



Let's take a stroll in the PARCC!

BY: Marisa Perez

If you thought the HSPA, PSAT, SAT, NJASK, AP tests, and ACT weren't enough, a new standardized test is taking the nation by storm, the PARCC. PARCC (Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Career) testing has been on the tip of everyone's tongue these past few months. The question is, why? Why does the PARCC have students, teachers, and administration nationwide in a fret?

The PARCC is a high-quality test that measures grades K-12 in reading, writing and math. The results of the test are intended to assess whether students are meeting state standards designed to ensure college and career readiness. The PARCC claims that by taking the test it will help students improve and gain the knowledge needed to succeed both in school and life.

What Are the Pros?

The PARCC tests a student's

ability to problem-solve and think critically instead of memorizing facts. Students today are more worried about memorizing facts for one test, and then forgetting what they learned the next. In other words, they aren't grasping the knowledge and information. The PARCC, unlike any other standardized test we've seen, measures a student's ability of thinking and solving problems critically.

When a student receives their results the PARCC has a self-assessment. This shows the strengths and weaknesses that they have. Due to this students, parents, and teachers have a better idea of the student's abilities and if they need additional instruction.

The Common Core curriculum is another popular educational belief that has taken the nation by storm. Slowly but surely the Common Core curriculum has been implemented in schools, and the PARCC promotes it. The content of the PARCC test creates uniform

and equal national standards to its students. This will keep students, no matter where they reside, on the same page.

What Are the Cons?

While the PARCC has good intentions, many feel that bombarding students with another test is unnecessary. Students already have school work, extracurricular activities, and other standardized tests to worry about, and now there's the PARCC. Many are concerned that school is no longer geared towards learning, but passing an exam. This idea of testing can be rather stressful, especially for elementary and middle school students. These young students are experiencing high levels of stress and nervousness that many argue, should not be felt and that schools should solely be about learning not preparing for a standardized test.

The PARCC is the first standardized test to require all students to be logged into a

computer. This technological-based test has proved to be a struggle for schools that aren't equipped with enough computers or the WIFI infrastructure needed to handle this volume of testing. Here in Perth Amboy schools we have seen this become a problem, therefore the PARCC testing had to expand throughout the month instead of one test week.

A great deal of anxiety is pressed onto the teachers to prepare their students for the PARCC. Teachers are now expected to not only cover their normal curriculum, but to also allow time for PARCC preparation. The PARCC is also expected to help evaluate a teacher's professional performance, which isn't appropriate as a standardized test does not accurately evaluate a teacher.

The PARCC is still so new and only time will tell how effective this standardized test is. What do you think about the PARCC?

ROTC COMPETES AS A TEAM!

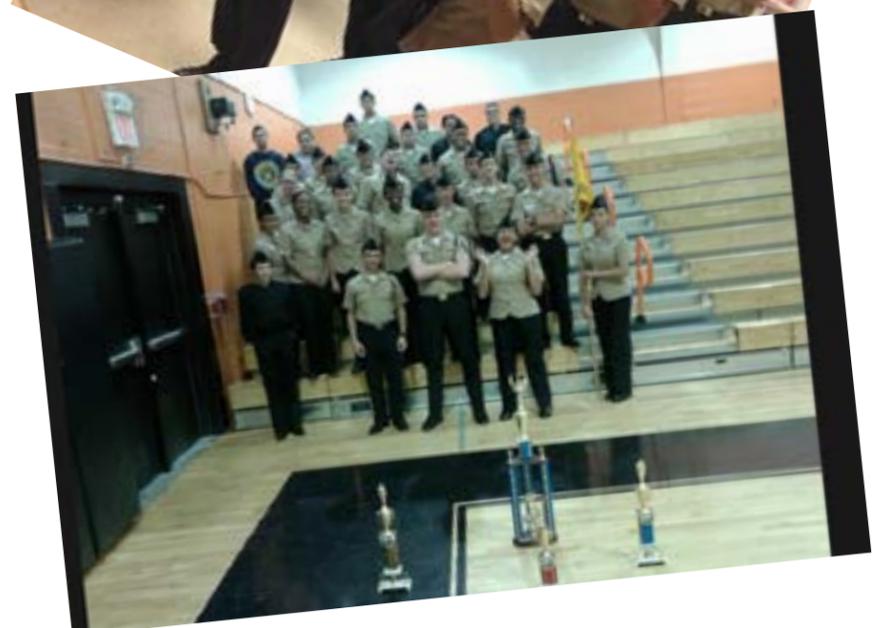
BY: GEISHA TIBURCIO

The NJROTC is getting down to business with competition after competition. Returning victorious from both Manchester and Linden drill meets - cadets are still busy practicing. The most recent competition being the Linden Drill meet on Martin Luther King Day. It was Martin Luther King's dream to unite people of all colors, races and backgrounds. The Linden Drill Meet celebrates how students come together as a team not individuals to compete.

