

# The Bear Times

*Spring 2018 Edition*

*Pleasant Valley Middle School*

*Volume 5, Issue 3*

## Editor's Note

As editor of the Bear Times, I have had the opportunity to interview teachers and staff members to see not only how much work goes into coordinating events but even the daily tasks of running the middle school. However, as a student for the past two years, I have had amazing experiences that go far beyond the classroom. I have learned lessons that will last a lifetime.

For example, I have learned that hard work *always* pays off. I have also learned that our PVMS staff cares, wants to help our students, and are always there for us. Our teachers are amazing people, equipping our next generation with the tools needed to enter the real world. They are not just teachers, they are dedicated, caring human beings.

On the last day of school when I walk out of the glass middle school doors for the last time, I will be saying "Thank you!" -- because the staff here at PVMS deserves it!

**- Tyler Mann**



*"I have learned that hard work always pays off."*

*- Outgoing Bear Times Editor, Tyler Mann*



# PVMS POETRY SLAM!



## **Writing.**

**So easily misunderstood.**

**Writing is not just putting  
words on a paper.**

**It's expressive.**

**It's more than some  
symbols and lines.**

**Writing, in so many ways  
to understand, is life,**

**a vortex of light,**

**a torch in a cave.**

**It empowers you,**

**but it can tear you down.**

**So why am I writing on  
this piece of paper?**

**It was my destiny.**

**- Antonio Ayala**

On May 29, students, staff, and PVMS family members gathered to celebrate the sheer power of words.

Organized by Mrs. Lucas and Mrs. Anglemyer, the 1st Annual PVMS Poetry Slam featured original student and staff poetry, incredible artwork, and heartfelt performances. Guests relaxed in a cozy, dimly-lit gym and sank into the beauty and creativity offered by students and staff.

Poems expressed joy, struggles, hopes, dreams, awe of nature -- life. Mrs. Krall commended all poets and artists for "their honesty, creativity, hard work, and courage." As Mrs. Lucas noted when introducing our poets, "Sometimes we have something to say."

A great big thank you to everyone involved in this amazing celebration of student expression. We at the Bear Times have a feeling that we've experienced just the slightest glimmer of the enormous talent our student writers and artists have to offer.

**- Tyler Mann**

# PVMS POETRY SLAM!

## Featured Poets

Sydney Jeker  
Ellyot Castillo  
Ariana Bass  
Gretchen Finkbeiner  
Justin Amoruso  
Jenna Zerilli  
Dashawn Hines  
Kassidy Shupp  
Samantha Weddermann  
Lillian Warnken  
Amara Rubino  
Kaitlyn Lampke  
Autumn Castro  
Lucas Rommel  
Em Roberti  
Addison Snyder  
Michael Richardson  
Kierra Purgar  
James Syracuse  
Antonio Ayala  
Jarod Moore  
Caia Harris  
Bella Verhage  
Marissa Ojeda  
Mrs. Werkheiser  
Ashley Kovacs  
Samara Pruden  
Gino Guerrisi  
Candace Summers  
Lauren Batstone  
Lindsey Baldwin  
Jenna Foster  
Briana Noel  
Mrs. Krall  
Riley Statler  
Lishka Soto-Semidey

*The Raindrop, Nature, Yes I Am Nature*  
*Not So Sunny*  
*Untitled (Bumblebee)*  
*What is the Meaning of Life?*  
*What If?*  
*Happy Place*  
*Untitled (I Was Born)*  
*Surgery*  
*Music, Every Day, Mother*  
*Friends*  
*Untitled (Indulge)*  
*I'm Tired*  
*Last Goodbyes*  
*Untitled (Vast Expanse)*  
*Still Fighting, A2 Teachers*  
*Untitled (You Told Me)*  
*School Chaos*  
*Untitled*  
*I Am*  
*Untitled (Writing)*  
*Untitled*  
*Is Life a Game?*  
*Blind*  
*Depression*  
*Walt Disney*  
*Spring's Arrival*  
*Vine*  
*Untitled*  
*Here One Day, Gone the Next*  
*(Untitled) I Crossed the Line*  
*Control*  
*Lies*  
*An Act*  
*Joseph's Legacy*  
*Sword vs. Shield*  
*Untitled*



# PVMS POETRY SLAM!

## Shade

I am a shade  
A covert ghost unseen by many  
As I sit and watch the days go by  
I see the faces that I have always  
recognized  
They have never really known me  
They don't want to  
But I have grown used to it all now  
because I am a shade  
Unperturbed by the words and  
actions of others  
That is  
Until it tears me to shreds  
Piece by piece

- Ziara Marshall

## Not So Sunny

The sun is shining  
You can see summer's coming  
But it had to rain.

