

The **PV** Buzz

Official Publication of the PVRHS Faculty



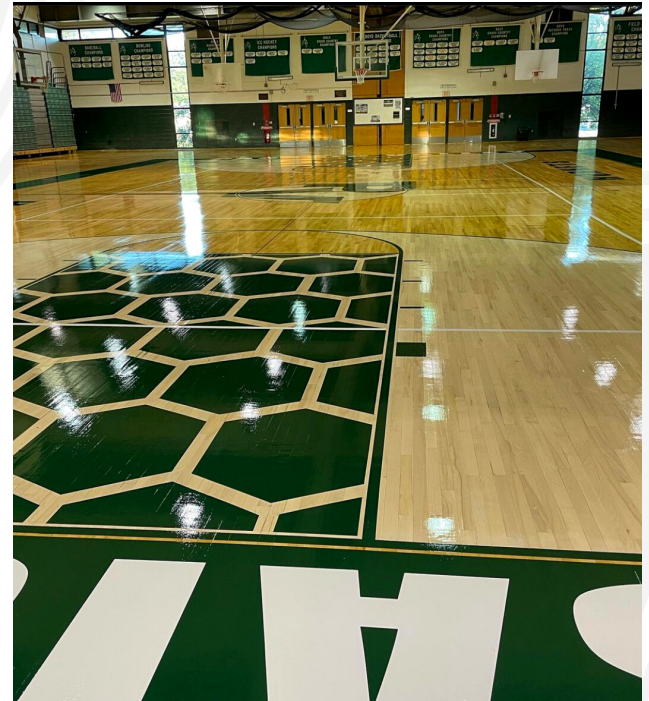
#SWARMUP AND CELEBRATE EXCITING BEGINNINGS

The Buzz | Fall 2021

Our exciting new 2021-2022 school year began with welcoming our students back into the building for a full-time in-person learning experience! Our recent improvements to school facilities provide the entire school community with a high-quality and well-rounded educational experience. The administration prioritized creating a cleaner and brighter school facility, meeting this challenge with commitment and hard work. This year, more than ever before, we are dedicated to modernizing the beautiful Passaic Valley campus!

PVRHS is extremely proud to announce The Griswold Gymnasium floor renovation project is complete! This new, state-of-the-art home court, introduced in September, is designed to promote Hornet pride and tradition.

There are some big plans and new initiatives on the horizon at PV! A new turf field is scheduled for groundbreaking, and we are currently planning for roll-out of our 1-to-1 laptop initiative. It's an exciting time to be a Hornet!



FOR THE FIRST TIME IN OVER 50 YEARS...

Senior Open Campus Lunch

New this year, Seniors have the option to enjoy an Open Campus Lunch. The Open Campus Lunch Policy allows senior students in good academic and disciplinary standing to leave the school building and campus without adult supervision during their regularly scheduled lunch period. Each school year, the leadership team seeks different incentives to enhance the student experience, and better prepare students for today's global society. This initiative has thus far proven well-received and extremely successful!



Mu Alpha Theta

Mu Alpha Theta granted Passaic Valley Regional High School its first charter for the Mathematics Honor Society. National Mu Alpha Theta is an organization founded in 1957 to help students develop strong scholarship in mathematics and connect dedicated students with interests in the subject. Forty-six Passaic Valley students are expected to be inducted as members this year. Fully inducted members will receive a national certificate and membership card for national recognition, as well as an honor cord and pin upon graduation.



PVRHS WELCOMES NEW STAFF

THE HORNET FAMILY JUST GOT BIGGER!

Ms. Krista Voorhis, Vice Principal



Ms. Voorhis is a PVRHS alumna ('99) and proud graduate of Montclair State University. She has been in education for 18 years and is super excited to be "returning home to PV". She grew up in Totowa, and now has two young children in the local school system. Ms. Voorhis brings with her passion and enthusiasm, and she is fully invested in the success of our district.

Dr. Adam Christopher, Assistant Principal



Dr. Christopher is a PVRHS alum ('06) who has spent the last ten years as a math teacher and varsity coach at PCTI. His expertise in the field of STEM and CTE training will continue to help bolster our rich curriculum and academic programming here at Passaic Valley Regional High School.

Ms. Rose Moise, School Based Clinician



Passaic Valley added a School Based Clinician to our team as a resource for students to receive mental and social-emotional support. Ms. Moise is a WPU graduate with a B.A. in Early Childhood Education P-3, TSD; Psychology; and has a M.A. in Clinical and Counseling Psychology. Ms. Moise's office is a safe space where students can go to receive help if they feel they are struggling and see it affecting their success in school. Ms. Moise loves the students, staff, and families of Passaic Valley and is glad to be part of such a welcoming environment.



"THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEAD SUCH A WONDERFUL SCHOOL SO DEEPLY ROOTED IN ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND RICH TRADITION IS VERY HUMBLING."

