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Panther Press

December 2020 Edition

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Interested in writing? Got talent with a camera? We are still looking for any writers or photographers to join our team! If you're interested see Ms Finnigan for details.



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No government is beyond scrutiny. No situation is beyond hope.

Cleaning up for the holidays

The caretaking staff at PDHS has been working hard to ensure that our school is kept clean and hygienic. We want to give a big thank you to them for all of their hard work and hope that they have a relaxing holiday with their friends and family. We truly appreciate all that they do!



Mind Break

By: Noelle Austin, Grade 12.

School Spirit

S G A L F M H P S L L X T X G E O R
P F X R E D R J E B L A C K S M Z E
O A M Q J O S S B P R M I E N M Q K
R Q N I P Q C Z E J R D Y R G F B S
T F S T D H S Y W D B A A Y O I C T
S N Y O H M L R I H W G L N B Q K M
J O Q M S E H K P J I A G L H Y I X
Q U H P A L R W A J M T R L Y H D I
I M F U I N D S J H X O E D O G E F
S T U D E N T C O U N C I L S M A S
X N Y O T H E O E C F B E Z C M B M
V V I E F T F O O D B A N K Z N B H

Find the following words in the puzzle.
Words are hidden → ↓ and ↘ .

BLACK
FOOD BANK
I.D.E.A
MRS. EDWARDS

PANTHERS
PDHS
PEP-RALLY
RED

SPORTS
STUDENT COUNCIL
WHITE



Fun Fact:
Like a
Fingerprint, No
Two Snowflakes
Are Identical

Winter Joke:
What is a
Snowman's
Favourite Snack?



Teacher Feature: Mr. Cronkwright

Where did you go to university?

Queen's in Kingston, ON was my program in Mining Engineering.

Where did you grow up?

Just south of Brantford in Mount Pleasant and I went to BCI.

What is your favourite band?

Led Zeppelin. I grew up listening to them. My brother was in a band and he played it a lot, so I listened to it a lot. I grew up listening to classic rock and one of my favourite teachers in high school, Bob Boos, was also into it so we'd talk about it.

How did you start in Student Success?

I liked working with kids who were struggling as I sometimes struggled myself as a student. Not everyone gets things as quickly as others do.

What did you do when you were a teenager?

I played hockey a lot so I was always around Brant County. I played hockey in Burford, was around the Paris Fair, and I still played hockey for a Brantford pickup team when it's available at the Brantford Civic Centre. A bunch of guys in the city started it and it morphed into a different program. I play forward and when I played more competitively I modeled my style after Cam Neely a Boston Bruin, my favourite hockey team.

What's next for you with Student Success?

It's the final push for students who are struggling so if anyone reading this is worried about their credits, come see me or send me an email and I'll try to help out as best I can.



Netflix Shows to Watch This Christmas Break



She flew across the globe to meet his affluent family. Now, she is discovering they are from entirely different worlds.



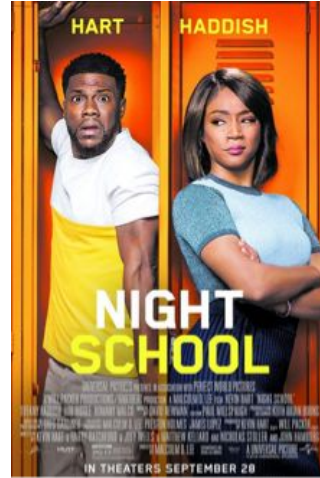
A grump with a mean streak plots to bring Christmas to a halt in the cheerful town of Whoville. But a generous little girl could change his heart.



After being bitten by a radioactive spider, Brooklyn teen Miles Morales gets a crash course in web-slinging from his alternate dimension counterparts.



Amphibious superhero Arthur Curry learns what it means to be Aquaman; he must stop the king of Atlantis from waging war against the surface world.



A high school dropout studying to pass his GED exam butts heads with his sassy night schoolteacher and a vindictive principal.



Grieving parents journey through an emotional void as they mourn the loss of a child in the aftermath of a tragic school shooting.



