wright

**“The girls’ bathrooms won’t get new hand dryers!”** *False!*

Despite being installed in the boys’ bathrooms, there have been no new hand dryers installed in the girls’ bathrooms. This might seem outrageous, but the answer as to why the girls’ bathroom has not gotten new hand dryers is actually quite simple: “The boys’ bathrooms have only been done because the maintenance person that’s going in is a guy.” Mr. Wahl, PRHS facilities manager, said in an interview. He says that the girls’ bathrooms will also be getting new hand dryers installed over spring break.

**“There’s talk of changing school start times!”** *True!*

The school board has been discussing the possibility of pushing high school start times to 8:30 AM instead of 7:30 AM. However, there is a significant impact that such a change would have. According to Dr. KC Somers, the District 38 superintendent, the change likely wouldn’t take effect until the 2021-2022 school year. “The board will not rush the decision and wants to continue to engage the community in dialogue around the topic,” said Dr. Somers, regarding the time frame of the change.



# kids these days...

## april fools'

Next month is April, and we all know what happens on April 1st! You may have run out of prank ideas to play on others, but you're in luck, for we have a few ideas ourselves!

Pour ketchup into an empty mustard bottle. Next time someone uses it, they're in for a surprise!

Change the clock time. It's a classic, but it's still simple and infuriating.

Print a picture of an outlet. Cut out to proportions and tape it to a wall that you think an outlet could be. Then watch from a distance as confusion fills people's faces.

Get a cup, or two... or three, and fill them with water. Then get a flat surface like a cutting mat. Place the mat on top of the cup(s), flip it over, and place it anywhere, like a kitchen counter. Lastly, remove the mat from under the cup(s).

Take all of someone's colored pens and switch the ink colors around. Thought you grabbed your blue pen? It's writing in pink now!

Turn everything in your refrigerator upside down.

Unscrew the tops of the salt and pepper shakers. Another classic, but just as infuriating.

Cut out a bug look-alike from some spare paper and tape it inside the inner part of a lamp shade. When someone turns the lamp on, they're sure to be startled!

## spring cleaning

by Camron Gall, Kaitlyn Ketchell, Luxe Palmer, and Amber Wright

Spring is right around the corner, and you know what that means! Time to create a fake identity, move to the middle of Siberia, and start a new life as a local baker because you're not ready to even touch that huge mess in your closet. Just kidding! But the spring cleaning season is getting close, so for those of you that aren't quite sure where to start, we created a checklist for you!

### Spring cleaning checklist for your room:

- Organize your clothes by folding/hanging them and putting them in the correct spot.
- Pick everything up and put it in its correct spot.
- Dust/wipe down all furniture, higher spaces such as closet shelves, and window sills.
- Empty out your drawers and wipe down them before putting everything back.
- Clean your windows and mirrors.
- Vacuum or mop the floor in your room.
- Dust the baseboards/paneling in your room.
- Organize your desk and nightstand drawers.

### Spring cleaning checklist for your bathroom:

- Remove everything from the counter, cabinets, and drawers and wipe them all down before putting everything back in its correct spot.
- Organize all of your products and toiletries.
- Clean the sinks, toilet, and shower. Bleach the shower or bathtub if necessary.
- Spray down the mirrors and thoroughly clean them.
- Vacuum or shake any rugs outside to rid them of dust.
- Wipe down the floors and baseboards.
- Clean the window and window sill if there is one in your bathroom.

## farmer's market

*Did you know?* Monument hosts a farmer's market all year around! The market is hosted outdoors every Saturday from May 25th to October 12th, and in the colder winter (November 16th to April 18th) the market is hosted inside on every third Saturday of the month. The market features a variety of vendors selling unique, handmade goods.



« This stand sells imaginative soaps, such as "Alien Abduction" and "Maraschino Cherry."

These cutting board designs can be made using electricity jolts, burning the lightning bolt-like designs into the wood. »



photos by Camron Call



« Many people use the farmer's market as an opportunity to sell homemade goods such as cheese or jam.



# what's your sign?

*Mar 21-  
Apr 19* **Aries**

This month will be one of celebration, Aries! Maybe it will be an expected celebration, or maybe it will be an unexpected one. If you find yourself with nothing to celebrate, make something up! Or choose to celebrate the little things! Just find some way to celebrate life.

*Apr 20-  
May 20* **Taurus**

You'd better pack your bags, Taurus, because you're going on an adventure this month! Well, maybe not literally, but you should be prepared to have a more adventurous month than usual. Try new things! Make life exciting! You're in control of how interesting your life is.

*May 21-  
Jun 20* **Gemini**

This month, you might feel pressured to conform to certain standards- fit in, dress a certain way, act a certain way, or be different from who you are. But don't succumb to the pressure! Stay true to yourself, Gemini. It might sound cliché, but be yourself!

*Jun 21-  
Jul 21* **Cancer**

Have you been feeling unlucky lately, Cancer? Well, don't fret, because that's all about to change! That's right, this is going to be your lucky month! So keep your chin up and take a couple of chances, because you're going to have luck on your side whenever you need it.

*Jul 23-  
Aug 22* **Leo**

This month might bring about trying times, Leo, but don't hesitate to rely on friends and family for support! Remember that you never have to suffer through anything alone, no matter how much it might seem that way. You always have people trying to look out for you!

*Aug 23-  
Sept 22* **Virgo**

Don't put your emotions on hold, Virgo. Not only does it create bad habits, but it's also horrible for your long-term mental health! So don't box your emotions away for later. Emotions are important, so acknowledge them now! You'll be in a much better mental place as a result.

*Sept 23-  
Oct 22* **Libra**

Libra, you need to remember not to sweat the small stuff! Often times, worrying about insignificant things can make them seem more important than they really are, and little worries turn into big ones! But you know they don't need to be big worries, so don't let them grow.

*Oct 23-  
Nov 21* **Scorpio**

Treat yo' self! Yes, you heard me right, Scorpio! Give yourself that extra scoop of ice cream, take a long bubble bath, buy yourself that book you've been wanting. Why wait for someone to get you a gift when you could just get one for yourself? After all, you know yourself best!

*Nov 22-  
Dec 21* **Sagittarius**

Strive to be more open-minded this month, Sagittarius. It can be difficult to see something from another point of view, but like Aristotle said, "It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it." Or was it Socrates? Oh well.

*Dec 22-  
Jan 19* **Capricorn**

You should get out more this month, Capricorn. Take some time to get out and explore nature; you deserve a break! With the weather getting nicer in preparation for summer, it's the perfect time to take a hike, go on a bike ride, or just walk around the neighborhood. But go outside and enjoy it!

*Jan 20-  
Feb 18* **Aquarius**

Aquarius, this month is going to be a time for connection. Don't be afraid of forming new relationships. This might mean reaching out to new people or letting new people in your life. Remember that the risks don't always outweigh the rewards!

*Feb 19-  
Mar 20* **Pisces**

Honesty is the best policy, and you need to keep that in mind, Pisces! Although the truth can sometimes hurt, it's often better in the long run to tell the truth rather than tell lies. So next time you have to choose between telling the truth or telling a lie, choose to tell the truth.

*Horoscopes by Kaitlyn Ketchell  
Constellations by Kyle Ketchell*

## quiz:

by Luxe Palmer

Take a journey to find out what kind of unique plant you are.

1. The path you are walking on diverges into four paths- which do you take?

- a. The path traveling up the mountain
- b. The path leading towards the ocean
- c. The path straight ahead
- d. The path leading to the distant village

2. You are lost in a forest- what do you eat?

- a. You try your hand at hunting
- b. The red berries on the bush
- c. Nothing- you'll wait until you're found
- d. The colorful mushrooms on the tree

4. A fellow traveler offers you a gift- what is it?

- a. Hiking shoes, since yours have worn through
- b. A friendly squirrel, to keep you company
- c. A machete, to cut through the brush
- d. A map in a foreign language

5. You must lighten your load- what is the one thing you can't part with?

- a. Your trusty knapsack
- b. Your warm coat
- c. Your book of short stories
- d. Your sketchbook and pencils

5. You're almost to your destination! How do you celebrate?

- a. Eat the last of your provisions- you need your strength
- b. Take a quick nap- you've earned it
- c. Keep going- you'll celebrate when you get there
- d. Take a swim in the pond- you need to cool off

### Mostly...

**A's. Venus Flytrap:** You're a tough adventurer who isn't afraid to brave the great unknown. [The Venus Flytrap is a carnivorous plant, capturing and digesting insects between its "leaves" after the insect makes contact.]

