



Edition 7, February 20, 2026

## News of the Nest

### Women's Basketball Senior Night

by Izzy Stevens



On February 13th, our women's basketball team played our last home game against Hinsdale. The team played a great game, with many break-away layups, rebounds, steals, deflections, and most importantly, points. The final score was 71-35, Ava Buchanan leading the team with 36 points. Ava also led in rebounds as well, with 14 in total. Some notable stats for the team as a whole: 11 assists, 25 steals, 30 deflections, and only 6 turnovers. After the game was played, Coach Katie Robertson shared some incredible words and a thoughtful prayer for Ava, our only senior this year. Next, I stood up and said some things about Ava and how much she meant to me and the team. As her co-captain this year and last year, it will be hard to lead a growing team without her, but her impact on all of us will remain forever. We will always be grateful for everything she puts into this team. It will be very different without her next year, not seeing a number five jersey playing alongside us, but she will forever have a special place on the team and in our hearts. Her legacy will live on throughout the school, as she was just crowned the school's "All-Time Leading Scorer."



## Men's Varsity Basketball Senior Night by Sophia Workman

Senior Night is one of the most important events in any high school athlete's career. It celebrates the time and effort they've given and the legacy they leave for the sport. Men's Varsity Basketball Senior Night was no different, and fans saw the celebration of PCA's three senior players: Cai Summers, Josiah Ludwig, and Haoming Zhu. The game, on February 13th, saw the Eagles face off one of their toughest competitors, Hinsdale. The PCA Eagles, however, were able to come up with a 55-50 win.



Each of the senior players are vital parts of the team and have made significant impacts in their time here. Currently, Cai Summers, a top scorer for the Eagles, is out on injury and is hoping to return in time for the Eagles playoff run. As a result of this injury, Cai was unable to play in this game. Despite this, he has made a strong legacy for himself as a dominant player and one of the few to score over 1000 points. Josiah and Haoming both had standout games and helped contribute to the win over Hinsdale. Josiah had numerous strong plays in which he made blocks and fast breaks to bring momentum for the Eagles, much like he has done all season.

Haoming played a strong game as well, having several steals and playing an aggressive defensive game, keeping the Hinsdale Pacers from overtaking the Eagles. As fans look to the future of this season, the Eagles have a strong placement in the playoff standings and are seeking to continue their strong performance in the post-season, where the seniors will no doubt continue to play their hearts out as they step on the court for what could be the last time.





# Student Life

## An Interview with Mrs. Sporko

by Lucy Arico

As the PCA juniors start the application process for the competitive Prefect Program next year, Mrs. Sporko has provided some helpful insight. But to start, what is being a prefect all about? This leadership opportunity is where PCA's mission crosses over with real-life application. A student with God-given leadership potential can work to maximize their skills to become a Christ-centered student leader who can impact PCA and the world for good. Specifically, prefects work to answer the question, "How can we make PCA a better place?" As many know, the program is run by Mrs. Sporko, who offers several insights into the program. She is encouraged by the growth of the program this year. They have been able to refine the focus of the program and discover what truly works for the prefects and the student body in general. For example, they implemented several new events, such as the Class Cup and the Thanksgiving feast. Mrs. Sporko would love to see the program keep momentum into the following years so we can hopefully implement some fun and meaningful PCA traditions.

When Mrs. Sporko was asked what advice she would give to applicants, she said, "Work hard on the essay!" In this part of the application process, students process their Philosophy of Leadership. This is an amazing opportunity to articulate ideas and represent what you think well. This essay will also set students up for the interview later in the application process, for the prefect class, or for leadership in general. After writing this essay, students can process intentional leadership grounded in principles and a biblical worldview.

Through the process of teaching this class, Mrs. Sporko has learned the power of saying yes! She has found that what is valuable is not always what is easiest. Put in the work; it will pay off!





## Puerto Rico by Sienna Littlefield

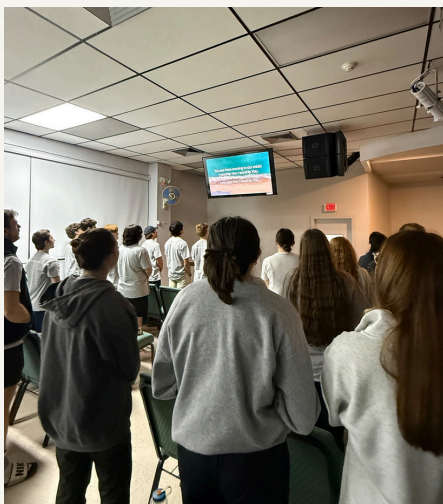
This week I had the pleasure of interviewing two amazing PCA students: Alex Child and Caterina Hutt. Both girls are attending the Puerto Rico mission trip this year. Caterina has gone before, but this will be Alex's first time. Both girls have a mix of eagerness and anxiety, so here are both of their thoughts as the trip approaches!

