

Students and Faculty Help Fill the Stomachs of the Community

By: Jamie Roberts

There's always room at our table—that is the motto at the local soup kitchen which is held on Wednesday evenings at St. Augustine's Parish Center from 4:30 to 5:30. Here you will find Peru's own National Honor Society and Key Club rotating with the Peru Association of Teachers once a month to serve the community.

NHS is a group of motivated students who excel both in and out of school. These students are selected through an application process that emphasizes academic achievement, community service, and leadership skills.

The objective of the organization, according to an advisor, Mrs. Caron, is to "Develop leadership skills through, service, and character." Key Club is also very involved with the school community and consists of students who are eager to serve others. For example, they host the haunted house, adopt a family, thanksgiving dessert, and operation shoe, just to name a few. Mrs. Caron explains that their goal is to, "Teach leadership through service to others." Additional information about the soup kitchen can be found at this link :

<http://d1091839.domain.com/SoupKitchen/index.htm>



Soup kitchen volunteers Natasha Lindor, Dominick Dellelo, Connor Casey, Ernie Rock, Mary-Ali Taft, Becky Tenbuuren, Ashley Sardella, Demi Delia, Anna Sardella, Jenna Mulbury, and Mrs. Caron. —Photo by Anthony Burgess

Peru Central Unites to Display Messages for Peace

By: Abigail Chen



Peru's pinwheels displayed on September 21st —photo by Alec Pugh

Imagine pinwheels of all colors, shapes, and sizes spinning in the wind displaying messages of peace. In 2011 about three and a half million

pinwheels were spinning all over the world. This year on the International Day of Peace, September 21st, Peru Central got a glimpse of this worldwide event.

Our school has been participating in Pinwheels for Peace since 2007. Ms. Laundry states that she and Ms. Winternitz were looking online one day for something to celebrate the International Day of Peace, and came across Pinwheels for Peace. She brought this event to Peru and Ms. Winternitz did the same in Asable. This year at Peru Central a number of people created these phenomenal pinwheels. Elementary and intermediate students as well as technology, art, and Spanish classes participated.

The pinwheels for this worldwide project can be made out of a number of

things making it something that anyone can enjoy. In fact, there's a pinwheel template that can be printed from the Pinwheels for Peace website at: <http://pinwheelsforpeace.com/pinwheelsforpeace/home.html>. Located on each of these pinwheels is a message promoting peace. Some people may have simply stated, "World Peace" and others may write whatever they wish in order to display their personal peace-related message.

Ms. Laundry states, "I think it's a great way for the school to show the community that we can work together for a common goal." The message she is obviously speaking of is our quest for peace.

School Community Comes Together to Combat Bullying

By: Jamie Roberts and Abigail Chen

According to *Stomp Out Bullying*, a national non-profit organization dedicated to the prevention of bullying and harassment, nearly 71% of students in the nation report incidents of bullying at their school. The Dignity For All Students Act (DASA), a new law enacted on July 1st 2012, enforces a safe learning environment for everyone, and our very own Peru Central is taking their part. Since DASA has been initiated, faculty members have started to educate students about harassment and bullying, and their prevention as it is



Ms. Roach's room promotes positivity and acceptance-photo by Mrs. Smith

required by the new law. The head of the DASA team here is Mr. Mazzella. In each building there is then a representative. The high school representative, Ms. Remillard, says that teachers have always been "mandated reporters" meaning that they have consistently reported incidents that compromise a student's safety. The only difference now is, due to DASA, faculty is required to record and report bullying.

An active way the school is participating in DASA is through the creation of the PSET, or Positive School Environment Team. PSET is a group of students and faculty aimed at finding positive ways to prevent bullying. Ms. Remillard states that, "A lot of people are really excited about it." In fact, on October 16th, during the half day, students who signed up will be excused from classes to participate.



View from the top of Cascade Mountain-photo by Mrs. Smith

Adventure Club Attracts Risk Takers

By: Alyssa Szczypien

In past years, the adventure club has gone on several hiking trips all over the Adirondacks, rock climbed in multiple places, as well as gone tubing in rivers. Adventure club has always been a place for people who enjoy the outdoors, adrenaline, taking risks, and are willing to try new things. This year, however, the club is hoping to go white-water rafting, and is ready to do some fundraisers in order to make this happen. They have already planned to

make this happen. They have already planned to hike Phelps Mountain in North Elba on October 20th, and are welcoming anyone who would like to participate in this hike and other adventures throughout the year. From anyone who hiked Cascade Mountain last year, it's obvious what they would say about it; freezing, icy, slightly dangerous, and exciting. Please see Mr. Wilson, the club advisor, for more information about the Adventure Club.

