



THE VOYAGER

APRIL 2019



*A NOTE
FROM THE
NEWSPAPER
STAFF*

*Here's the 7th issue
of the school
newspaper!*

*In this issue, we
discuss upcoming
school events, such
as finals(yay!*),
some more teacher
interviews, and a
reason why school
might not be so
bad.*

*There's so much to
discover in this
issue, read through
to find out!*

IN THIS ISSUE....

FINALS! WHO'S READY? 2

**TEACHER INTERVIEWS: DEBARI
3-4**

**WHY SHOULD WE LIKE SCHOOL?
5-6**

**PHHS RUNNER'S WORLD: 3RD
EDITION 7-9**

*On the front cover:
pictures from the Spring Musical*

**formatter note: yes, this is sarcasm.*

FINALS! WHO'S READY? BY RHEA SHAJAN

Wow! Doesn't it feel like we just took the midterms yesterday? Well, even if midterms were a short while ago, finals are approaching. Though taking the finals are not so much fun, just remember: if the finals are approaching, so is summer vacation! For those who want to be prepared for this year's finals, this information is for you. Finals start Thursday, June 13th, and end Tuesday, June 18th. Similar to midterms, each day of finals will only consist of two tests, followed by an early dismissal. Though the rules of finals are very similar to midterms, the finals include exemptions not made during the midterms. Seniors can be exempt from finals if they get an A- or higher in the third and fourth marking periods. AP students can be exempt if they attain a B- or higher in the first three marking periods and take the AP Exam. Unfortunately, there are no exemptions for any student enrolled in semester courses. If a student is exempt from their final exam, their final grade defaults to a 90%, an A-. The final assessment for semester courses will count as 20% of the final grade, while the final assessment for a full year course will count as 10% of the final grade. For those who can be exempt from a final but still want to take it may request to do so. However, keep in mind that a low final exam grade will lower your final grade in the class. Other than these exemptions and rules, finals are very similar to midterms, so hopefully, you can prepare to do well on them. Good luck!

TEACHER INTERVIEWS: Ms. DEBARI BY AMY YANG

Have you always wanted to be a teacher?

I think that I have, but I just didn't know what I wanted to teach because I always looked up to teachers when I was in school. However, I never really felt compelled to teach one subject, but when I started learning Spanish in school, I studied quite hard to learn the language because I am not a native speaker. I really relied on the help of my teachers to get me through that and I just fell in love with the profession and wanted to help students. Therefore, it was natural to me and I always wanted to teach.

If you weren't a teacher, what would you be and why?

If I wasn't a teacher, I would probably be a filmmaker because I love to make films and take a step into other people's lives. Documentaries are especially interesting to me, so if I didn't teach I would probably do that full time.

Since you didn't grow up speaking Spanish, when did you really start to get exposed to it and when did you realize that you liked the subject?

I actually didn't start taking Spanish until high school, so I was about 14 years old because the school system I was in wasn't that great. When I started, I had several teachers who were really passionate about the subject and they encouraged me to start researching outside of the classroom. I read books, watched movies, listened to music and really just tried to soak up the culture as well. I just studied intensely throughout high school and then I studied in college. Then I was able to live in Spain and through that, I was able to acquire the majority of my skills. So it was a long process and even today, I am still learning new things from new countries and it's great.

What has been your favorite moment in teaching so far?

That's tricky; I think on a daily basis I'm just uplifted by my student's spirit
(cont on pg. 4)

and their demeanor. If they had a bad day— or even if I have a bad day— we are able to lift each other up. But whenever we have competitions in class, I love to see what my students bring to the table. They are so competitive, but they also put so much effort into these projects and everyone is able to bring in different personalities, allowing me to learn more about them. Whenever we have assignments where you can share aspects about your life or create projects or compete with one another, I love to see that side of my students and the leadership roles they take, so it's just fun for me.

What advice do you have for students who are struggling with Spanish?

I would say to just immerse yourself in the language. Even if you are struggling, don't get too hung up on the grammar or the rules, but maybe just start downloading music on your phone and just start listening to music. Start exposing yourself; go out to a restaurant and eat some food or interact with different people in different parts of the state or the city. That's when you start to develop a passion for the language and if you develop a passion, I think the learning becomes easier. Because if you are motivated to learn, you are more likely to overcome the struggles that come with learning.

Fun Questions :)

How would your teachers describe you as a student?