**B's. Sensitive Plant:** You're a soft and intelligent soul, but don't let anyone underestimate you! [The "sensitive plant" closes its leaves when touched and re-opening a few minutes later.]

**C's. Resurrection Plant:** You are the epitome of resilience. [A resurrection plant is any plant that can survive extreme dehydration for an incredibly long time.]

**D's. Hocus Pocus Rose:** You are unique and can think of a solution to get out of any problem. [A Hocus Pocus rose is a rose hybrid, featuring a particularly aromatic scent and burgundy petals speckled with brilliant yellow.]

## I Can't Hear You!

Bear Truth Staff Picks for your spring cleaning playlist

by Kaitlyn Ketchell and Luxe Palmer



Aliah Clark: "Cough Syrup" by The Young Giant



Camron Gall: "Faith" by Ghost



Emma Gustavsson: "Come On Feel The Noise" by Quiet Riot



Kaitlyn Ketchell: "Put Your Head On My Shoulder" by Paul Anka



Kyle Ketchell: "Youth" by Glass Animals



Maddy Moore: "Naked" (Clean) by Ella Mai



Luxe Palmer: "Float On" by Modest Mouse



Colby Schultz: "Library Magic" by The Head and The Heart



Amber Wright: "Put Your Arms Around Me" by Natasha Bedingfield



viennese pizza

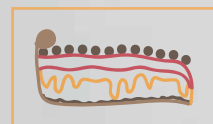
# eminence

by Luxe Palmer and Kaitlyn Ketchell



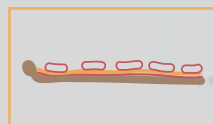
## CHICAGO STYLE

Chicago-style pizza is also called “deep-dish pizza,” and has a thick crust that rises high on the sides to encase the many toppings, such as mozzarella.



## NEW YORK STYLE

New York-style pizza is the most common type, with a thick, round edge and a thin crust on the bottom of the toppings, typically using tomato sauce.



## the history of pizza

Although it's commonly associated with Italy, pizza actually has its roots in ancient civilizations. The Egyptians, Greeks, and Romans all ate types of flatbread topped with herbs and oil. It was later used as an easy food for the working poor class in 1700s Naples, because it was cheap, simple to make, and could be eaten quickly. Pizza was frowned upon by most gourmet chefs at the time, but in 1889, King Umberto I and Queen Margherita visited Naples and fell in love with the dish. In

fact, a particular favorite of Queen Margherita was a pizza with soft white cheese, red tomatoes, and green basil, now known as Margherita pizza as a result. After a flood of Italian immigrants entered America in the 1940s-50s, the unique food piqued the interest of Americans, who adored the dish. It then became so widespread that it was no longer seen as an “ethnic” food, with local variants emerging every step of the way. Soon after pizza had taken America by storm, it diffused to the rest of the world and became the iconic food we know it as today.

margherita pizza



# the anatomy of: pizza

## THE TOPPING CONTROVERSY

67%

said they'd try potatoes on pizza.

10%

said they'd try yolky eggs on pizza.

12%

said they'd try anchovies on pizza.

67%

said they'd try pineapple on pizza.

polls taken on @prhs\_bear\_truth IG



a very weird pizza

## classic Italian pizza types

### Margherita

Tomato sauce, dollops of mozzarella, fresh tomatoes, fresh basil. Named after Queen Margherita in the early 1900s.

### Quattro Stagioni

Tomato sauce, shredded mozzarella, artichokes, basil, mushrooms, prosciutto, olives. It is split into four sections to represent the four seasons.

### Capricciosa

Tomato sauce, shredded mozzarella, ham, mushroom, artichoke, sliced tomatoes. It can also be served with an egg on top.

### Quattro Formaggi

Tomato sauce, shredded mozzarella, gorgonzola, parmesan, and robiola. Quattro Formaggi means “four cheeses” in Italian.

### Viennese

Tomato sauce, shredded mozzarella, German sausage, oregano, olive oil. It can also be served with fries.

“sourdough pizza is easy to make!” -the pizza tutorial we used for the photo shoot

us after following the tutorial: “no. no it's not.”





Gabe Hanson (11) and De'Shamoi Greaves (11) celebrating after the big win against Lewis-Palmer High school



Charlotte Hauke (10) makes another game-winning point in the game against Lewis-Palmer.

# Bears On The Court

by Kyle Ketchell and Madissyn Moore

Our boys and girls basketball team have had a great performance this season. They have worked hard from the beginning of the season to the end and we are very proud of how much work and dedication they have put in on the court. Senior and boys' team captain, Tyler Calhoun said, "I feel like mid-season we obviously weren't where we wanted to be and we had yet to be at full strength." Eden Bonzer, senior and girls' team captain stated, "I knew we had a lot of young girls but I also knew we were super talented and I was pretty excited going into the season. The only doubt would've been just that we were really young and [didn't have] a lot of varsity experience... But I trusted all of them a lot and I knew they would figure it out." The boy's basketball team suffered a major setback this season when starting senior, Grant Renwick, suffered from a concussion at the beginning of the season and his parents decided to have him sit out for the rest of the season. "It was definitely a setback. We knew it was a possibility, it's kind of in his parent's policy if he got a concussion. It just kind of stinks but we knew he couldn't do anything about it. He's a big part of our team," expressed senior and team captain, Trey Jones. The

entire team felt the loss greatly including the varsity coach, Coach Mayer, "It's been a huge loss for us. He was probably the best player that the program has ever had. But unfortunately because of injuries he's not able to show the rest of the school and community that." When we spoke to Grant about his injury, he revealed, "The hardest part was watching the team struggle without me, since throughout the summer and the first game before my injury we were doing exceedingly well and saw ourselves as a top team in the state. Then all of a sudden I couldn't play anymore and they became a below average team. Unrealized potential to be short." A lot of players stepped up and united those weak spots, however. Coach Mayer is excited for next season, with good representation from younger players. Unfortunately, our boys didn't make it through the first round of playoffs, but we are very excited to see what they will have in store for us next year.

Starting out the season the girls only had two seniors, Eden Bonzer and Sydney Day. They both agreed that the beginning of the season was challenging due to the lack of girls with experience. "To start off we had a lot of young kids coming up in their sophomore year and

at first I was kind of nervous because its a lot of big changes... I did not expect to do as well as we've done. I am very proud of our sophomores for stepping up... Their success has been what has fueled our success this season," stated Sydney. Towards the end of the season the girls took an amazing win against Lewis-Palmer. Although that was a great accomplishment for the girls, team captain Hannah Dove, values another game. "[At] the Coronado tournament, we swept everyone and I was really proud of that... We had a lot of talk coming into it [that] we could be really good and that [tournament] actually showed it." The girls played to the best of their ability this season. Their teamwork and chemistry stayed strong throughout thanks to their team captains. Team captain Eden Bonzer said, "It doesn't really make me nervous. It's kind of more like an honor type of thing. It makes me super happy that my teammates see me as a leader because that's the person I want to be."

# Ask An Athlete

**What is the grossest part of your sport?**  
The Bear Truth asks PRHS Athletes about the more... nasty... parts of their sport



[For Lacrosse] I think it's after you take off all your gear and you can feel something, like sweat, slide off of you. I also think sharing drinks, like sharing water bottles is kinda gross too. And when someone bleeds and it gets on you, that's pretty gross.  
-Hannah Dove (11)



Probably the smell of shin guards, after a long game, or cleats, the combined smell of all the equipment after a game, it's not good.  
-Riley Jones (12)



Injuries... when someone gets a specific injury, like breaking a bone, its definitely not the nicest thing to see on a field. It's never nice seeing someone's finger in the opposite direction of where it's supposed to be."  
-Anthony Costanzo (10)



I would say when people don't make it to the bathroom and they throw up in the middle of the field.  
-Savannah Harvey (12)



The grossest thing is touching the players when they are all sweaty, especially with the corona virus going around it's not too pleasant.  
-Gabe Hanson (11)

## Highlights:

**Tyler Calhoun (12), making 7 three point shots, broke the school record for the most threes made in a game.**

**Girls' basketball varsity team won the entire Coronado tournament at the beginning of the season beating all three opponents.**

**In the game against The Classical Academy, Wes McEvoy (12) was nominated as the #1 player of the game.**



# Created to Create

PRHS artists win big by Amber Wright and Ollie Clarke

Many students have been preparing diligently for the National Scholastic Art Show, which is hosted at the beginning of every year. This year PRHS had five gold key winners for the Regional Tournament, including: Grant Drenen (11), Rebecca Gearheart (12), Megan King (10), Mollie McLean (12), and Kennedy Shu (12). These students will be judged on a national level.