A selfish postal worker and a reclusive toymaker form an unlikely friendship, delivering joy to a cold, dark town that desperately needs it.

Mrs. Edwards

By: Noelle Austin, Grade 12.

Mrs. Edwards is one of the two guidance counsellors here at Paris District High School (PDHS). Not all student know about the guidance program and what they have to offer. This issue will touch base and give an insight on the program.

Q: Tell us about yourself?

A: I love to read (but mostly audiobooks these days), write, knit, take photographs and cook. I'm a terrible baker, though. My favourite video game is Mario Kart and I like to think I'm pretty good at it. I have been an educator for almost 15 years now and I've owned my own business for 9. I am a mom to two awesome kids named Cole and Spencer. We love family movie nights and doing crafts on the weekends. My husband and I love to go to concerts together. My favourite concert ever was a Bruce Springsteen one at the Rogers Centre. I can't wait until we can enjoy concerts again!

Q: How long have you been working here at PDHS?

A: I started teaching at PDHS in September of 2009.

Q: What does being a counselor mean to you?

A: It means being a helper, connector and problem-solver.

Q: What do you feel is the rewarding part of your job?

A: There are so many aspects of my job that I find rewarding, there are too many to list! It feels great to be able to help someone figure out a solution to a problem, to support them in establishing a plan for the future, or to connect them to a resource they need. I love the interesting conversations I get to have on a daily basis with our inspiring students here at PDHS. I learn so much from all of you, and I love that about my job.

Q: For someone looking into counselling for schools. How did you get to where you are now?

A: To become a Guidance Counsellor you have to already be a teacher (so that means an undergraduate degree and then a teaching degree). As teachers we can take "Additional Qualification Courses" to specialize in different areas. To specialize in Guidance and Career Education you need to take three courses. These are the academic requirements, but I believe that the most valuable education I received in preparation for this job was the experiences I had in education and in life. I was also lucky to have a great mentor to teach me once I was offered this position.

Q: Did you always intend on becoming a school guidance counselor?

A: No! I didn't always intend on being a teacher either! I'm still trying to figure out what I want to be when I grow up.



Q: Finally, because you get to work one on one with so many students. What is your thought on our school environment?

A: I think we have a lot to celebrate about our culture and community here at PDHS. We have a strong and capable staff and an inspiring student body. I think this is a great place to go to school for many students. But we also have lots of work to do to make this school a welcoming and safe place for all our students, staff and community. I'm excited to be working with IDEA (Inclusivity, Diversity and Equity Association) on some purposeful new initiatives that will hopefully help us to take big strides in this regard.

This historic holiday

Over the years, the winter holiday has changed, become more inclusive, and this is certainly no exception. Instead of rushing out to see relatives in far flung corners of the world, we are all staying a little closer to home this year while bringing the outside world in. We've started to think about who we are seeing and how.

Many families are meeting through Zoom, FaceTime, Teams and other tech, and we will never forget the incredible year we went through with devices bringing us together while we were apart.

Many saw the advantages immediately and some started later, but nonetheless we have worked together at PDHS.. This holiday, make your own picture gallery and commemorate the amazing year we have been through as a community.

This year, we are making "history of the holiday" in many ways!!





PDHS needs a Smith machine to extend their exercise regime to new heights. It costs around 3,500 dollars and we would appreciate anyone who is willing to help out Making contact with Mr. Crosby or Mr. Merrick.

Work Out in Style!

By: S. Finnigan

2020 has brought changes to how the hockey program at PDHS is able to do business. What the students are able to do in the meantime is work out in the weight room. Classes quickly adjusted to make sure that students are maximizing their down time as they wait to get back on the ice.

“The kids are able to get here twice a week,” says Pete Crosby. He also said that teachers have made a plan to ensure that the students are less exposed while working out on the equipment. Each group is quickly building up their skills, but some new equipment is high on the priority list as the team’s focus is there.

The hockey program at PDHS is an amazing thing for young people to develop their skills in Canada’s most popular game. Students in the program work out regularly and need to have updated and safe equipment in order to develop and strengthen their shoulders, chest and back. Three sections of the hockey program are running but the equipment in the weight room should be expanded for the continued development of the students with their safety in mind.