Since this is Alex's first time attending the annual PCA mission trip to Puerto Rico, she says she doesn't know what to expect. She stated that she is deliberately going on the trip without a head full of expectations, keeping an open mind to all the possibilities. There are many ways for how this trip could go, so Alex is excited to see where her path will lead. She is most excited to experience the Puerto Rican culture and converse with Puerto Rican locals, speaking as much Spanish as she can. Like Caterina, Alex is looking forward to bonding with her peers and small group. She can see how close they have gotten already and is eager to see how much closer they can grow. Overall, she is a little nervous, but nevertheless, she is excited for the experience and good vibes!



Caterina, on the other hand, has gone on the mission trip before, so she knows more what she should expect. Despite this - similar to Alex - Caterina is a bit nervous going into the trip. This is mostly because she has a goal to be completely obedient to the Lord and what He calls her to do, no matter how uncomfortable she is. She expects that the Lord will work in miraculous ways, but this might mean that she will have to step out of her comfort zone to serve. She also expects that her group will grow closer to each other because of their common goal of serving the Lord, just as Alex hopes her group will. Caterina is determined to listen more to her peers, co-missionaries, and the Puerto Ricans she's serving. She has already made relations with many people she met last year in Puerto Rico, but she is looking forward to meeting even more people as well as deepening her relationships with those whom she has already met. More than any of these, Caterina hopes that they can all honor the Lord and live out His perfect will (and have fun, of course!).

Both of these girls are looking forward to the mission trip and the adventure it will bring. Each girl has her own challenge that she is eager to overcome. Whether it is Alex navigating the language barrier and bonding with her peers or Caterina's determination to devote her works to Christ and walk with obedience, the Puerto Rico mission trip serves to push each student into new areas of life they would never have experienced otherwise.





# Teacher Feature

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## **Mrs. Henker** By Anna Tolley

I had the pleasure of chatting during lunch with Mrs. Henker this week. Mrs. Henker has been teaching English at PCA for almost two years and previously spent three years as the Lower School librarian. Not only did I get to learn more about her passion for the Lord and for teaching, but I also learned that Mrs. Henker enjoys things she calls “granny hobbies” like embroidery and crossword puzzles. I also learned that Mrs. Henker’s favorite subject in high school was history because of her exceptional teacher, Mr. Packard. He was an endearing old man, she explained, with an eye patch over one eye that made him seem like a pirate. He was passionate and serious but loved by all his students. She remembered fondly how he gave her, “a limitless curiosity about the world” each class. Similarly, it is evident how much time and care Mrs. Henker puts into each class and how much she loves each and every one of her students. She told me she has really enjoyed teaching at the Upper School this year and described it as a fun and “wild ride.” During our discussion, I could tell that her favorite part is connecting with her students. She cares for them deeply and wants to show them more about the world they live in through literature. They have been her favorite part of PCA. Mrs. Henker said that her favorite things to teach are good pieces of writing because “good writing is full of truth and beauty.” She loves that at PCA she is able to “celebrate Christ at the center of all truth and beauty” even when He is not explicitly shown in every work. If she had to pick a specific unit as her favorite, she would pick the final unit of her Great Works course. In this unit students choose contemporary non-fiction works to read, present to the class, and specifically, to wrestle with. Mrs. Henker loves to get her students thinking about the modern world and how they are “kingdom workers” for the Lord each and every day.



## **Mr. Anderson** By Viola Fillion

This is Mr. Anderson’s first year at PCA, and he has enjoyed it greatly so far. He is teaching the sophomores and juniors in history, which he remembers fondly as his favorite subject in high school. For him, history is a story that he looks forward to teaching every day. He has been teaching for many years, but PCA is a lot different than the school he used to teach at in Vermont, which focused a lot more on individual tutoring. He says that he enjoys PCA a lot, and the students have been curious and eager to learn. He mentions that the other teachers are friendly and he really likes being at the Upper School. Meeting the people in his new environment has been one of his favorite aspects of this year, and he is really enjoying how he is settling into the PCA community. Outside of teaching, he writes reviews and articles about restaurants and museums, and he looks forward to getting paid to eat good food and explore each new exhibit.