The students that have entered the art show are passionate about art and possess impressive artistic skills. Rebecca Gearheart said, "I love making art because it really gives me the opportunity to be expressive. I am kind of a shy person, but I can be bold in my drawings

and how I capture different emotions." Gearheart was awarded a Gold Key for both pieces of art she entered in.

Most of these artists have been pursuing art since a young age. McLean said, "I have been pursuing art for a long time, I would probably say elementary school, but photo I think I probably got into it about 8th grade."

While many of these students have incredible talent, they are wary of pursuing a career in art in the future. Megan King says, "I am definitely going to develop my skills but I don't think I could make a profit off of my so I am not going to pursue it."



Photo of Mrs. Davis by Ollie Clarke



Kennedy Schuh (12) submitted the painting shown above and was awarded a Gold Key.



Megan King (10) submitted a self portrait to the competition and won a Gold Key.

Photos of students and their art by Amber Wright



Rebecca Gearheart (12) submitted a colored pencil piece for the Gold Key, but she prefers her black and white piece as shown here.



Mollie McLean (12) and Grant Drenen (11) submitted photographs to the National Scholastic Art Show. McLean's photo is shown on the immediate left. Drenen's photo is shown on the far left. Both pieces won Gold Keys.



# Sing Me A Song

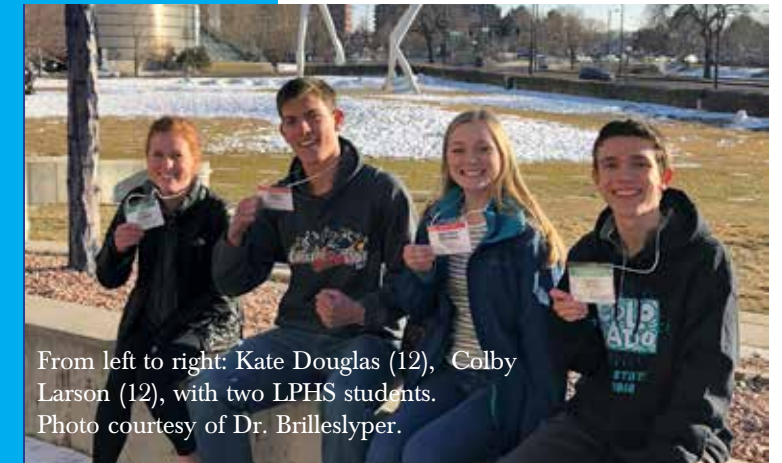
Palmer Ridge choir students honored at the CHSAA Vocal

by Amber Wright and Ollie Clarke



The Chamber Singers at Palmer Ridge High School were invited to perform at the CHSAA Vocal Gala in May but were later placed on the waiting list after a lottery-style drawing. Dr. Brilleslyper, the Choir Director at Palmer Ridge, said, "The CHSAA Vocal Gala is a concert that is offered to select choirs in Colorado, and you had to have received a superior rating at one of the CHSAA competitions in order to be invited." CHSAA, which stands for Colorado High School Activities Association, is the governing body for all high school activities throughout Colorado. Being invited to the CHSAA Vocal Gala is an honor in and of itself, as only eight Colorado choirs are selected to perform at the annual event. Dr. Brilleslyper said, "The choir has come so far this year, they are so good." The Gala will take place in Denver during the first week of May.

Cobly Larson (12) and Kate Douglas (12) made it into the Colorado All-State Choir this year. The All-State Choir has three choirs: Tenor/Bass (Men's Choir), Mixed Choir, and Treble (Women's Choir). It is a three-day-long event with rehearsals, a balcony sing, and the final performance. Both Larson and Douglas made it into All-State in their junior year as well. The students selected to go to All-State were announced last November. "The music is incredible and the directors are amazing. It's a special opportunity," said Larson. Larson was in band in middle school but did not begin singing until his sophomore year. He plans to continue singing as a hobby in the future and possibly minor in music at Liberty University. Douglas began singing in sixth grade and is considering doing choir in college, but has not yet decided.



From left to right: Kate Douglas (12), Cobly Larson (12), with two LPHS students. Photo courtesy of Dr. Brilleslyper.



From left to right: Christopher Sheppard (9), Celeste Woody (10), and Trevor Martin (9). Photo courtesy of Woody.

Three Palmer Ridge students made it into the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) this year: Celeste Woody (10), Christopher Sheppard (9), and Trevor Martin (9). Dr. Brilleslyper said, "They are very young, so they are the future of this program. I am very excited because once they have tasted a major choir on the national level, they will just want more and more amazing things." The ACDA National Choir is divided by region, and Colorado is part of the Southwestern Region along with six other states. This region's choir met in Little Rock, Arkansas from March 4th through March 7th. Woody said, "It was so much fun getting to meet new people and singing all day. Although it was exhausting, I'd do it all over again." The ACDA trip was fun for the students involved, and hopefully more students will be selected next year as well.

by Amber Wright and Ollie Clarke



# Mountain Chat

By: Colby Schultz

# Spillin' the Tea About History:

## Playing Card Suits

By: Kaitlyn Ketchell

This past quarter has been a fairly mixed few months as far as snow goes. With lots of new snow with a bit of warm weather in between, it's made for varied conditions. Uncertain conditions made for a mess in the skiing world.

At the beginning of this year, avalanche warnings covered most of the state. Ski resorts across Colorado were hesitant in opening up all of the slopes, and mountain activities were put on hold while the snow melted out of the upper elevations.

However, warmer temperatures and little snowfall has led to more stable conditions overall. Most ski resorts have almost all of the upper mountain open, and conditions seem to still be pretty stable.

Hopefully some fresh snow can lead to some more coverage to make up for the snow lost over the warm days. Spring doesn't mean the season is over yet!

Playing cards are an essential part of any game night, and anyone who's ever played with a standard deck of cards is familiar with the four suits: hearts, diamonds, spades, and clubs. But how did the four suits come about?

While the symbols don't even closely resemble what they're supposed to, it was necessary for early card designers to stick with simple designs. With early decks of cards, the suits were highly varied based on the location of where the cards were made. German cards, for example, used acorns, leaves, hearts, and bells, whereas Italian cards used swords, batons, cups, and coins.

It was the French that came up with the idea of dividing the suits into red and black. In other decks at the time, every suit was a different color.

This, paired with the simple signs, made it easier to mass-produce the cards, and allowed the iconic designs to dominate the card industry in Europe.



photo by Colby Schultz



photo by Kaitlyn Ketchell

# Poison Ivies-

## Employers care less about your institution than your character so why should you?

High school doesn't last forever (luckily) and every student must, at some point, decide what their future holds. Some may want to enter into military or trade schools, but many seniors at Palmer Ridge will choose to pursue higher education. For most upperclassmen and even some eager underclassmen, the very inkling that they must make up their minds as to where they are heading in life is chilling. It is no secret that Palmer Ridge contains many high achieving students who are bound for the top schools in the country. The work one must complete to get accepted into a top tier university, like Harvard or M.I.T., is grueling and the acceptance rate into these schools is abysmally minuscule. Students spend their teenage years studying for, stressing over, and planning for these schools, but have we stopped to ask ourselves a fundamental question: Is it really worth it? The answer to that question is a resounding no.