The strength of the team is each individual member while the strength of each individual member is the team. That is what competition teaches cadets. Cadets from all around area four, from different backgrounds, different customs and schools compete on the same standards as each other. It is a place where no one is greater or lesser than each other, some just practiced harder.

At these events even those who did not have the chance to participate on a team can still win. All the schools come together to compete as individuals for medals, this is called Knockout. During this, various drill commands are called even those meant to trick the cadets who are playing. From over a hundred cadets only the last three standing can go home victorious. Perth Amboy's very own Anthony Rodriguez, a second year cadet and senior, made it to the final nine.

Walking home with four trophies in hand, the Linden Drill Meet was definitely worth the two year wait. We are truly proud of our junior cadets. They have worked extremely hard during practice which is why they have become champions. In competitions to come, even in the annual inspection, the Perth Amboy NJROTC is training hard to become the champions whose name is recognized across the country once again.



In the Heights! Rocks the House



BY: Marisa Perez

The Performing Arts Department at Perth Amboy High School has always received great recognition and praise for their talented performances, but on March 20, 2015, they reached new heights.

In The Heights focuses on a variety of characters living in the neighborhood of Washington Heights. The play discusses the hardships of its characters, from maintaining a business, going to college, dealing with death, and also relationships with family, friends, and partners.

What made the production so unique is how closely it hit to home. Heavily influenced by Hispanic culture the performance of *In The Heights* mirrored life in Perth Amboy. The problems that were being addressed on-stage were ones that are familiar to Perth Amboy residents. So much so, that while watching the production I caught a few tears being shed as the audience connected to the situations depicted brilliantly on-stage. The audience was constantly moving and shaking in their seats, exhibiting their pride when the flags of Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, and Cuba were being waved

on stage, and laughing at the jabs made in their Spanish tongue. The production connected extremely well to its audience; it was captivating, inspiring, and was infused with a powerful energy that had its viewer's wiping their eyes and dancing in their seats.

Accompanied by a live orchestra for the first time ever, as well as an elaborate and vibrant set, the Performing Arts Department at Perth Amboy High School put on a phenomenal show. It truly showcased the incredible talent that walk the halls of Perth Amboy High School and showed the student body and community that we have something to be extremely proud of.

**Congratulations to the Cast and Crew
of *In The Heights* at Perth Amboy High
School!**

Perfect Couple?

BY TREVON CANTEY

What is the perfect couple? We all like to believe that there is someone else out there that matches each one of us a. This is what I call a "Perfect Couple", but is there such a thing? It's all about love, passion, and compatibility. In this school, there are plenty of relationships. However, is there a perfect couple no one knows about? Does anyone know what a couple needs in order to have the title of perfect? Is there such thing as a perfect couple? Love is natural - it's something almost all humans feel and it needs to be embraced. Don't be afraid to ask someone out or to go to the dance. Accept something in your life without denying it.

In addition, what I think needs to be in a perfect relationship is reliability. Your partner and yourself need to be able to rely on each other for support. For example, if a person wants to go on a date, try to make it as fun as possible! Make it memorable! If the both of you can't have some fun then what's the point? Evelin Castillo, a South Campus Freshmen says that "Trust and loyalty are needed in your relationship or your partner will never really believe in you." Another student believes that "Communication needs to be in a relationship because if there wasn't it would be boring" by Madeline Ocasio. There are many necessary ingredients that go into the making of a perfect relationship. What is it that you value most? A teacher at PAHS - South Campus believes that trust is most important "because you need to believe in them so your partner will behave the right way when you're not around."

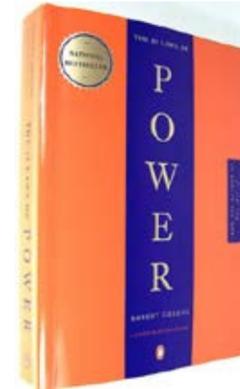
At this stage of our lives, a relationship should make you feel safe and should be enjoyable! Don't forget that you can do this on your own as well! It's fun to experience a new relationship but keep in mind that you are the most important person right now! Love yourself before you love someone else!!!



Book Review - The Laws of Power!

BY AMIYAH HODGE

Robert Greene is an American author who wrote *The 48 Laws of Power*. The book was published back in 1998 and translated into 24 languages. The



book has also become a bestseller, selling over 1.2 million copies in the United States. Because much of the literature is inspirational and provides guidance, it is commonly popular with prison inmates and musicians.