College 101: Advice for Seniors

By: Mary Ann Picozzi and Alec Pugh

Throughout high school students should be thinking of their plans after they graduate. By this time of year, seniors interested in college should know what to look for and avoid during the college selection process. According to high school counselor, Mrs. O'Leary, students should choose schools that offer a variety of programs that appeal to them because, "Students will want to go to a college that matches their interests".

For seniors who are unsure about a course of study, they should consider their skills, abilities, interests, and values. Ms. Smith, high school counselor, also advises that if students are undecided about their major, they should take general education courses

to start and see which ones are the most appealing. Once possible colleges have been identified, the application process can seem daunting. An easy way to get started is to visit the college website and look for

the online application. Most colleges accept the Common Application, an application that can be filled out once and used for several colleges. Be sure to take all necessary aptitude tests such as the SAT and ACT

and ask for letters of recommendation early on to avoid last minute stress. Perhaps the most challenging part of this process is the financial aspect. Counselors advise students to be smart when taking out student loans in order to avoid paying them off for the next twenty years or more. The FAFSA form is critical for receiving financial aid, and counselors are always willing to help students with this form, as well as any other questions that arise throughout the college application process. According to Ms. Smith, "there is no better investment than your education".



Seniors Alex Barret, Nick Demaris, and Karsyn O'Donnell Enjoy College Night at Plattsburgh State-photo by Miss Miller

Seniors Stoked for Graduation and Beyond

By: Alex Spofford

On the very first day of high school, teachers told me, "this is the beginning of the rest of your life". At the time, of course, I thought the teachers were being a bit overdramatic. Now that I am a senior and graduation seems just around the corner, I realize that when they said that, they were speaking the truth. As graduation nears, I know I'm not the only

senior excited yet anxious for the possibilities of life after high school.

In a recent poll conducted by *The Pride*, seniors were asked about their plans after high school graduation. As expected, there was a wide range of responses, and some of them were surprises. Approximately 65% of seniors polled are planning on going to

Seniors enjoy toga day during spirit week
-photo by Miss Miller

college after graduating, and many of these college-bound seniors plan to attend an in-state college, a SUNY college (especially SUNY Plattsburgh) or Clinton Community College. The three choices besides college

were entering the workforce, joining the military, or, in a surprising vote, taking a year off before attending college. Each of those three choices garnered 10% of responses. Only about

5% of seniors are still unsure of their plans. So it is fair to say that most seniors know by now what they intend to do after graduating this June.



Fall Sports Round-Up

Men's Soccer: Hoping to Stay on Top

By: Abigail Chen & Fanni Martha

Men's Soccer is doing great with seven wins, one tie, and only one loss. The team is very strong offensively, and moves the ball well, according to senior co-captain Michael Danis, who also explains, "We play a possessive game."

There are things that can be improved though. Senior co-captain Colin Lamica states, "We need to be more aggressive from the beginning of each game." The team has some slow days, and doesn't always play to their full potential until the second half.

The team's biggest rival is NCCS, their only loss. If all goes well the rest of the season, we can expect to see the men's soccer team in the playoffs.



Peru's Cross Country team competes at a meet in Burnt Hills
-photo by Thomas Gwinn

This season for cross country, both the boys and girls teams are doing well. With the latest meet over, their records stand as follows: the ladies remain undefeated, and the men have 7 wins and 4 losses.

Cross Country: Keep on Runnin'

By: Thomas Gwinn

The main reason for the team's excellent performance is due in large part to the girls' experience and the boys' unity and spirit. Coach Provost said that the girls still have to worry about the Seton runners, and the guys will face tough competition with Ticonderoga, Saranac, and Beekmantown. When asked what she expects to happen later in the season, Coach Provost said that she "hopes the girls will remain undefeated and place in the top 7 in states and for the guys to shoot for 3rd or 4th at CVAC's."

Uncharted Water Ahead for Young Swim Team

By: Fanni Martha



Swim team huddle Photo by Mrs. Silverman

Teamwork is a major focus for this year's varsity swim team. With many newcomers, the team has an added depth and versatility and captains Britney Bridges and Ellen Silverman describe their team as "one big family". This positive outlook coupled with intense practices will hopefully give them an edge against rivals such as Plattsburgh, Ausable Valley, and Moriah.