If one decides to go to college, they must determine the best place to flourish over the next four years. When a student attends an Ivy League, the same high stakes game of intense competition among peers and good grades remains an obligatory obsession. According to ex-Yale professor William Deresiewicz in his book *Excellent Sheep*, "The system manufactures students who are smart and talented and driven, yes, but also anxious, timid, and lost, with little intellectual curiosity and a stunted sense of purpose: trapped in a bubble of privilege, heading meekly in the same direction, great at what they're doing but with no idea why they're doing it." Ivy League schools aren't necessarily a negative option: "If you go to UCCS vs. MIT, I've been to both campuses, and I've talked to students at both of them, but when you talk to students at MIT, they're like, really



Annie Phillips (9) and Riley Pettegrew (9) pose in their college spirit

interested in exploring these new innovations. Everybody is doing their own thing." said Josh Nakka (12), a senior who applied to several Ivy League and top tier schools. Many high-achieving individuals have enriching college experiences at these universities, as well as valuable degrees afterward; however, does the prestige name of one's university supersede the financial burden such a school would impose? "I don't have a college savings account. So if I do not get a scholarship, I'm gonna have to take on all the debt," said Nakka, regarding the cost of attending his schools of choice: Carnegie Mellon, Harvard, M.I.T., Yale, Cornell, UC Berkeley, and the Colorado School of Mines, five of which are top tier.

There are 5,300 colleges and universities in the United States, most of which are not top tier, but many offer excellent education and great college experiences. State universities may be less glamorous than Ivies, but many people thrive at such institutions. "I love it here at CSU! All of the people I have met have been incredibly kind and thoughtful!" said Sam Anderson, a PR graduate attending CSU Fort Collins. On whether or not it is worth it to attend a top tier school, "I don't know if I would. Those types of schools are quite expensive, and a lot of times they have unnecessary barriers to entry. It's also important to note that a high-quality education can be received at any institution, regardless of name or reputation. Even if I did have the money to attend one of those schools, I still feel more at home here," said Anderson.

As reported by Investopedia, in 2018, the cost of going to Harvard, including tuition, room and board, as well as fees, cost \$67,580. The average cost of a private four-year university with tuition, room and board, and fees cost \$48,510. The average cost of a public in-state university, including tuition, room and board, and fees, according to US News, is \$10,116. According to thecollegesolution.com, "It matters not at all where they got their degrees but rather what they did with their time in the colleges they did attend. It matters what kind of person they are, how persistent they are, how hard they work, how creative they are, and how they present themselves." If job recruiters themselves are more interested in your success as well as your character rather than the prestige of your institution, why spend thousands upon thousands of dollars, digging yourself into a debt hole, when the name brand of your university is not a priority to your future employers? The fact is, you shouldn't.

Rather than driving yourself crazy by pressuring yourself to be the best, only with the purpose of making it into an elite university, work hard to be the best for yourself. Your success hinges more on the person you choose to be; your character, your skills, and your experiences are of the utmost importance to your future employers. You're still young, don't waste all of your teenage years focusing purely on forcing yourself to fit into the box elite institutions have prescribed for admission.



# Bearly There Sports

by Colby Schutlz, Aliah Clark, and Madissyn Moore

Photos provided by students

**Sports such as track and gymnastics compete individually, but still work together as a team. Ultimately, it's the team that matters.**

## Gymnastics

Sports are a huge part of who our school is but we don't know how most scoring works. Many know how football, basketball, soccer and etc. work scoring wise, it's fairly easy to remember. One person makes a touchdown, basket, or goal and the entire team gains points. In those sports, it is a team effort. Whether you win or lose a game is dependent on how the team as a whole performs. But do we understand how individual scoring works? There are many sports that solely rely on each individual to gain points for the whole team. Swimming, Gymnastics, Wrestling, Cross- Country and Track and Field are a few of the sports at Palmer Ridge that have an individual scoring system.

Gymnastics is a widely known sport. Some may watch it only because of the gorgeous girls performing and others because of the incredible skill that is required of the athletes. Unless you are a coach, a gymnast, or a crazily obsessed fan of gymnastics understanding the scoring of this unique sport can be difficult. Jayen Akers gives us insight on the way scoring works. "For scoring you have a start value out of a 9.2 and you try and get your start value up to a 10.0 by putting harder skills into your routine. You [also] get deductions taken throughout your routine. Little things like not pointing your toes [you lose 1/10 or 2/10 of a point] and if you fall that's 5/10 up to a point [lost]." Most people would rather participate as a group and work together to get the points or score they want but Jayden does not,



"I like it because you get to compete against others individually and you're not relying on anyone else but yourself. It puts everything on yourself and there's [nobody] blaming you for [your score] bringing their score down."

qualifying for State meets, but they also are awarded to the team as a whole to determine which school overall won the meet. Erika Debenham says, "The whole LP team is considered to be a varsity team, but we are split up into two heats. The "varsity" team is put into the second heat which will score points in a duel meet depending on who touches for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th, and depending on the meet, it will go all the way up to 6th and 8th; it just depends on the duel meet. When an individual scores, they get points for the team overall which will help us win meets."

## Swimming



When we think of swimming, most automatically think of multiple people in a lane pool, racing to finish first, and to a certain extent, they are right. For the most part, swimming is thought to be an individual sport; however, that preconceived notion is false. In this aquatic sport, it is indeed the swimmer's goal to finish first. By being in the top 4-6, depending on the meets, they can earn points. These points not only benefit the individual swimmer to help with gaining letters at the end of the year and

## Wrestling



Wrestling is another sport that is thought to be individual but is in actuality, a team sport. Like swimming, an individual competitor can win points that benefit themselves and their team. Kellan Hageman (right) says, "If you get a pin when you pull your back for more than 3 seconds, that is 6 points. A normal win is 4 and a technical is 5. Those points that you win also go to the main team score." Wrestling is a very physical sport. Its competitors battle through incredibly trying physical challenges. Kaila O'Neil (left) recalls, "I have a much stronger bond with my wrestling team than I did with any other team I have ever been on. I say it's a big team sport because we are

there for each other, like when we are cutting weight, or if we lose, we always have someone to go to."



## Cross Country

Cross Country is a sport that is often seen as an individual endeavor. First runner in wins, second is runner up, third, and so forth. However, there is a team scoring aspect. "There's a comradery I have with my teammates' ", said Lance Anderson(10). At larger invitationals and races such as state, PPAC, and regionals, the team competition gets even more interesting to watch. "You run seven in a race, and then top five score. So if you get first place in a meet you get one point, second place two points, and then the team with the lowest score wins," said Maren Busath(11). The team champions come home with trophies for their school at most championship races and invitationals. Cross country runs meets starting in August, and ending the official season with the state championship in October.  
CroC



# Adoption is a Loving Option

**Many students at Palmer Ridge have adopted their pets from shelters and are happy that they did. The Humane Society of the Pikes Peak Region is an excellent shelter to find a new addition to your family.**

by Amber Wright and Ollie Clarke

Adopting pets from shelters is a valuable experience. By adopting from a shelter, you are not only offering a beautiful pet a new and loving home, but you are also supporting humane shelters that take in and help animals.



Tom Schermerhorn with his shelter pet. Photo courtesy of Schermerhorn.

The Humane Society of the Pikes Peak Region (HSPPR) is a well-known open animal shelter that takes excellent care of its animals. An open shelter is a shelter that accepts any animal into its care, regardless of the mental or physical condition of the animal. "Because we are an open shelter, we accept any and every animal that comes through our

doors," said Tom Schermerhorn, the Youth Education Manager at the Humane Society. The goal of the Humane Society is to place every animal into the home that best fits them.

The Humane Society is considered a no-kill shelter, meaning less than 10% of the animals are euthanized, with its infrequent euthanizations being performed for reasons only pertaining to extreme mental or physical problems. Euthanization is the practice of killing or permitting the death of hopelessly sick or injured individuals. Such euthanizations go through multiple levels of authority and are the last resort, however. Under no circumstances does the HSPPR euthanize animals for issues of time spent in the shelter or the capacity of the shelter, which is a highly commendable principle considering it accepts every animal.

The Humane Society prides itself on its rehabilitative abilities and its foster program that works towards integrating previously abused or problematic pets to become great additions to anyone's family. "Sometimes if they've been abused and they need extra work, they may go into our foster program where they might get more work with people to get them socialized more before they get put up for adoption," said Schermerhorn. The staff at the HSPPR prioritizes the well being of the animals, and works to ensure



Photo of a cat at the HSPPR by Ollie Clarke.

their future family will have a safe and loving pet. To learn more about the foster program at the Humane Society, visit their website or attend a volunteer information night about fostering.