What's the Big I.D.E.A.

By: Noelle Austin, Grade 12.

Paris District High, is a school of many different clubs. They offer a variety of opportunities for students to take on leadership roles in our school and community. Here to talk about one of our newest clubs at Paris District High, I.D.E.A. is co-club heads Aydin Dezell and Makenna Leitch.

Q: Who is I.D.E.A?

A: I.D.E.A is a group of individuals striving to make PDHS a more welcoming space for everybody.

Q: What is I.D.E.A?

A: I.D.E.A is the PDHS inclusivity, diversity, and equity association.

Q: What inspired you to kickstart this club?

A: PDHS is growing and therefore becoming more diverse. Many of us have been witnesses or even experienced to some sort of discrimination within the school either to do with race, gender, sexuality, religion or other. So, we feel the need to make changes so we can all feel like we belong, and educate those who are discriminating against others. We are all different, but we are all panthers at the end of the day and we want everyone to acknowledge that.

Q: What changes do you thrive to make in the school environment and community?

A: We strive to make the school a more welcoming place. We plan to do so through educating our fellow Panthers and recognizing people from all walks of life, of any religion, nationality, sexuality or gender status within the school. We hope to do so by announcing days of recognition on the announcements, having virtual guest speakers, classroom discussions, more art work in the school, and potentially running workshops for staff and students to talk about how they can be more accepting and welcoming.

Q: What goals do you have for this club?

A: The goal of the club is to make PDHS a more welcoming and diverse place for everyone. We want every panther to feel seen and heard in the school. We want everyone to feel accepted and safe without fear of discrimination, bullying, or harrassment. We hope to act as an example for the rest of the school board and Paris community as a whole as it expands and welcomes more people as well.

Q: Do you feel there is a disconnection with having virtual meeting?

A: Yes, there is always something missing during virtual meetings. The feeling of the room is different in face to face meetings because we all sit like friends and can just chat. Although, we are all getting better and more comfortable with online meetings as time goes on.

Q: Is there anything else that you want our readers to know about I.D.E.A?

A: More information about the club can be found at @idea_pdhs on instagram. You can also talk to Asiya Adan, Aydin Dezell, Makenna Leitch, Mrs. Edwards or Mr.Merrick. Remember Panthers who know better, do better.



Student Opinion: Author undisclosed

Should Online Learning Replace In-Class Learning?

This is a debatable question and I am certain that the answer to this question will vary from person to person. However, in my view, as much as I hate going to school every day, online learning should not replace in-class learning. I found there were many distractions while working from home, and many wi-fi connectivity issues and technology problems. **Also, it is difficult for teachers to notice students' behaviour.**

There can be a multitude of distractions while doing online learning from home. If you are not a disciplined person you will find yourself wandering from your seat to the refrigerator, or to get a drink, or to let the dog in or out to name a few. Or, you may find yourself chilly and wandering to your room for a sweater and while there you realize you didn't make your bed and should do that then. You may also be more tempted to respond to a text or finish play a video game or catch the sports news. Most of these distractions do not occur in a classroom setting. During the beginning of online learning at the onset of COVID, I personally found that my teachers did not provide a proper school day of learning schedule. I would often wake up at 11 a.m. every day. Another thing is, during Covid, my teachers did not apply any sort of schedule so I would end up waking up around 11:00 am every day. Also, there was not any specific time slot in which I was supposed to be in a certain class. My semester that year was English, Math, Gym, and Science in that order. So, I was very used to that because I had been doing that for around a month. But that routine ended up getting ruined by online learning. By the end of the school year I found myself only doing Science about once a week or once every two weeks and that was it. Due to all the distractions and the poor schedule, I find it extremely hard for me to do online learning at home.