- Ellyot Castillo

**A soft bumblebee  
darkest black and  
subtle yellow  
sits on a tulip.**

- Ariana Bass

## Untitled

I'm an eagle,  
I can't fly,  
I can't be independent,  
I can't find my own food,  
I am still an eagle, right?

I represent freedom because of how brave I  
look,  
What if I am not brave?  
Am I still an eagle?  
How do the other birds feel?

I see them fly,  
I see them all alone,  
I see them as hunters,  
No one cares because they are small.

Does it matter they aren't big?  
They aren't loud when they chirp,  
They don't look strong,  
Is it really that bad?

Am I a better bird because of how I look?  
Do humans think that too?  
It's not right,  
But we speak a different language,  
I can't stop them.

But it's okay, I'll live,  
Even if I can't fly,  
Even if I can't be solitude,  
Even if I can't get food,  
I'll live,  
Somehow.

- Lishka Soto-Semidey

## A Look Inside: PVMS Library

Most students are unaware of the responsibilities of PVMS librarian Mrs. BonLore. The fact is she does much, much more than checking out books for students: she helps teachers with planning lessons and makes sure all library materials are in excellent condition for students to check out.

Mrs. BonLore became a librarian because she loves to read. In fact, she believes that everyone likes to read, they just have to find what they like first.

When asked what she loves most when reading, she smiled and revealed, “happy endings.”

Mrs. DeBarry is the library paraprofessional, and her favorite part about the library is seeing and helping all of our PVMS students.

Her work in the library consists of checking in books and resources and making sure resources are ready for the students. She loves the quiet of the library and finds helping students rewarding.

Mrs. Debarry loves to read a surprise ending, and her favorite book at the moment is *The Wedding* by Nicholas Sparks.

- Tyler Mann and Sophia Tauer

## Student Government Association

The Student Government Association, or better known as the SGA, is an amazing group of middle-schoolers. Reflecting on these last months, SGA members can proudly say they have had quite a busy, productive, meaningful year. SGA members worked hard, promoted an atmosphere of giving back to our community, and served as inspirational role models for the PVMS community.

SGA members came together to co-host the 7th grade dance with the National Junior Honor Society, held a food drive and threw a bagel party for the winning homeroom, made Survival Bags for the homeless, collected cereal for our local food pantry -- to name just a few activities!

Co-Advisors Mrs. Dekmar and Mrs. D’Agostino did a wonderful job not only guiding the SGA, but also preparing eighth-grade members for high school. SGA is an invaluable organization, and we salute their year-long efforts to make not only PVMS but our community a healthy, happy, giving community!

# Bear Sports

## Track and Field

Mrs. Eisenhower coaches middle school track because it is one of her favorite sports. “It’s fun to teach new skills,” she shared.

This particular season, her goals included encouraging students to be excited about track and field, helping athletes increase their PR and encouraging teamwork. About 50-60 middle school students per year participate in track and field, and each athlete can participate in up to 4 events.

Coach Eisenhower indicated that when compared to contact sports, track and field is relatively safe, apart from muscle strains which are common. She encourages athletes playing more than one sport, as “it can boost play.”

She also explained one significant difference between high school and middle school track: in high school workouts are more independent and athletes are expected to push themselves, whereas middle school athletes receive more guidance and supervision.

**-Zac Hayes**

## Athlete One-to-One: Mandy Beade

**How do you think your team did overall this season?**

I was very worried at the beginning of the season because many of them have never played before. We didn't win many games, but that didn't matter because the girls on the team became like family and that's all that really matters.

**Individually how do you think you did motivating your teammates and yourself?**

I did a good job. When the girls had any questions they mostly came to me, At games, I'd always try to give them talks to pump them up to play their best and help them.

**What were your team and individual goals?**

My individual goal was to improve my pitching. I didn't get much time on the mound as I wanted this season, but it gave me a chance to try other positions that as it turned out, I like.

As a team we struggled to get wins on the season, so that was our main goal. We ended with about 3 or 4 wins, and I'm proud of our team.

**What were the new positions your coaches opened up to you?**

They put me at shortstop, but I'm used to playing outfield on my other team. Moving to shortstop opened up a different opportunity by learning a new position and I'm thankful they did that.

**- Jarod Moore**

# Every Day is EARTH DAY

*7th grade reporter Julia Gower sat down with Mrs. Lovito for her thoughts on our planet and to discover how we can ALL do our part.*

**JG:** Earth Day seems more important than ever, and its focus has widened to bringing attention to problems far greater than littering. What, in your opinion, should students know about the health of our planet?