The Humane Society is a non-profit organization that covers its expenditures with donations and manipulating adoption prices. It has a variable price model, meaning that adoption fees are not standard and ultimately depend on the animal. The Humane Society will charge more money for animals that will likely be adopted quickly, such as puppies, and less for older animals. "That higher cost



Ben Parker (10) with his shelter dog named Daisy. Photo courtesy of Parker.

for that puppy will cover medical costs for some of our older dogs that need more help," said Schermerhorn. The HSPPR also relies on donations as a major source of their revenue. All pets from the Humane Society are neutered/spayed before being adopted out, but if they are adopted before the operation, the shelter will give the owners a coupon that allows them to get their pet neutered/spayed for free.

The HSPPR had approximately 18,000 animals in their care in 2018, with around 11,000 being adopted out, so the Humane Society adopts out an average of forty to fifty animals per day. HSPPR has a large enough facility to house around two to three hundred animals at any given time. Pets rarely spend longer than a month at this shelter. Schermerhorn said, "Our goal is to get them in their forever homes as quickly as we can." Schermerhorn estimates that dogs are adopted after an average of two days at the shelter, and cats after five to seven days. If an animal is having trouble being adopted, the Humane Society will either lower adoption costs or transfer the animal to another shelter.

Volunteers and staff at the HSPPR are responsible for cleaning the animals' enclosures daily or twice a day. The building is well-staffed and has around a thousand volunteers, so it is extremely clean and well-maintained. Additionally, volunteers walk the dogs in the HSPPR's multiple outdoor dog parks at least once per day. The animals have high-quality care at all times. Joining the volunteer program at the Humane Society requires a long-term commitment of around six months. Children aged 12-18 must partner with an adult volunteer to ensure they are well supervised and behaving responsibly. However, Schermerhorn said the shelter is hoping to launch a teen program where teens can sign up to do projects to help the shelter without partnering. This work would not directly involve animals, but it would benefit the shelter as a whole. To learn more about the volunteer program, go to the HSPPR website.

The Humane Society also houses a variety of animals such as livestock animals, reptiles, and small pets. "Something that we always encourage is to stop by here if you're thinking about getting any kind of pet because typically we have turtles, we have birds coming through here, we have all sorts of animals. Even if it's not a dog or a cat, this is always a great place to start." Rather than immediately going to a chain pet store, which likely gets their pets from a large-



Photo of a bunny at the HSPPR by Ollie Clarke.

scale breeding facility (such as puppy mills), it is a good idea to check out the local animal shelter and possibly give a pet a new home.

Regarding buying pets from breeders, Schermerhorn said, "If you go with a licensed breeder that knows what they're doing, there is nothing wrong with that, and if you know exactly what you're getting. But I just always encourage people to think about all the animals

that want a home and desperately need a home." Simply being aware of where pets are coming from, and under what conditions they were raised, is extremely important because supporting humane organizations will make a difference. Carefully research whether or not a shelter is non-kill or if an animal is from a



Ethan Mathews with his shelter dog. Photo courtesy of Mathews.

mass-breeding facility.

Many people prefer to adopt pets rather than to buy them from breeders, including students from Palmer Ridge. Kendra Schlacter (9) said that she likes how adopted pets "have a different kind of love that you can't get from a breeder." Some may think that by adopting a pet, you would be committing yourself to years of stress, behavioral issues, and emotional trauma. And while the occasional pet may have some problems, that does not mean your pet can and will love you unconditionally. Ben Parker said, "So my dog was sort of abandoned and beaten and didn't have food or water very often. So it took a little bit to gain her trust." After being asked if the work his family put into his dog was worth it, Parker said a resounding yes. People tend to have different reasons for rescuing pets from shelters rather than buying from breeders. Ethan Mathews said, "So if you get a dog from a breeder, like I had a friend who got a dog from a breeder because he had allergies and so he wanted to get a hypoallergenic dog, that is fine. But if you want to get a dog and you don't have any special conditions preventing you from dog from anywhere else, I feel like you should just get a dog from a shelter or a rescue because then you are giving them a better life than what they had."

Adopting pets from a shelter is a highly rewarding experience and gives a deserving pet a new forever home.



# It's Classified.

## The people who make Palmer Ridge, Palmer Ridge

by Kyle Ketchell and Emma Gustavsson

What do you love most about your job? Ask that question to just about any of the staff at Palmer Ridge, and you won't

hear about the money. You won't hear about the benefits, or the workload. While it is true that the staff of Palmer Ridge

don't get paid as well as other schools in other districts, all of the staff here at PR work here because they are passionate about what they do, and because they love the relationships they make with the students.

While the teachers have the opportunity to interact with the students at Palmer Ridge, there are many staff members who don't teach students, and don't necessarily get to interact with students on a regular basis. While Teachers, Counselors, and Administrators are required to have a certification, and are considered "Certificated" staff, who work salary jobs, there are many employees of PR who are considered "Classified" staff, who work full time for Palmer Ridge and are paid an hourly rate for their work. These staff members have responsibilities every day ranging from cleaning the building, managing tech troubles, and making sure PR is staying healthy, all the way to managing student attendance, and keeping Palmer Ridge safe throughout the day.

## In The 'Hoods



*Mrs. Feil*

"I feel like there's such a wide variety of kids here and it's fun getting to know them and what their plans are and where they're trying to get to."



*Mrs. Berry*

"I don't get to interact with kids as much as the teachers do, on a daily basis, mine is more just when they need to test and everything so I don't get to see them as much, but I do get to know my [teacher] aides really well, and I really like having my [office] aides and the relationships I share with them."

## Up Front



*Mrs. Brown*

"Sometimes kids come in with not always medical need, maybe sometimes an emotional need and so sometimes I get to connect with the kids on a personal level if they're having a really rough time or something, and that's really cool."



*Mrs. Nam*

"I am the receptionist. It entails answering the phones and directing the calls to the appropriate people in the building. I like to think that, you know, feel welcome when they come in and talk to me. I love helping people, I think that's what I love the most."



*Mrs. Herebic*

"I am responsible for student records. So I have five years of student records all the way back to the class of '15. I'm responsible for sending transcripts to colleges for our seniors. I love that there are new challenges every day, so I get to use my problem-solving skills."



*Mrs. Walk*

"I take calls from parents excusing their kids, write early dismissal passes, late arrival passes, things like that I try to encourage kids in their day, when they're having a bad day. I love the people."



*Mrs. Matteo*

"I take phone calls for parents calling and when kids are absent or whatever; I am also a secretary for the Dean of Students, and for the Counselor (Mrs. Kinney) and I help all the teachers in Neighborhood B. I love all the students."



## In The Library



*Mrs. Anderson*

"I get to know [students] through talking about books with them, and just about how their classes are going, and things like that. I love the students here."



*Mrs. Stevenson*

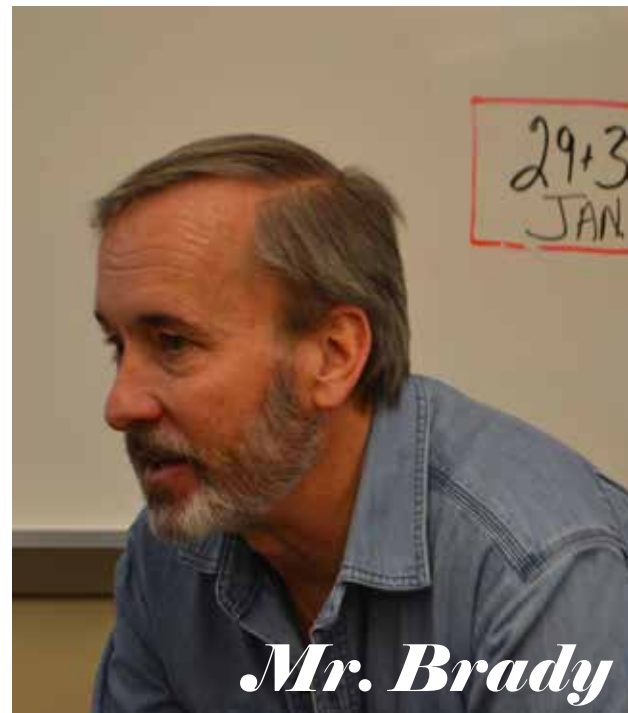
"The biggest thing is that we're trying to do is bring a space to the school where students, no matter if you are captain of the football team, or you are kind of, you don't feel like you fit in somewhere, you can find a place in the library."