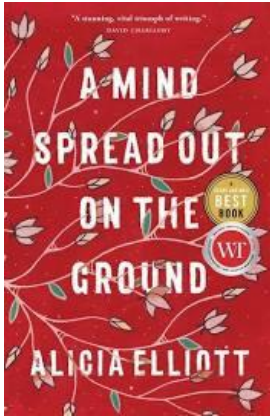
There are countless Wi-Fi and technology problems. When you have a household with five kids trying to do online learning all at once, you are bound to have issues. The first month or two between the five kids we only had 1 laptop and 1 crappy computer. So it was a race to who gets what computer in the morning and for how long. Out of the five kids two of them are in elementary school and they were the ones who normally were on the computers most of the day which did not make much sense. Because it would make sense for the three high school students to get it. We ran into endless problems over technology, and then the Wi-Fi started acting up. It seemed like every time I got to use the laptop the Wi-Fi would either be slow, or it would just crash. There were even some circumstances that the teacher was having technology problems. So now they must find a way to try and get all the work to the students and then the students are just left waiting. If the school were to hand out computers to all the students so they know everyone can do their work that would be great, but unfortunately not all school boards do. I think if we were to go back to online learning we would still run into the same problems as we did the first time around. Wi-Fi and technology are such a massive problem.

Teachers cannot notice students' behaviours. My mom works for Children's Aid Society and she said from her experiences one of the main sources of finding out about abuse or mistreatment from parents is through teachers. And if students are forced to stay home, some kids could potentially be held in a harmful environment for longer than usual, and not get that 6 hours a day of freedom from their house. And it would also be harder for the social workers to find out about a massive issue like this. This will also cause a massive panic from the social workers, because once they start getting fewer calls, they are not just going to assume things are just magically getting better they are going to know that there are kids out there that are continuing to be abused but they cannot do a lot about it because they do not know where. When kids go to school, they get the luxury of building bonds with teachers because most of them are friendly. That way teachers can start to find out more about the student and sense if they think something is off. They can also talk to guidance counselors to try and help with some problems. There is not anything like that online really unless the teacher and student are sending emails on their own time. But personally, it is easier to talk to a teacher upfront as opposed to texting or emailing them. If we are forced to do online schooling something will have to be made to help prevent this. Students health needs to be a priority.

Online learning should not replace in class learning. Online learning has many distractions, and lots of Wi-Fi and technology problems. It is also difficult for teachers to notice students' behaviours. There is just no way we could ever do online learning unless serious steps are taken to fix all the flaws. Maybe I just do not like it because of my bad experiences in the past. But if you were forced to just switch to online schooling after doing years of in class learning what would you think?

What to Read Over the Holidays

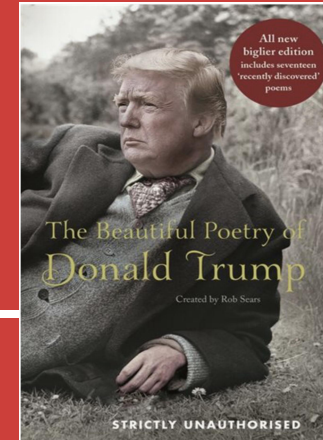
In Finland, there is a tradition where books are given out and families sit together reading to spend quality time with each other. Here are some books to consider giving or asking for this holiday season.



Alicia Elliott is a Pauline Johnson graduate from Six Nations who tells the story of mental health within her family and how it affected her childhood life and present as she moves between schools and countries. This text is hard-hitting at times and deals with some violent truths about life in Canada as an indigenous person.



A thoroughly engaging premise that won illustrious awards. Prizes mean I should read it, so I did. However, I felt like it just crawled to a stop afterward and didn't really continue its initial promise as a story. Am I wrong?



This book of poetry will help to remind you of the words used by President Trump as he leaves office. It is an unofficial transcription.

Junior Art at Paris

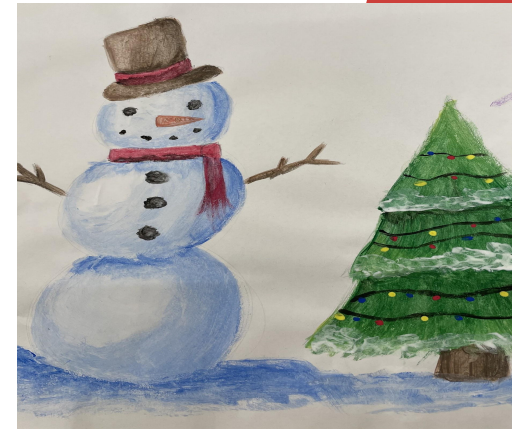
Mrs L. Hawkins is starting her junior art classes off with some colour theory and balance assignments. Many of the students are learning their elements through projects using the principles and elements of design.