**ML:** Our planet's health is in trouble and has been for a long time. I remember the energy crisis in the 70s -- President Carter put up solar panels in the White House and did not use air conditioning, but when President Reagan came into office he took them down. This is unfortunately a political issue, and I struggle between both parties about global warming. But we should take either side and be on Mother Nature's side.

Unless we all make an effort to learn about sustainability and become environmentally conscious and active, the earth's health will not get any better and will continue to decline.

Many students have lots of free time that they could use toward volunteering and helping their communities reduce their environmental footprint. Students should know it will be their environmental activism that will be necessary for real change. It will be their ideas that will be used to come up with new solutions to our current and future problems with climate change and pollution.

**JG:** As a teacher and a parent, what does Earth Day mean to you?

**ML:** It's a day to learn about how we can take care of our planet and educate those around us about our natural resources, which are important to our own health.

It's also a good day to reflect that every day can be Earth Day if we get in the habit of thinking about our impact on the environment.

**JG:** Can you recommend one small, easy thing our PVMS students can do every day that will make a big impact on our planet's health?

**ML:** Reduce, reuse, and recycle as many things as possible. Conserve water, and use less plastic.

We should look for ways to reduce our waste and environmental impact. For example, students could help in the cafeteria by organizing a plan to add recycling bins for trash, recyclables, and food that can be composted. Okay, so that might not be just one thing or that easy, but it can be done and would make a big impact if you think about the number of people and the waste created in this building.

**How can a student learn more about the choices he or she makes and how these choices impact the environment?**

**ML:** That's really easy. Just go online and research how you can help the environment. There are many great websites and resources available. You can also get involved and volunteer at your local state park, participate in community cleanups, join earth friendly organizations like the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. Help educate the people around you. Be a good citizen and role model.

**If you had to come up with a slogan for Earth Day, what would it be?**

**ML:** *Every Day is Earth Day*, because we need to be reminded that our daily activities affect the earth's health.

# Bear Questionnaire

In the late nineteenth century, lists of questions were a popular hobby designed to discover new things about family and friends.

When French author Marcel Proust was fourteen years old, his friend asked him this now infamous list of questions, popularized today by *Vanity Fair* magazine.

Drawing inspiration from the “Proust Questionnaire”, Bear Times journalist sat down with our 8th grade Reading Teacher and SGA co-advisor, Mrs. Dekmar, and asked for a sneak peak inside of her world.

***What is your chief characteristic?***

Loving.

***If you could live anywhere in the world, where would you choose?***

I would live on the ocean or on a beach.

***If you could have any superhero power, which would you choose?***

Invisibility.

***Who are your favorite authors and why?***

I like to read Nicholas Sparks because he writes about what he knows, and he can easily take me away. I also love reading historical fiction.

and my mind struggled in an unsuccessful attempt to discover where I was, everything would be moving round me through the darkness: things, places, years.

- Marcel Proust, *Swann's Way*

***What is your motto?***

“Work hard, play harder.”

***What is your inspiration?***

Faith and family. They inspire me to do my best everyday.

***What is your definition of friendship?***

Having an unconditional relationship, full of common experiences. Friends make sure you embrace who you are, and no walls are put up with true friends.

***What is your definition of kindness?***

My definition of kindness is being respectful, giving, having support and joy.

***What are the key characteristics of a successful student?***

A student must always work hard, ask questions, take challenges, and most of all always tries his or her best.

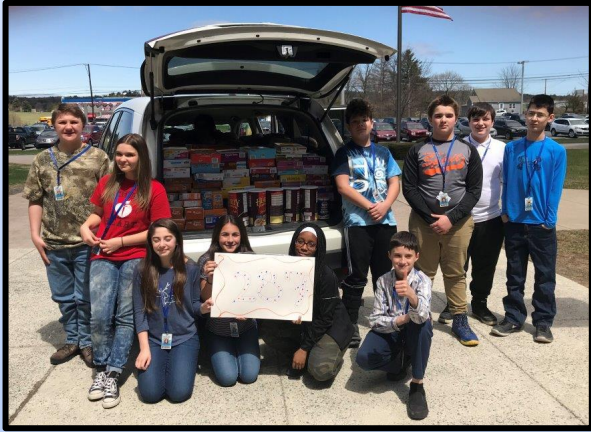
***Thank you Mrs. Dekmar for always(!) inspiring PVMS staff and students to be the best version of ourselves!***





# National Junior Honor Society

## Serious For Cereal



This spring, our NJHS got serious about cereal! The West End Food Pantry, which provides food to over 250 families in the West End community, needed our help, and once again PVMS came shining through.