I would say that I was very vocal and opinionated, but hard working as well.

What are your must-have smartphone apps?

Venmo is a must; I love Venmo. Let's see... I have all the teaching applications and language apps, such as the google apps and quizzes. And a fun one... I actually don't have a lot of games on my phone. I'm looking now and it's actually quite boring. : I like snapchat, I snap my friends, so I guess snapchat.

(cont on pg. 5)

If you were a movie character, who would you be and why?

I don't know if I would be her, but people say I look like Hermione from Harry Potter, so I guess her. I don't know why, but she seems intelligent and she has goals right? So yes, I wouldn't mind being Hermione.

WHY SHOULD WE LIKE SCHOOL? BY MEEKA VARDI

I woke up to hear the sound of my alarm clock blaring into my ears. My eyelids fluttered open and I gazed upon my half-open backpack, unfinished homework spilling out. My stomach churned at the thought of informing my teachers that I had not finished the assigned homework. Then a thought popped into my head: *It's just middle school, who cares?* Admittedly, that was not the best mindset to have going into school each day, yet it is the one I had. I ended up scribbling random answers onto each page on the bus or before first period. I genuinely thought that school was a complete waste of time. I came home each day and attempted to forget the six hours of my life that had been wasted in that insufferable building. I relinquished the thought of ever enjoying school. I truly thought that I would be miserable forever in this unbearable education system.

Now, that may have been a slight exaggeration, but my point still remains: I did not like school. At the beginning of this school year, I was terribly absent-minded. Going to school every day and following a schedule allowed me to be dependent on something. I loved the stability of school, as well as constantly having something to do. As I became more focused, I realized that I actually enjoyed school. Honestly, I was rather surprised. I never thought that I would dread the weekends and pray for the snow plows to work harder to clear the roads. I began to ask for more work from my teachers and challenge myself even more. I started looking

(cont on pg. 6)

PHHS RUNNER'S WORLD: 3RD EDITION BY WASAYNOOR

into college classes for the summer because the thought of not going to school for three months was terrible. When people find out that I like school, they think I am lying. Then when they realize that I am, in fact, telling the truth, the first question that slips from their mouths is, "Why?" The answer to that question seems hard to fathom, but, to put simply, I like school because I like work.

I love working to my fullest capacity, and then some. I would love to be constantly flooded with piles of homework. I love to be challenged and am rather competitive, so if I am working harder than everyone else, then I am content. Sometimes, not even my teachers understand that I *want* to do extra work. However, I understand that not everyone has a passion for school like I do. Spreading my love for learning, as well as the school environment, can help make school seem more bearable. Even if you do not like school, constantly saying that to yourself and complaining whenever the chance arises is absolutely not going to help. Just think that after you graduate, assuming you pursue a career after, the amount of stability is marginally less. The school environment is made up of a diverse community and provided chances to learn, as well as socialize. Do not squander the few years you have under the kind wing of this school, for once you graduate, you will wish you had enjoyed your time here.



With the cold winter days behind us, this edition of *PHHS Runner's World* is targeted towards introducing all readers to the most in-season running sport here at Par Hills: Spring Track & Field! But before we get into the hot repeats practices (my personal favorite) or the brutal hill workouts, a quick recap of the Winter Track season that ended in late February is definitely in order!

Having ended the 2018-2019 Indoor Track season with athletes going all the way up to the New Jersey Meet of Champions, PHHS Trackletes did not disappoint in the slightest. After the conclusion of the regular season, championship meets began to roll around as the month of February progressed. Athletes such as Amy Yang, Wasay Noor, Nick Ropeke, Kevin Suh, Sohum Gaitonde, Nerina San Martin, Amanda Gurth, Tyler Gurth, Kristin Hardy and many more competed at the New Jersey State Sectionals meet that took place on February 10th down in Toms River. To qualify and compete at this selective and prestigious Championship meet, one must be within the top three runners, throwers, or jumpers, in his or her respective event. Taking the most felicitous of athletes, Coach Perry, Coach Fulton, and Coach Smith were more than happy to see that everyone displayed their talents astonishingly! Running seasonal best times in events ranging from the 55 Meter Dash all the way up to the 1600 Meter Run, athletes gave it their all! In fact, two of these athletes, Amanda, a thrower coached by Coach Fulton, and Kristin, trained by Coach Perry as a speedy Middle-Distance runner, even qualified for the State Groups Champions!