Football: High Hopes for Playoffs

By: Thomas Gwinn & Alex Spofford

Even with a record of 5-1, compared to last year's 8-0 season, the football team remains strong. They are currently ranked in the top 3 of the CVACs, along with rival schools Beekmantown and Saranac Lake (their only loss). The team's biggest strengths are their offensive and defensive line and experienced starting lineup. Although they are on a hot streak as of late, they will have to keep up the intensity

throughout the season since they are one of the teams to beat, according to senior captain Bret Boyer. When asked about their goals for the remainder of the season, Boyer said the team plans to "go as far as we can in the playoffs and win the Section 7 Class B title." If they make it that far, they will move into single elimination games and face teams from different sections.

Fall Sports Round-Up

Lady Indians Digging in for Second Half of Season

By: Mrs. Smith

For the Lady Indians, the 2012 volleyball season has been one of passion, growth, and hard work. Losing influential players to last year's graduation has given new players opportunities to step into vital leadership roles. Senior co-captain Brittany Kelso, explains that the team is striving to play competitively in each match and "fight for every point".

Although their record may not reflect it (2-5), the team continues to improve and hopes to fair better the second half of the season against long-time rivals Beekmantown, Plattsburgh, and Ausable Valley.



Peru prepares for the serve against PHS -photo by Mrs. Smith

Teamwork Fuels Women's Soccer

By: Fanni Martha

After a slow start, the soccer team is building momentum and hopes to continue this pattern as their season progresses. Coach Jackie Sullivan believes the key points to

success for this year's squad is teamwork, communication and compatibility. Team captain and senior, Mary Mazzella stated, "The team is improving by building good chemistry and staying positive." As the team continues to grow by learning to mesh well on the field, they look forward to a competitive second half of the season.



Cheerleaders Strive for the Best

By: Alec Pugh

Intense hours of stunting, going over routines, and learning new tricks to impress the crowd push this year's cheerleading squad to their highest limit. The team's devotion is shown through their spirit and determination to give every practice and competition their all. The gymnasiums and cafeterias at Peru High gave this team a home to grow and prove that they can do anything, as long as they set their minds to it, and according to senior captain Alec Pugh, "You can only be considered a team, when you've been considered a family first".



Cheerleaders perform at the pep rally-photo by Jamie Roberts



Gymnastics: Leaving It All on the Floor

By: Mary Ann Picozzi and Jamie Roberts

Peru's gymnastics team has their hopes set on sectionals. With only one loss so far this season, this goal is well within reach. According to senior co-captains Karsyn O'Donnell and Mason Fortin, the floor is their strongest event, thanks in large part to a wide variety of talented athletes on this year's squad. On the other hand, they

will have to focus their attention on other events such as the uneven bars and vault, which present more challenges for them as a team. With the team doing so well their goal is to make sectionals, and have half of the team's members compete at the state competition.

Peru's Got Talent

By: Jamie Roberts, Abigail Chen, & Alyssa Szczypien

The Peru Drama Club presented a wonderful evening of talent on October 12th 2012. Stage managers Cassidy Thompson (back of house) and Gabby Dion (front of house) made sure the show moved forward smoothly with the help of the stage crew.

Our magnificent students here at Peru took over the stage with their unique talents. The acts included singing (some with live instruments), dancing, gymnastics, a Cello performance, and a surprise singing act from Mr. Urban, Mrs. Matthews, and Mr. Matthews. The community really enjoyed seeing the Peru students' various talents at this spectacular event.



Participants get excited for the talent show.-Photo by Katie Adams

Former Graduate Shares Career Experience

By: Alyssa Szczypien

In the community room freshmen are talking and chairs are being moved around. Then they all turn back to see a brunette in a blue jumpsuit entering the room. On Friday, October, 5th, Peru graduate Kristie Twining visited her former high school to talk about her current career. She is a lieutenant commander for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and she flies a Twin Otter to track and predict the movement of hurricanes. The NOAA's mission is to help save and study protected species,

and predict moving hurricanes in order to alert people in areas that they will likely strike. It conducts marine as well as aviation operations, like deep sea diving or flying directly into a hurricane. Recently, Twining and her coworkers have been flying up to Alaska and the Arctic Circle to map the ocean floor there since the area is opening up for commerce. This presentation was a great opportunity for students to learn about exciting career opportunities in the science field.



Meet this Year's Members of *The Pride*

The Pride is an online publication distributed throughout the high school several times during the year by the Journalism class. This class meets daily and studies topics relating to journalism and the news reporting field, including gathering news, conducting interviews, writing stories, and editing.



The Pride covers school, as well as community, events and its members include: Alec Pugh, Alex Spofford, Mary Ann Picozzi, Fanni Martha, Tommy Gwinn, Jamie Roberts, Abigail Chen, and Alyssa Szczypien. The class is taught by Mrs. Lindsey Smith.

2012-2013 Members of *The Pride* -photo by Miss Miller