# Devotional

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**By Bianca Wibowo**

*Galatians 5:22-23: “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.”*

When we were younger, we might have heard this verse in song form, stating that the fruit of the spirit is not various kinds of physical, edible fruit. Now that we are older and have gotten past the fact that the fruit of the spirit is not literal food, we can dive a little deeper into what each attribute signifies. Something to be noted from this verse is the fact that it refers to these qualities as “fruit” rather than “fruits.” Each of the qualities grow together as one as your faith in God grows. Love involves action, it is choosing to care about others just as Jesus did. To love is the greatest command Jesus has given us; he tells us to love God and to love our neighbors (Matthew 22:34-40). Joy is characterized by confidence in the midst of suffering and trials. It requires endurance, even when life seems daunting and overwhelming. Peace is being calm during chaos, and it comes from God, as his peace surpasses our understanding and guards our hearts (Philippians 4:7). Patience involves steadfast endurance. For example, waiting for prayers to be answered and being slow to anger, even when the situation is frustrating, demonstrates patience. Kindness is more than just being polite; it involves a deliberate and compassionate action. Goodness is kindness in action and involves encouragement, such as showing up for your friends and cheering them on. Faithfulness requires loyalty and sticking with commitments. It also means staying true to your faith in God, even when the world around you has different opinions. Gentleness is responding with grace, humility, and forgiveness. It’s associated with meekness, which is strength under control. Lastly, self-control is controlling our behavior and making choices that honor God rather than the world. It’s allowing God to move in our lives and letting him guide our choices. All of this to say, when we remain in the Lord, spiritual fruit can grow. However, it isn’t immediate. Like physical fruit, growth takes time and cultivation, which is done through prayer, worship, and reading Scripture. By taking a few minutes out of our day to talk to God, to thank him for all that He’s done, and by communicating to Him through His word, we can cultivate this fruit.



# Fine Arts

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## Festival Informance

By Abby Hammer

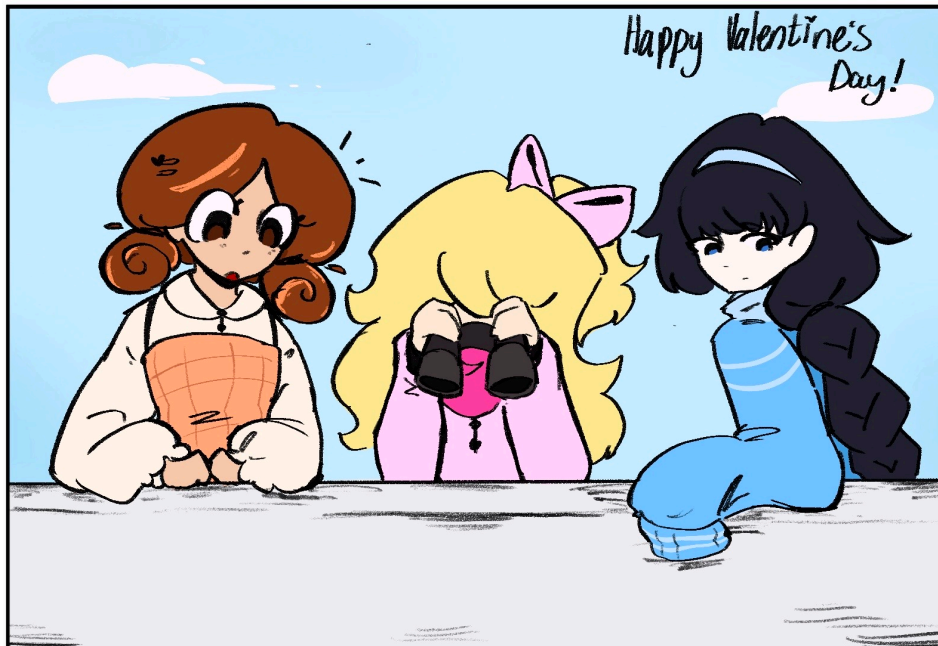
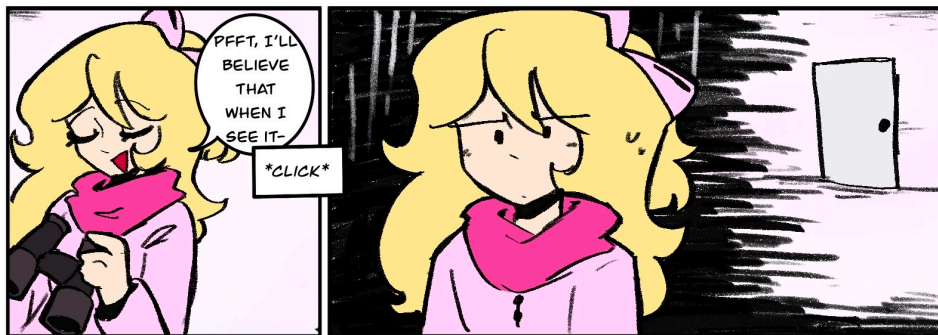
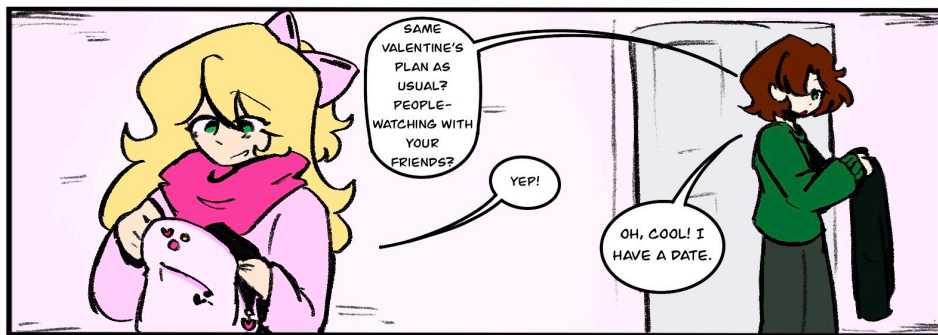
This week, I had the pleasure of talking to Mrs. Fillion about the Informance that took place this past Wednesday evening. A group of our very own PCA players will be competing in a regional theatre competition in March. They have to be able to adhere to strict time limits as they set up, perform, and tear down, all while being critiqued on every aspect of their show by a panel of judges. The top schools from the regional competition will move on to States, and then, hopefully, to New England's. This week, they opened up their show for the community to see. The Informance was not just a run-through of their show, *Back Cover*, but an opportunity to invite the community into the process. The community was able to participate in dramatic readings, theatre games, give feedback on the show, and have an inside look into the overall theatrical process. Mrs. Fillion said that she has been blown away by the cast's hard work as they have pulled this production together. As they take this feedback and look toward their competition, they hope for success. In speaking about the group, she said, "Ultimately, it's not about how far we get in the competition. This cast has grown and developed in their knowledge and understanding of the craft. They've created a compassionate community that has encouraged one another and shared their gifts and talents with others." No matter how they perform, no matter what the judges think, they know it is for an Audience of One, and all glory be to God.