The three levels of State Championships within Cross Country and Track & Field are as follows: State Sectionals, State Groups, and the State Meet of Champions. Only those who medal/place and come in the top six in their respective events at State Sectionals move on, and only those who

medal at State Groups continue on to the Meet of Champs. Amanda and Kristin both medalled and moved on to the State Group Championships. Although both performed incredibly well once again, only Amanda placed, representing Parsippany Hills proudly at the 2019 Indoor Track State Meet of Champs!!

The week after this was the annual Winter Track Pizza Party & Award Ceremony! Returning Varsity athletes, such as Amy Yang, Nick Levytsky, and Wasay Noor, were congratulated with Varsity awards once again and FIRST TIME Varsity athletes, like our Team Manager Shiv Desai, received Varsity letters for the first time, ones that we hope to see proudly displayed on their Varsity Jackets one day! In addition, Kristin Hardy received a Four-Year-Varsity-Athlete Plaque, accommodating her vigorous performance and achievements as a Varsity runner for all four years of her Indoor Track & Field journey here at Par Hills! (Editor: But this article isn't! :))

With that, our “trackletes” were done. A true conclusion had arrived and all PHHS Track runners, throwers, and jumpers had approximately three weeks off until the next season began: Spring Track! A few weeks after the Indoor Track Meet Of Champs, under the supervision of NEW Head Coach, Mr. James Kennedy, the PHHS Outdoor Track & Field team commenced its first couple practices. Starting off the season with 105 registered members, the 2019 Outdoor Track & Field team is one of the biggest in years! New athletes included Lauren Geiger, Janet Pan, and countless freshmen who we hope stick around! Along with returning Varsity runner and event leaders such as Wasay Noor and Nick Levytsky, the Track team is looking more competitive than ever! Various assistant coaches including, Coach Smith (Sprints & Hurdles), Coach Brzezinski (Assistance), Coach Fulton (Throws), Coach Altschul (Pole Vault), Coach Gilbert (Assistance) , and former Head Coach, Coach Perry (Distance), could not be more ready to absolutely dominate this year and put PHHS at the top of all leaderboards with its zooming sprinters, steady distance runners, big and strong

throwers, and soaring jumpers!

Currently, since it is only the first couple weeks of practices, time trials (timed races to determine current event leaders and workout groups) are still taking place, and all the athletes cannot be more eager for their first meet. Traditionally, known for much more Dual and Relay meets in comparison to other seasons, the Spring Track team lost its first competition against Randolph and will compete in more meets in the month of April against schools including Morris Knolls, West Morris, and Roxbury! In addition, there is expected to be a Relay meet EVERY Saturday in April and a few in May, inevitably resulting in PHHS bringing back quite a few medals! Going into the months of May and June, the PHHS runners will soon begin to compete at Championship meets such as the Morris County Championships, NJACs and once again, State Sectionals, Groups, and M.O.C.

All in all, this season is bound to be filled with nothing but achievement! Coach Kennedy is doing a splendid job as the new Head Coach, and with assistance from various seasoned coaches, he is projected to lead PHHS to glory this season! Needless to say, Par Hill runners, throwers, and jumpers will be bringing home the gold in the countless Dual, Relay, and Championship meets, so stay tuned! By keeping up with all *PHHS Runner's World* articles, you are staying updated with the world of the runners in your hallways! It would be no surprise if at least ten runners qualify for the State Meet of Champions this season!



IMPORTANT DATES!

SAT DATES/DEADLINES:

- MAY 4
 - DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION: APRIL 5
 - LATE: APRIL 24
- JUNE 1
 - DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION: MAY 3
 - LATE: MAY 22

AP TEST DATES:

WEEK I:

- MAY 6
 - US GOV, CHINESE LANGUAGE, ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE
- MAY 7
 - SPANISH LANGUAGE, JAPANESE LANGUAGE, PHYSICS 1
- MAY 8
 - ENGLISH LITERATURE/COMP, EUROPEAN HISTORY, FRENCH LANGUAGE
- MAY 9
 - CHEMISTRY, SPANISH LITERATURE, GERMAN LANGUAGE, PSYCHOLOGY
- MAY 10
 - US HISTORY, COMPUTER SCIENCE, PHYSICS 2, STUDIO ART DEADLINE

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