## Supervisors



*Ms. Torweihe*

"I like getting up every day and being here and being involved with the community, it's just nice to know the kids and the families, that's the main thing. It's a family and a community."



*Mr. Brady*

"I always wanted to work with young Men and Women. It's kind of fun. You guys are refreshing. Hopefully I can teach some things about leadership, organization, studying, and setting priorities that can maybe get them off to a good start in their freshman year."

## Our In House Technician

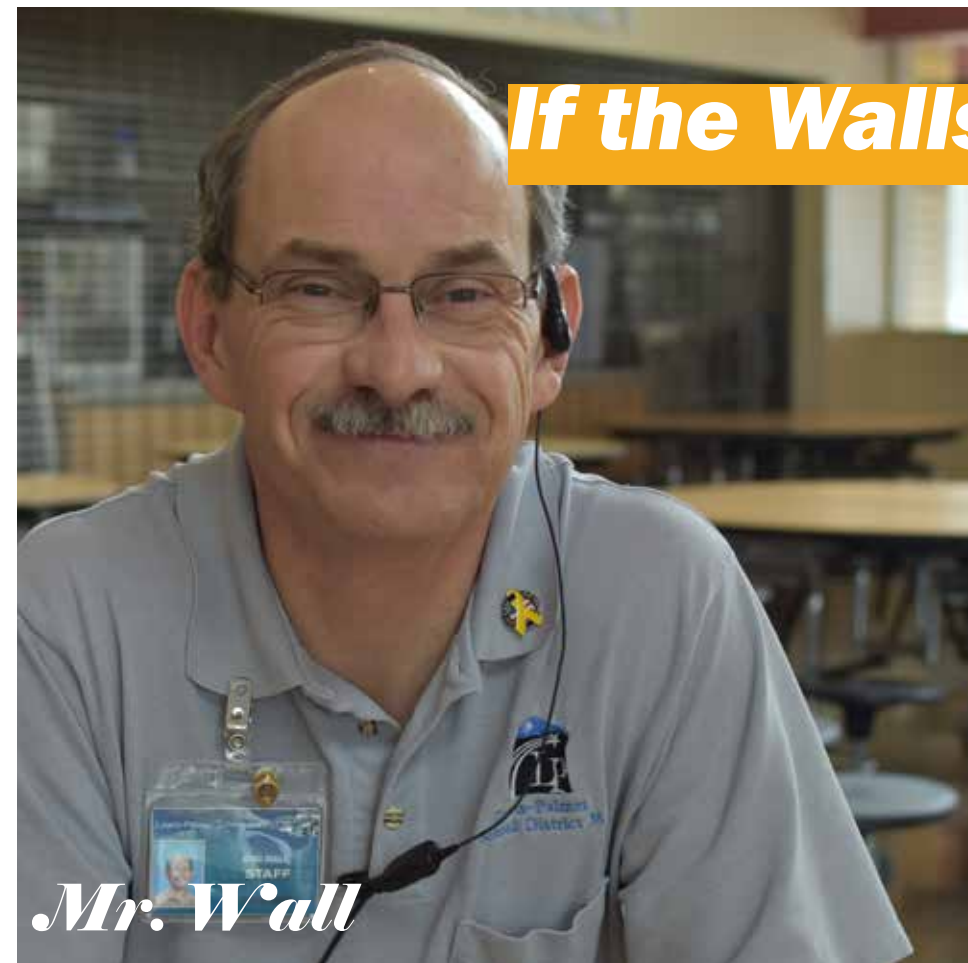
Mr. Bowman is the building IT worker. Mr. Bowman is responsible for everything from chromebooks, computers, and laptops to printers, networking, and cabling. You may not have met Mr. Bowman before, because he is very good at fixing things without us even knowing it was broken to begin with.

**"I just try to keep everything running for everyone, and fix their problems. Hopefully that's good enough."**



*Mr. Bowman*

## If the Walls Fall Down



*Mr. Wall*

Everything that it takes for the building to be cleaned and maintained, to include the 60 some odd acres that the school is on." Mr. Wall, the Facility Manager of Palmer Ridge High School works hard every day to make sure that every part of the building is functioning normally. "That includes the grounds and maintenance departments, doing minor repairs, among many other things." said Mr. Wall.

**"I've built some incredible relationships with staff members over the years."**



# Be Clean, Go Green!

by Amber Wright and Colby Schultz

Being conscious of how your choices affect the environment is extremely important in today's world. Even just doing small tasks such as recycling, using reusable goods, and making environmentally-friendly food choices make a difference. Ms. Cross, a science teacher at PRHS, said, "If everybody just does one little thing, then it does end up having an impact because you're talking about almost 8 billion people on the planet... it would add up a lot." Other ways to help the environment include: volunteering to clean up trash, putting up bat boxes, and carpooling.

In regards to making sustainable food choices, Ms. Cross recommends eating smaller amounts of meat. "The amount of water and land and resources it takes to raise livestock has a bigger environmental impact than other types

of food choices. So I personally try to eat less meat," said Ms. Cross. Simply being aware of where your food is coming from is also important so that you can support companies trying to make a positive change in the environment.

Students can also join the Environmentalists United Club at PR. "Environmentalists United is a club that is about promoting Eco-friendly lifestyles within the school and community culture, and we try to do a lot of projects that will benefit our local environment," said Jordan Taft, who is the head of the club. Joining this club allows students to help the environment in a direct way such as cleaning up trails or putting up bat boxes, which are human-made homes for bats. Environmentalists United meets Tuesday mornings at 7:15 in room A1220. It is sponsored by Ms. Cross.



Photo by Colby Schultz.

## Hydroponics

**Hydroponics has been a quickly growing movement in recent years. With the ability to grow food in small spaces, indoors, and in urban areas in a sustainable way, it is no wonder that it has been such a growing trend. But, did you know we have one of our very own here at PR? That's right, located in the library, the hydroponic tower is growing a large amount of lettuce and some other crops. The Environmentalists United Club is responsible for taking care of the hydroponics tower. If you want to know more about how the whole system works, or possibly help care for it, consider reaching out to or joining the club!**



The Environmentalists United Club poses for a picture with the hydroponics tower in the library. Photo courtesy of Jordan Taft (12)

**Ms. Cross, who is the sponsor of the Environmentalists United Club at PRHS, said: "We would welcome anyone that is interested to come by and see what we're doing." There is no fee to join the club. They meet at 7:15 in room A1220 every Tuesday morning.**



Photo of Ms. Cross by Amber Wright.

# Repairing PR's Geothermal System

by Amber Wright

**The heating/cooling system at PRHS will be repaired with money gained from a settlement against the original company that installed it. Repairs will begin in the summer of 2021.**

The geothermal system at Palmer Ridge, which is responsible for heating and cooling the building, has been experiencing severe maintenance issues for quite a while now. "It started having significant problems within the first year or so that we were open," said Eric Wall, the Facility Manager at Palmer Ridge.

Recently, Palmer Ridge enacted a lawsuit against the original company that installed the system, resulting in a settlement of 1.2 million dollars. This payment to PRHS will be used to repair the geothermal system in the near future. The current plan is to begin repairs in the summer of 2021, with the work spanning over a couple of years.

Robert Foster, the Executive Director of Personnel and Operations, said, "I believe the resolution was the best that it could be, taking into consideration the variety of factors involved." The sum acquired through mediation is, according to Foster, adequate to cover the maintenance issues with the system.

As for the actual repairs, Robert Foster said the following: "Repairs will be made over the next year or two, dependent on design and construction factors." Although repairs are planned to take place during the summer as well as the school year, students will not be disrupted in any way by the repairs. "Our goal is to get it up and running without disrupting the educational process," said Dr. Bramschreiber.

Despite the issues with the system, the green technology involved with the school's geothermal system is sustainable and beneficial to the environment. Dr. Bramschreiber, the principal at PRHS, said the following: "Geothermal is a green technology, meaning it utilizes some renewable energy and is supposed to reduce carbon dioxide output. When working efficiently, it should be cheaper than traditional technologies in the long run."