PVMS students rallied to collect 287 boxes of cereal and earned themselves a dress-down day for helping others in need. Thank you NJHS members for serving as inspirational role models who *always* think of others' needs!

## Spring Update

Our NJHS has been fundraising all year to raise enough money to go on a field trip. It has been quite awhile since NJHS members enjoyed a field trip, and advisors Mrs. Butchkoski and Mrs. Wotjon wanted to reward hard-working NJHS members. Having met its fundraising goal -- *go NJHS!* -- students traveled to Stony Acres to participate in team building and trust exercises.

NJHS has grown in the last few months, and new inductees have been busy attending meetings and fundraising.

Elections for the 2018-2019 officers were held on May 16, with offices awarded to the following students:

**President:** *Jaclyn James*

**Vice President:** *Brinley Altemus*

**Secretary:** *Sofia Tauer*

**Treasurer:** *Owen Hedgelon*

**Activities Coordinator:**

*Karina Bernatowicz*

Congratulations and good luck to all new officers, and a **H U G E** thank you to members for all that you do throughout the year for not only our school, but for our entire community! We are proud of you!

**- Kendyl Ramsay**

# Voices From The Halls

With the days growing warmer and students growing restless, our curious Bear Times' reporters asked students about their plans for the first day of summer vacation -- sleep is pretty popular!

**Hang out with cousins  
at Coney Island.**

-- **Giovanna Edwards**

**Sleep and  
Fortnite.**  
-- **John Smale**

**Netflix and sleep!**  
-- **Samantha Carey**

**Soccer. Swim.  
Sleep.**  
-- **Ashley Kovacs**

**Listen to that new  
Drake album when  
it drops.**  
-- **Amara Rubino**

**Sleep in, watch Netflix  
and go to the pool.**  
-- **Gretchen Finkbeiner**

**Go to Florida. Eat.  
Explore.**

-- **Chelsea Albert**

**Read, write, garden,  
travel, and run!**  
-- **Mrs. Krall**



*Students thinking about only three days of school left... all together, floss!!!*

# 7th Grade Field Day 2018!

*Taking a breather...*



*Mrs. Butchkoski rallies her troops!*



*Mr. Fleming explains team relay procedures.*



*Pull!!! Pull!!! Pull!!!*



# Bear Happenings

- ★ Kassidy Shupp brought home the 2<sup>nd</sup> place(!) team medal at the NPCTM Math competition on Thursday, May 31. ***Congratulations*** to Kassidy and all of our PVMS participants!
- ★ Congratulations to Mr. Devivo and all 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade band students who participated in the wonderful PVMS band concert held Tuesday May 8th!
- ★ Senora Santiago's Spanish I class celebrated Cinco De Mayo by hosting a Salsa/Guacamole/Pinata Contest. Students and staff sampled traditional Mexican dips as they learned the history behind this yummy, fun holiday!



### ***Salsa Winners:***

Lucas Romel  
Kelly Kaye  
Skylar Esposito

### ***Guacamole Winners:***

Nathan Jacobi  
Meghan Boyne  
Jordan Kautzsch



- ★ Mrs. Hill and Mrs. Priebe along with our PVMS Environmental Club attended the Monroe County Jr. Envirothon on Wednesday May 9th .

### ***Participants:***

#### **8th grade:**

Zack Dooner  
Kaitlyn Kenney  
Hailey Leap

#### **7th grade:**

Owen Altemose  
Megan Chechel  
Sherri Dunaway  
Vincent Gabriele  
Dylan Kolb  
Arianna Manwiller

# 2017-18 Bear Times Staff

## ***7th Grade Journalists***

Paige Alexander  
Antonio Ayala  
Triniti Dalrymple  
Julia Gower  
Zachary Hayes  
Jarod Moore  
Molly O'Brien  
Sophia Tauer

## ***8th Grade Reporters***

Kailee Gentiles  
Mattison Hyland  
Kendyl Ramsay

## ***Contributing Photographers***

Chelsea Albert  
Kierra Purgar

## ***Editor***

Tyler Mann

## ***Advisor***

Mrs. Krall



# Positive is Powerful!



**Pleasant Valley Middle School**

*Home of the Bears*

Excellence in Education,  
a Community Commitment

**Principal**

Rocco T. Seiler

**Assistant Principal**

Josephine N. Fields