Mr. Brack Healy, Superintendent

Mr. Healy has been in education for 14 years. He started his career as an English teacher at Bloomfield Tech High School before moving to Clifton Public Schools, where he served as an administrator for eight years. Prior to becoming an administrator, he coached three varsity sports, bringing to PV a leadership style that is centered around teamwork, communication, and strong rapport.

Ms. Giselle Vitaliti, Teacher of Spanish



Before coming to PV, Ms. Vitaliti taught as a Spanish and Special Education teacher and ELA Bilingual Special Education

teacher in NYC, and was recently selected as a Latinx Teachers' Fellow for Latinos for Education. Ms. Vitaliti has challenged herself in new environments and invites change as a part of the growth process. By quickly taking on new roles, she defines her teaching experience with the word "agility."

The ABA Environmental Program Partners with Greens Do Good



An eager team of students from Mr. Sander's Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) Environmental class have been learning how to plant, seed, water, and harvest produce. They have acquired skills for two growing techniques: the more traditional process where they use soil, garden beds and/or pots, and the less traditional setting, where they skip the soil and grow crops directly in nutrient-rich water, known as hydroponic farming. Presently, these students are raising basil, parsley, spinach, radishes, cilantro, romaine lettuce, catnip, two kinds of flowers (Calendula and Rubenza Cosmos), micro greens and kale. In the future, the students will sell their products to faculty and staff. This will consist of students taking orders, collecting money and distributing their products around the school.

Environmental Science teachers Mr. Sanders and Mr. Goodman, Director of Special Education Mr. Paternoster, and PV/Bergen Program Supervisor Ms. Dubil-Craig worked together to partner with Greens Do Good, an indoor hydroponic vertical farm in Hackensack, NJ. Greens Do Good focuses on providing adults with autism a sense of purpose, paid employment, and meaningful participation in the community. Our partnership enables Passaic Valley's ABA students in Environmental Science the opportunity to become a part of the Greens Do Good Workforce Development Program. Students gain valuable vocational skills and lay out the foundation for future independence. Greens Do Good grows, packages, and sells directly from farm to restaurants, specialty markets, country clubs, and caterers. Their greens can be found at the following local businesses: Bottagra Restaurant in Hawthorne, NJ, Edgewood Country Club, Alt Eats Cafe in Ho Ho Kus, NJ, and multiple Shoprite locations.

"I have never worked with this population of students and I have found it to be extremely rewarding on both a personal and professional level," said Mr. Sanders. "In the short amount of time this class has been running the students have shown incredible growth. They have gone from not knowing how to plant a seed, to planting and caring for hundreds of plants in the matter of a month."

The Hornet family is extremely grateful for the efforts of the members at Greens Do Good for their selfless dedication to our program and "growing for a greater good"!

Connect & Unite

Start With Hello Week

PVRHS enjoyed another successful year supporting *Start With Hello* week, one of Sandy Hook Promise's no-cost "Know the Signs" programs. Through this initiative, we organize activities and curricula to teach and empower students to end social isolation and reinforce a culture of inclusion. The Senior mentors are now teaching the program to 9th graders! A big thank you to Mrs. Morris and Mrs. Vigilante for organizing all the activities that make *Start with Hello* week so effective, and for advising the Senior Mentoring program.



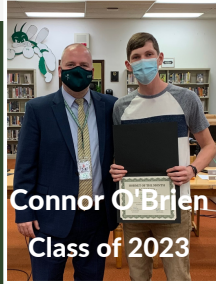
Veterans Day 2021

In honor of Veterans Day, Superintendent Healy and student volunteers worked together to plant American flags around the perimeter of the entire Passaic Valley campus. Lesson plans were a designed to help students understand the significance of Veterans Day and the meaning of sacrifice. We are fortunate to have such courageous and selfless individuals protecting our freedom and way of life!

HORNETS OF THE MONTH

ACADEMICS

Connor O'Brien is a dedicated student who is extremely intelligent and loves learning new things. Connor is a well-rounded, kind and helpful young man who, his teachers express, is an absolute joy to have in class!



Connor O'Brien
Class of 2023

"Grace stands out in a class full of exceptional students as being extremely attentive and focused on the lesson; she is self-motivated, and enters my classroom every day with a desire that is clearly evident. Her work is always done meticulously and with a tremendous amount of research into the topic." - Mr. Block



Grace Martinez
Class of 2023

CHARACTER

Irene Urgolo encourages students to participate in a monthly emotional communication group during their lunch period with Mr. Paternoster. He commented, "it is refreshing to see someone reach out to others and construct such a valuable communication network within the school."