The 48 Laws of Power is one of the most requested books in American prison libraries, and is studied as a first year text in two U.S. Colleges. It is also said to be the best-selling book for those who want power, watch power, or want to arm themselves against power. The book was written and designed to address psychological techniques for developing a strong personality and sense of self. It uses historical events as references to suggest when these techniques proved successful.

The book is broken up into a variety of laws:

In Law 5: Reputation, Robert Greene states "so much depends on reputation. Guard it with your life. Your reputation makes you who you are, and it is the cornerstone to power. Who you are, can either make you or break you. The key to your reputation is making it indisputable to others." For instance, an anonymous author once said "Live in such a way that if someone spoke badly of you, no one would believe them". This sustains Robert Greene's claim that your reputation is a key component in your personality and how others perceive you. First impressions play an important role in other's decision making process, and your reputation precedes you. Therefore, often they have the chance to make judgment of you based solely on your reputation before they even have the chance to know you.

Law 25: Recreate yourself, suggests that you "Be the master of your own image rather than letting others define it for you. The people you decide to be around every day, and your family members, have an impact on this whether it is good or bad." You have to make the decision of what you think is best for you and who you are happy being, because at the end of the day no one can live your life better than you can. Will Smith puts it into perspective when he said, "You are who you associate with. Look around you at your five closest friends, and that is who you are. That is how people see you. If

you don't want to be that person you know what you have to do." Many people even refer to the saying guilty by association. Simply put, even though you may be different than who are or what you associate with, you are automatically seen as the same merely because you associate with the given situation.

Robert Greene explains "Law 18: Do not build fortress to protect yourself. Isolation is dangerous." Here he proposes that by being isolated from everyone else you are basically putting yourself in harm's way. Isolation cuts you off from valuable information and it makes you an easy target to those who are trying to harm you. This is because you are conspicuous. You should be social with others, and you will become shielded from the enemies by the crowd you surround yourself with. In other words, blend in! Be inconspicuous. The less you stand out, the less other are likely to notice you. Now that is not to say you should follow what everyone else does. By all means, you should be your own individual. But when trying to gain power through an inconspicuous perspective, you should minimize other's awareness of you.

Enter action with boldness, or Law 28, theorizes that "timidly is dangerous, and it is better to enter with boldness. With whatever you do never doubt yourself." To me this reflects confidence. When you are speaking publicly, the more confidence you have in your speech the more people believe you are

experienced in the topic you speak on. If you are not confident and people see your insecurity, your credibility becomes flawed. Robert Greene states, "any mistake you commit through audacity are easily corrected with more audacity. Everyone admires boldness, and no one admires the timid." Be someone that people look to as strength, an example of what is right, or an expert on a topic. This is achieved through boldness or confidence.

Another law that stands out to me is Law 35: Master the Art of Timing. It recommends "never seem to be in a hurry. Hurrying betrays a lack of control over yourself. Always seem patient: as if you know that everything will come to you eventually. Become a detective of the right moment, and sniff out the spirit of the times and the trends that you will carry to power. Learn to stand back when the time is not yet ripe, and to strike fiercely when it has reached fruition." What Greene is saying timing is everything "If you jump the gun" you may lose any chance at achieving your goal. There are times in life where you only have one chance so utilize your patience and strike when the moment is correct.

In conclusion this book offers a perspective on life and outlines guidelines to achieve a desired status. Not every law is applicable to everyone's circumstance but it certainly offers an outline to follow in different situations you may run across in life.

Panthers Pay it Forward!

By: Kaitlyn Pagan

Panthers Pay It Forward is a club in which the members promote random acts of kindness. The foundation is based off of a concept set forth by Blake Beatty, Founder of International Pay it Forward Day. What we do is try to help out the community as much as possible. In this club, the students help encourage others self-worth by standing up to bullying, helping others in times of need, and giving back to the community. Although it may seem as if we just give and don't receive anything in return, this club helps build your sense of character. Nothing feels better than committing a good deed.

So far in this club, we have created Valentine's day cards and dropped them off at the Jersey Shore Hospital in order to lift the spirits of sick children! Even something as small as making a card helps spread some optimism. We also adopted



a Salvation Army Angel so that an innocent child was able to wake up to a Christmas miracle.

Some activities that we plan on doing are volunteering at local organizations, such as homeless shelters to help feed the less fortunate. We also plan to visit the YMCA to assist the children in their activities, as well as go to the Alameda Center (Nursing home) to keep the senior citizens company. We anticipate making a trip to the waterfront to clean it up so that residents can enjoy a clean environment during the summer. It's always good to give back, and

that's the whole purpose of this club.

We want to help make a positive change because it is not every day that you get to make someone smile. Sometimes we tend to take things for granted, while others don't have anything. This is all about giving back. All are welcome to join our club, so if you're interested, we meet every other week at South and Main campuses. Help spread the word and help make a change!