# Katts with a Zee

By Catherine Scolamiero





# Eagle Eyes

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## Cody Cresta by Linnie Ngamcharoenthana

As the month of February draws to a close, I got to talk to Cody Cresta. He is a junior this year and has been attending PCA since kindergarten. The date of this publication is actually his 17th birthday, so happy birthday, Cody! Among many of his other interests, Cody often finds himself in the world of theatre. While he enjoys acting, he has also been an extremely effective stage manager, starting as an assistant stage manager his sophomore year and taking the lead to manage the spring musical, *The Music Man*, last year. I asked him what made him decide to start stage managing, and he explained that, while he had tried acting in eighth grade, he found himself more interested in the behind-the-scenes aspect of the production. He also tied this to an interest in leadership, thinking it would be a great opportunity to develop leadership skills by ensuring that everything functions smoothly for the show. The biggest challenges he faces as a stage manager are technical difficulties and a few problematic scenes here and there. Nevertheless, he still finds it to be a deeply rewarding process, as he gets to spend time with friends and thoroughly enjoys watching the end product come together, seeing everyone's efforts "come to fruition." A piece of encouragement Cody offers to those interested in stage managing is that it's a fun time, and it's not as hard as it looks. He says simply to "put your mind to it," not only because it's worth it to see the show come together, but also because it's a wonderful way to "honor God in our craft through dedicating it to him." Finally, I asked Cody if he was looking forward to our upcoming musical, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, and he said, "Yes! It's a good show, and we have a great team and great actors."

## Evangeline Anella by Maeve Bowden

Before heading into February break, I got the chance to interview Evangeline Anella. Eve is a freshman this year and has been coming to PCA since preschool, making this her 11th year. I asked her, this being her first year in the Upper School, how her experience has been so far. She told me that it is a lot more easygoing than years past, and that she enjoys how classes go more in depth than they did when she was in middle school. While she did admit that it is more difficult due to the increase in homework being given, she feels more relaxed being in high school. She enjoys feeling more independent and having different classes where she gets to move between buildings for a change of scenery throughout the day, instead of only having classes in her homeroom. Next, I asked her who someone in her life that inspires her is, and who motivates her most. Eve said that her mom is her main inspiration, "just because she's such a good person to everyone she interacts with." In terms of motivators, she said that her sister Sarafina pushes her to do her best, as she enjoys keeping up with her as a form of healthy competition. I then asked if she had a favorite verse in the Bible, and to this Eve told me that she repeats Psalm 56:3 every night which reads, "When I am afraid, I put my trust in you." Eve used to say this to comfort herself at night when she was afraid of the dark, but now it is meaningful to her as it serves as a reminder for her that God is in control. Finally, I asked what Eve's go-to drink order is, and she said that she loves getting the Mango Daydream refresher from Dunkin'.