Irene Urgolo
Class of 2022

Nifaz Razzak is very well-mannered and his enthusiasm is contagious. Recently, Ms. Mulcahy informed him that a former teacher of his was ill. He was genuinely concerned. His maturity, coupled with his compassion, was noteworthy. He even took it upon himself to send the staff member an email to check in.



Nifaz Razzak
Class of 2024

ATHLETICS

Carissa Ostolaza's volleyball coaches commented that she is very consistent and reliable on the court. She also happens to be one of the best hitters in the county. She is well-respected by her teammates and is one of the nicest students they have ever coached.



Carissa Ostolaza
Class of 2022

Dominic Meola is a captain and a consummate leader of the football team. He threw for 9 touchdowns and 850 yards in the month of October. He is a person of high character in our hallways, on the field, and in the community.



Dominic Meola
Class of 2022

Brianna LaRosa is a four year varsity starter and member of the soccer program. During the week of October 11, Brianna scored 9 goals in just two games. Brianna was awarded First Team All League and Second Team All County as one of the top 6 Forwards in Passaic County.



Brianna LaRosa
Class of 2022



Thank You for Attending Our OPEN HOUSE 2021

The annual Open House was held on November 11 and welcomed nearly 300 prospective students and their families to our campus. It was a perfect way for guests to see "a day in the life" of a Hornet! Guests learned about academic program enhancements, how to earn college credits, AP courses, peer leadership and student services, and athletic and extracurricular opportunities. We look forward to seeing these future Hornets back on our campus come September 2022!



SPORTS REPORT

IT'S A GREAT DAY TO BE A HORNET



Volleyball

Passaic Valley Girls' Volleyball was our most successful team this Fall season. The team won 13 games and qualified for the NJSIAA State Tournament Playoffs. They defeated Lodi and Leonia in the playoffs and ultimately lost in the semi-finals to West Morris Central High School. This was PV Girls' Volleyball's best advancement in the NJSIAA State Tournament Playoffs since 2013.

Boys' Soccer

PVRHS' Boys' Soccer had 7 wins this season and qualified for the NJSIAA State Tournament Playoffs. The Hornets Soccer team's season was highlighted with a great win over DePaul in the county tournament 3-1.

Football

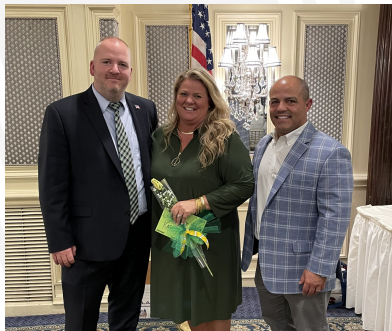
The Hornets closed out the grass on Walton Field with a win over Wayne Valley (28-21) on Saturday October 30, 2021. Since September 1950, 71 years of football was played on the grass of Walton Field. We embrace all the history and countless plays that took place on Walton Field, and look forward to our future on our new complex!



YOUNG MANZI OF THE YEAR



Senior Football Player Andre Manzi was selected as Passaic Valley's recipient for the Super Football Conference (SFC) Steve DiGregorio Young Man of the Year Award! The SFC Young Man of the Year Award emphasizes community service, selflessness, leadership, academic standing, and a positive attitude. Congratulations, Andre!



HEAD SOFTBALL COACH KATHY HILL
Passaic County Coach of the Year

It is with great excitement and pride that our Head Softball Coach, Kathy Hill, has been selected as the Passaic County Coach Of The Year. Last year, Coach Hill led her team to a back to back League Championship as well as a Passaic County Championship for the first time in 33 years! Congratulations, Coach Hill! You are very deserving of this prestigious honor

IN OCTOBER PV WEARS PINK



In honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, every October our Hornet sports teams hold Breast Cancer Awareness games to raise awareness and support the fighters, admire the survivors, and honor the taken.



"La Gringa"

PASSAIC VALLEY THEATER'S
FALL PRODUCTION



Senior Class President and talented member of the PV Drama Club, Christopher Perez, is awarded the Legacy Robe on opening night. This is PV tradition adopted from Broadway to recognize an individuals contributions to the theater community.



Stars

Mallory Cestone, Gabriella Cielo, Julian Esquivel, Connor Meletta, Christopher Perez and Jeneily Ruano.

The Passaic Valley Drama Club lit up the stage in October with their fall production, "La Gringa." The play was about a young Puerto Rican woman's search for her identity. "If she's a Puerto Rican in the United States and an American in Puerto Rico - she is nobody everywhere." Her uncle, Manolo, spiritually teaches her that identity isn't based on superficial and external definitions, but rather is an essence that she has had all along in her heart.

Lead Actress Jeneily Ruano played Maria Garcia and took the PV stage for her first ever lead. "My favorite thing about playing Maria was that I felt so connected with her," said Ruano. "She has this bond with every character that no matter how much they've been through, she still loves them no matter what. I feel the same way with my family and my cast family."



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