Please email Ms. Solomon at danasolomon@paps.net if you are interested in joining.

**PAY IT
forward**



Foreign Film club reviews.....

Rabbit Proof Fence

BY MARA ALONSO

Sand covered farms and Kangaroo filled Outback's are often the pictures portrayed by the country of Australia. Director Philip Noyce thought differently during the production of his film Rabbit Proof Fence, based on the book accounting the biography of Doris Pilkington. A historical element of Australia's past is brought to light, as the Stole Generation; composed of biracial ingenious Australians are examined. The treatment received by native Australians during the time period of the nation's ethnic cleansing is considered largely unjust and hidden. Australians mixed with white and black bloodlines were shunned by the modern racially white society that had consumed most of Australia and they were also robbed of their basic civil liberties, including the right to keep their racially mixed children.

Rabbit Proof Fence follows

the journey of three distinct aboriginal girls living at the time of Australia's cultural sweep. After the national Australian government discovers the racial state of the girls, they invade their homes and remove them from their mother's side into a settlement specially established for mixed-race children. This action is taken to avoid the spreading of the native descent and keep the population only with European backgrounds. Without hesitation, the girls immediately develop a plan to escape the new home, but are faced with the incredible passage back to their mother who is miles away in their native town. Following the stretch of the rabbit proof fence as a guide, the girls are faced with daunting tasks provoking tear filled eyes and sympathetic emotions from viewers of the film. Rabbit Proof Fence endlessly provides realistic insight on the Stolen Generation and harsh past of Australian history.

Crop Tops and High Waisted Jeans

BY: CLAUDIA RUIZ

Fashion, everyone wants to be in style and follow the latest trends. So what's in style this season must be everybodys question, and as a teenage girl, I can definitely let you know what is and what isn't. To start this off...high waisted jeans. High waisted jeans are really in right now, from jegging to denim. High waisted jeans can go with almost every look and the best part is that it can compliment most body shapes. High waisted jeans are a definite go to this year. Aside from high waisted jeans, different sweaters and jackets can compliment a look. From cowl neck sweaters to denim jackets you can either make or break a look. Lately crop tops have also been in style. From halter neck crop tops to regular crop tops, they can go with almost anything.



Congratulations to the New Inductees of the National Honor Society!

Seniors

Cynthia Feliz
Ruben Urena
Rosanny Nunez
Ively Nunez
Larry Johnson
Arham Shah
Analis Nunez
Ceferinne Polanco
Kevin Murillo
Marbella Franco
Jonathan Ortega
Yerimar Bonilla
Mayelyn Placencia
Emily Caba
Daniel Urena
Danielle Alvarez
Derilis Valerio
Kiana Melendez
Samantha Nunez

Perla Ortega
Ana Lilia Avila
Mary Roldan
Shakira Pena
Vanessa Velez
Melissa Payano
Bryan Castro
Guadalupe Lopez
Miguel Gomez
Bryan Hernandez
Rafelina Vargas
Estefany Mendez
Adrian Maldonado
Keisha Flecha
Sienna Santiago
Quran Howard
Olivia Feliciano
Milagros Carela
Geraldine Burga
Aisata Kabia

Juniors

Leslie Valdez
Samantha Oyola
Henry Nguyen
Maria Ramirez
Nicole Rivera
Pamela Estevez
Riviere Segueie
Jesmarie Estevez
Neftalie Cruz
Nicoll Qutierrez
Carolina Guzman
Marieli Plasencia
Jose Caceres
Miatta Harris
Belkis Alvarado
Heidi Ciprian
Alexa Alvarado
Abhishek Khandal
Amy Acosta
Blanca Canales

Lady Ballardo
Adriana Reyes
Cristal Genao
Diana Mendoza
Maria Tavarez

Sophomores

Kiara Bueno
Alyssa Kennedy
Patricia Batista
Katherine Santana
Geisha Tiburcio
Stella Garriga
Samantha Castro
Lirianny Gomez
Analia Martinez
Nathalie Tejeda

The National Honor Society (NHS) is the nation's premier organization established to recognize outstanding high school students. More than just an honor roll, NHS serves to honor those students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of scholarship, leadership, service, and character. These characteristics have been associated with membership in the organization since its beginning in 1921.

Dont forget:

National Honor Society Induction Ceremony: May 20 at 7pm

English Honor Society Induction Ceremony: May 27 at 7pm

Dance Concert: May 21 at 6pm

Show Choir: May 15 at 6pm

Spring Concert: May 14 at 6pm

Anyone interested in writing for the paper, contact Mrs. Acquavella at Chrissyacquavella@gmail.com. Opinions expressed in the paper are not the consensus opinion of the staff and do not reflect the views of the adviser or school administration.