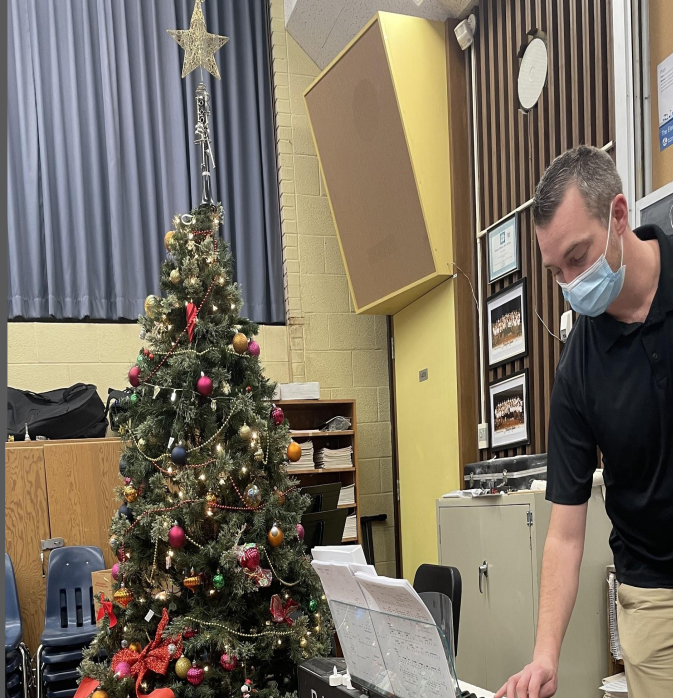
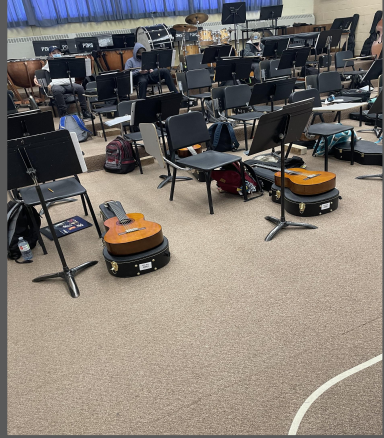
Jordan McMahon's Colour Scheme Painting



Maggie Beaudin's Motif Colour Wheel



Lauren Gilbert's Holiday Watercolour study



Psst! Take a look at
class of '69 choir
Spot anyone you
know?

Mixed Choir



String Theory: 2020 Style

By: S. Finnigan

Walking through the halls of PDHS, one hears the strains of guitar picking in place of flautists this year. The brass and woodwinds haven't been allowed in music class, and it's changed what Mr. Winter's band has been able to do this year. Musicians play on their own now and the program has altered as grade twelve students are picking up guitar for the very first time and are sometimes frustrated as a result. Many students are picking it up more quickly because they aren't worrying about reading music or learning how to look at the conductor for the first time. At the same time, there is stress because, when they signed up for the course, they assumed they would be on their usual instruments.

Last year, Paris bands were invited to play at Musicfest Nationals and had only been invited twice in recent memory. Because of COVID, students who worked hard and practiced can't go. Yet, the band plays on.

Paris doesn't actually own any guitars and has borrowed for the quads, but the request for more purchasing hasn't come through; if there is anyone who has a guitar or is willing to help out the program, a donation would be useful. A field trip to see the Toronto Symphony and their education concerts is something the band normally does. This year it is virtual. Costs 150 dollars and is streamed on the TSO website. This concert supports current musicians while training aspiring ones.

Usually the band performs in the small gym and PDHS Band has annual trips to Telfer Place and local elementary schools.

Mr. Winters is hoping to get together songs and send them out with a virtual band this year!