Essentially, the system consists of "wells," which are two directions of piping that run approximately four hundred feet deep. The water runs through the pipes and changes temperature according to the heat of the earth. Air then absorbs the heat from the pipes and circulates through Palmer Ridge.

Students who comment on the 'micro-climates' of Palmer Ridge, meaning that some rooms are colder or hotter than others, may be disappointed to discover that these repairs will not fix this supposed issue. In fact, the difference in temperatures of classrooms simply results from the system balancing itself, which will not change.

At the time of its installation, Palmer Ridge was the largest geothermal system in Colorado, so the technology was relatively new at that point. The settlement will hopefully allow PRHS to effectively fix the system and prevent future major malfunctions.



Photo of Robert Foster by Amber Wright

**Robert Foster is the Executive Director of Personnel and Operations Office for the Lewis-Palmer School District. He was directly involved with the geothermal settlement and is content with the resolution. Foster said, "The settlement monies will be used to design and implement remediation to the geothermal system."**



Photo of Dr. Bramschreiber by Amber Wright

**"Geothermal is a green technology, meaning it utilizes some renewable energy and is supposed to reduce carbon dioxide output. When working efficiently, it should be cheaper than traditional technologies in the long run," said Dr. Bramschreiber.**



# A Serious Case of Senioritis

By Emma Gustavsson, Camron Gall, Madissyn Moore

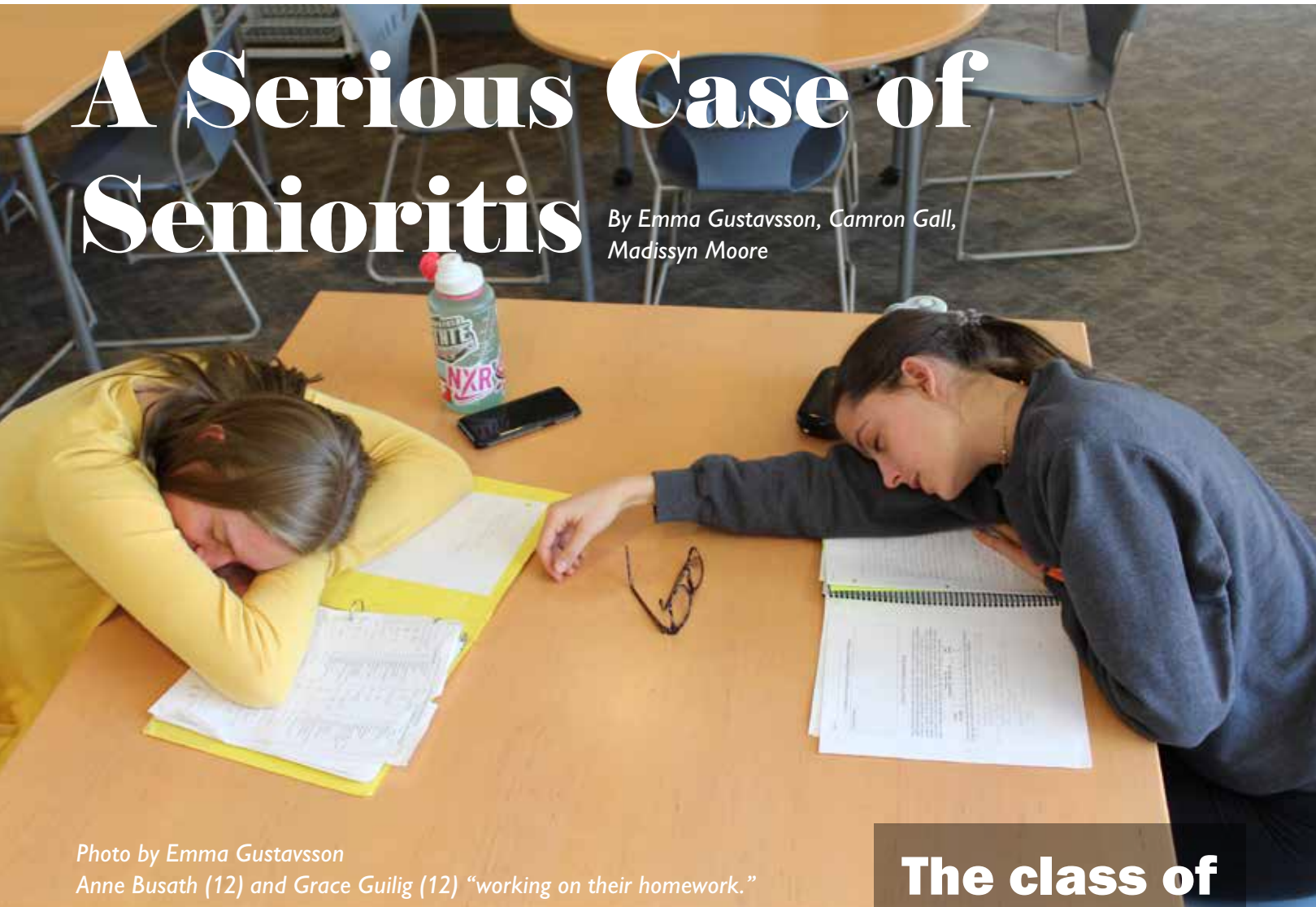


Photo by Emma Gustavsson  
Anne Busath (12) and Grace Guilig (12) "working on their homework."

As college acceptance season rolls in, a tidal wave of senioritis crashes over the class of 2020, striking fear in both the students and the people who have to deal with them. Senioritis is defined as "an ebbing of motivation and effort by school seniors as evidenced by tardiness, absences, and lower grades" by Merriam Webster Dictionary. Most students, however, don't need to be given the definition, as they are either dreading its onset or they are already forehead deep in the affliction. According to a survey by the Bear Truth, 81.25% of seniors say they have senioritis. It isn't uncommon for seniors to begin skipping classes or slacking off on studying. Senioritis doesn't go unnoticed by teachers, "I think seniors try to get through the year so quickly, then it gets to be this time of the year [spring] and then they're like 'We don't

## "We need to live in the moment"- Ms. Wells

want to leave'. We need to live in the moment." said Ms. Wells, a business teacher. As of the first of March, there are only 53 school days until graduation, so it isn't surprising that many seniors are officially counting down the days until they're cut free from high school.

**The class of 2020 is set to graduate on May 22nd! That is 53 school days from March 1st!**



**monday mccue**

"[Yes] It seems less important now that college is like, a thing"



**bryce phillips**

"[No] Cause I want to leave but I don't want to be an adult"

## Do you have senioritis?



**kelbi o'connor**

"[Yes] For me I'm taking some classes that I'm not a huge fan of and it like so close to being done and I still have to sit through them, and like you hit a point where 'this is dumb'"



**grace guilig**

"[No] I have so much stress for other stuff I can't even think about. Like graduating means I'm a senior, but after I'm not stressed"



**grace nazimek-bowman**

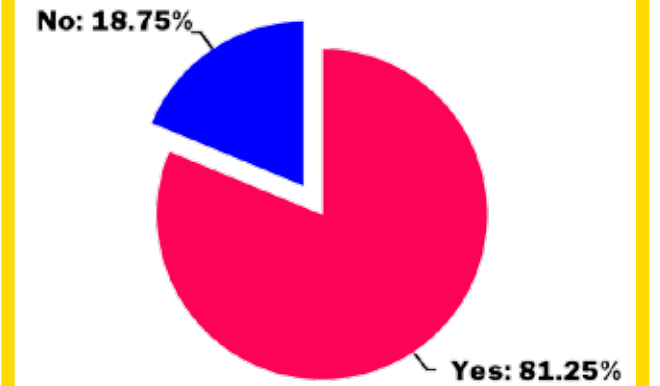
"[Yes] Probably cause we are so close to going with are lives in like and going to school and having jobs that you are just like wanting to happen already"



**daemon kuo**

"[No] I always loved studying mathematics, physics, sciences and such. Its kind of my passion"

## By the Numbers:



When asked 'Do you have senioritis', 18.75% of seniors replied 'No', while 81.25% replied 'Yes'.