Arepa Love opened at Wincey Mills in December. The owner and his partner chose to blend their restaurant with their cultures, that have distinct styles of cooking which frame this labour of love. This offers exciting options to PDHS students. Arepa Love offers some Spanish cuisine and some Serbian food. They are more than willing to bring an order up to the high school and if you haven't have Cevapi you might find it to be an interesting change from your usual lunch. It's a sausage on a bun unlike any you've had before.

Call 519-209-5454 to place an order!



Games we play



Panther Monthly Horoscopes

Sagittarius

November 23rd - December 21st

Something big is coming your way keep your eyes open and get ready.

Capricorn

December 22nd - January 19th

Life has been pretty nuts. Take the next few weeks to focus on yourself.

Aquarius

January 20th - February 18th

Your hardwork will soon pay off.

Pisces

February 19th - March 20th

The holiday's are right around the corner. Take this time to relax.

Aries

March 21st - April 19th

A flurry of invites are headed your way. Don't back down.

Taurus

April 20th - May 20th

Recent confusion will soon be replaced with clarity.

Gemini

May 21st - June 20th

Trust your gut. An offer will soon come your way.

Cancer

June 21st - July 22nd

Don't be afraid to try new things. Life is full of adventure. Just go with it.

Leo

July 23rd - August 22nd

Take this time to make peace. No need to hold on to the past.

Virgo

August 23rd - September 22nd

Fresh starts and new beginnings are coming your way

Libra

September 23rd - October 22nd

A new opportunity is coming your way in the workplace.

Scorpio

October 23rd - November 21st

The key to success is practice. Sometimes you have to keep trying.



The daily life
of 2020: our
phones, our
tech, our
masks, our
friendships!!





A woman with short, light brown hair, wearing glasses and a light blue surgical mask, is standing indoors. She is wearing a dark grey zip-up hoodie. To her right is a large window with a black frame. On the windowsill, there is a potted plant with large green leaves and red flowers. Outside the window, a residential street with houses and bare trees is visible.





Paris' Student Council: Sending Joy One Card at a Time

Our amazing Student Council is working to bring joy to the lives of Paris' elders by writing cards for various retirement facilities in the area. It is amazing that the students of this school have signed up so quickly to fulfill this task and we want to thank you all for participating in sharing a little of your time with our community.

If anyone would like more information about what is happening at PDHS, follow them on Instagram @pdhs_studentcouncil



Paris Food Bank Fundraiser

By: Noelle Austin, Grade 12.

Student's Council are the voice of Paris District High. The prime ministers show great leadership and thrive to make an impact in the school and community. They look to make positive change and help out where possible. This year during the month of December they set their mission to help families in need in the Paris community; the Paris food bank. Here to answer some question is co-prime minister Siza Mabasa.

Q: Tell us about the food drive student council is planning?

A: We're running a cash online drive, where all proceeds are going towards the Paris Food bank. This is our way of continuing to help the locals in need that reside in our community.

Q: What is the food drive going to look like this year due to COVID-19 and its restrictions?

A: This year student council is running the food drive through school cash online rather than accepting canned goods. By accepting money donations, we've been able to abide by COVID-19 policies that the school has set for us, while also still contributing to the food bank.

Q: How can we as a school and community show support?

A: As a council we recognize that right now is a tough time, but if students just continue to stay positive and safe, and look at how our community may need help while being as safe as possible, then whoever is receiving the help will be grateful. We're stopping accepting donations on the 16th, but I think that when we organize events like this, the more you donate, the more help you're providing, and that's all anyone can really ask for.

Q: What is student council's goal for the food drive?

A: Last time I checked, we were sitting at \$731 which I think is a great amount. We didn't have a particular goal set, we were just hoping to raise as much as possible. No matter how much we raise, it's will most definitely make a difference

Q: As one of the co-student council prime ministers why do you feel that it is so important to donate?

A: I feel that it's important to donate as a way to show we care. I think the holiday season is hard on everyone but it's especially hard on those who may not be able to afford it. The Paris food bank does their best to help those that need it. When our school puts on events like this, it allows us to have an opportunity of selflessness that will help someone truly in need. I think that's something truly important to want to participate and contribute to.





Paris is always a good idea.
-Audrey Hepburn