### There are:

- 278 seniors in the class of 2020
- 20 AP courses at PR

### In 2019:

- there were 4 military academy appointments from PRHS
- over 14 million dollars in scholarships given to graduates





# What Now?

Everything you need to know about SATs, ACTs, scholarships and grants.

by Ollie Clark and Madissyn Moore

As many juniors and seniors know, SATs and ACTs are coming up this spring. How you score on these tests can be critical when applying for colleges. Do you have a good plan to study and prepare for them? Or do you freak out at the thought of having to take them? Here are some tips to prepare you for these tests.

Khan Academy is a unique website that links to your CollegeBoard account, and not only considers your scores but also calculates the types of questions you missed most. This way, not only are you studying, but you will also have a greater understanding of exactly what you need to focus on. Last year, the total mean score for SATs nationally was 1059 compared to a 1400 or 1500 which are both considered to be higher end scores. This is an average score that puts a student in the 49th percentile. While the ACTs are less commonly known in high schools, some colleges prefer to have a higher scoring student on the ACT than the SAT, and some colleges even require you to take both! Even though the ACT exam isn't offered here at Palmer Ridge, you can access information on act.signup.org. On this website, you sign up and it will tell you the nearest location for ACT testing in your area. Be warned- to take the ACT you will have to pay a fee.

Many people have a preconceived notion that colleges solely look at SAT and ACT scores; however, most colleges are now branching out as to what they focus on when looking at applications. Not only do they look at grades and exam scores, but they also look at the sports, clubs, outside school activities that students participate in, and the ethnicity of a student. There are many grants and scholarships that are offered to students that few people know about. Yes, of course, there are academic and athletic scholarships but it doesn't stop there. After doing research about the plethora of scholarships and grants that are available, we came across a few interesting ones based on your ethnicity, family income, and gender.

An amazing foundation, called The Sachs Foundation, gives grants to African American seniors who meet the requirements to receive the grant. This organization has helped over 5,000 African American students pursue their academic dreams. They currently support about 182 undergraduate students as well as 15 graduates at 67 colleges and universities around the country and abroad. They also offer pre-collegiate programs and community assistance in the Pikes Peak region. Another organization, FAFSA offers money to families in need of financial assistance. There are also a

Savanna Harrvey (12) reads up on college choices in the College Center.

couple of grants specific to women, such as the American Association of University Women (AAUW) Career Development, the Soroptimist Live Your Dream Award, and the P.E.O. Program for Continuing Education.

If you are just a tad short on money, there are some organizations that can give you a grant that will secure you a job in college, one that you use to solely pay your college debt. Others may require a writing assignment or some sort of community project that you will have to complete to receive the money. Grants and scholarships differ from loans as you do not have to pay them back.

When asked about grants and scholarships, Mrs. Kinney said, "We really push the Boettcher scholarship. It is given to Colorado high school graduates, it is a full ride to any college in Colorado so it really encourages students to stay within the state. We also recommend the National Merit and Daniels Fund and really try to push out those bigger scholarships to kids as well." With some scholarships, it isn't just about your grades or the high-level classes you are taking. More and more colleges are getting better about looking at the student as a whole: what activities they are involved in outside of school which helps them make their decision. It is because of this that while you still want to maintain a good GPA, you might want to get more involved in community, club, and academic activities. Some students choose to load themselves up on AP classes, thinking that the more they take, the more their dream college will notice and want them, or the more prepared they will be for college. However, Mrs. Kinney said, "I think students worry that if they don't take all AP classes then they are not going to get into a college or things like that. I mean, I always go back to, are you passionate about it? Like, think about... if you are going to take three AP classes, are these classes that you truly enjoy and that you are going to dedicate your time to? "

# Insight from Palmer Ridge Graduates

Four PR graduates' experiences and advice on paying for college

All photos provided by the students



*ty evans*  
Class of 2019

"I'm on a full ride athletic scholarship that covers my courses, books, rent, and food. I didn't have to apply for any other scholarships or grants because there was no point. I appreciate the scholarship more than anything because my family would not have been able to send me through college and student loans can put you in a hole the rest of your life."



*julia howe*  
Class of 2019

"I was incredibly grateful to receive an AFROTC scholarship as well as the TCU Scholarships. I received the TCU Founder's Scholarship, and other local scholarships like the Ryan's Pappas Memorial Foundation Scholarship, the YMCA Berwick Scholarship, and the PRHS Legacy Scholarship."



*caroline giusti*  
Class of 2018

"I did receive a scholarship! I was granted the Crimson and Blue scholarship at KU for in state students. I got lucky with my financial situation because i was able to get in state tuition which meant my tuition would be less. They have a program where if a person had lived in the state of Kansas in the past 5 years then they were able to do that. So not only did i get the ability to pay less tuition but my scholarships were also in terms of the 'in state' scholarships."



*grace szucs*  
Class of 2019

"So I am on a scholarship- it's a full tuition scholarship through the University of Nebraska. The reason I got this scholarship was because I was a National Merit Finalist, which is a process that starts your junior year when you take the PSAT/NMSQT in October. If you score high enough on the PSAT, then you are notified and are eligible to apply to the National Merit Scholarship. Universities around the US give students scholarships based on this status, which could be semifinalist, finalist, or scholar. I am extremely grateful for this scholarship because it allows me to take as many classes as I want for up to 4 years or a bachelor's degree. It allows me to study what I want to study and save money for medical school."



# WHEN YOU WISH UPON

## Palmer Ridge...

by Luxe Palmer



Mr Frost getting his head buzzed, alongside Ryan Eells and Zach Pribyl (left to right)



This year's Make-a-Wish fundraiser took place during the week of March 1-6. Our Make-a-Wish child was Rachel Martinez (7 yrs old), who has congenital heart disease. She loves Frozen and the Avatar universe. Her wish is to go to Pandora, the Avatar amusement park at Disney World

Along with spirit days, the school raised money for Rachel by hosting the famed Make-a-Wish assembly. The Miracle Minute itself, in which students had one minute to put their loose change in buckets passed around by StuCo, raised over \$1,200. As a reward for earning over \$12,000, Mr.

Frost, Mr. Armentrout, Mr. Romero, Ryan Eells (12), and Zach Pribyl (12) shaved their heads. Mr. Frost had the honor of having his head buzzed by Rachel herself (pictured above)!

All of Palmer Ridge did an amazing job of making Rachel's dream come true.



Photos (above and below) by Yearbook Staff

### spirit days

#### MONDAY

Texas Roadhouse helped fund PR's Make-a-Wish campaign, giving part of their profits from 11 AM to 9 PM.

#### TUESDAY

Students wore their Make-A-Wish t-shirts from last year, and Ramen Chops donated part of their profits.

#### WEDNESDAY

Tropical Day saw students wearing tourist outfits and flip-flops. MOD Pizza donated part of their profits.

#### THURSDAY

Royalty Day coincided with Mr Palmer Ridge night. Ryan Eells (12) was seen with a full cape and crown!

#### FRIDAY

Students wore their new Make-A-Wish shirts, and donated funds during the Miracle Minute assembly, raising over \$12,000 total.

**Rachel was awarded the \$12,000 donation at the school wide assembly before hopping on a plane at Denver International Airport to go to Disney Avatar World.**



Mendoza receiving his award as Second Runner-Up for the title of Mr Palmer Ridge photos (above and below) by Amber Wright

### mr. palmer ridge

Making Rachel's dream come true was not possible without the Mr. Palmer Ridge Pageant. Seniors Caleb Inama, Kyle Ketchell, Wes McEvoy, Miles McCue, and Michael Mendoza went through rigorous training and practice for their performances Thursday night... The night included a choreographed dance, questionnaires given by both the hosts and the judges, talents such as portrait painting and a rendition of "Stayin' Alive," and two rounds of the

contestants collecting money as "votes" in buckets. From the bucket racing alone, Mr. Palmer Ridge raised over \$2,000, not including funds from concessions.

At the end of the night, Wes McEvoy won the title of Mr. Palmer Ridge, with Miles McCue and Michael Mendoza in second and third, respectively. Caleb Inama won Best Questionnaire, and Mendoza won Best Talent with is rainbow ribbon dance.



Mendoza performed an awe-inspiring ribbon dance, earning him the title of Best Talent.

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