

## Drama Club: One Act Plays

By Gabrielle Stemmer

The Drama Club has developed a new extension of their territory this year: student directed one act plays. Mr. Gagnon selected many experienced upperclassmen to take on these plays, all of whom have been with the club since sixth or seventh grade. This is an enormous responsibility for these students, but it will also bring great rewards.

Each student was able to choose their own skit to direct. With only minimal help from Mr. Gagnon, they have already casted and started their practices. The tryouts were the same as they would've been for a fall drama production, the only difference being that the student directors were the ones

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**Drama Club members Elizabeth Comstock, Destiny Taylor, Jordyn Squire, and Madison Conklin practicing with student director, Sydney Comstock, for her play, "Sorry, Wrong Number."**

to do the casting, instead of Mr. Gagnon. This is a whole new realm for the drama students, so there will obviously be some bumps in the road. According to Katherine Burritt and Chloe Gilman, the biggest issue so far has been rehearsal time.

“With the amount of snow days we’ve had recently, there hasn’t been much time to rehearse” Burritt says. This is an issue because rehearsal is a key part to the success of the plays, so they have had to make some compromises and work together to ensure the readiness of the cast.

One of the most important parts of a production is the cast and their abilities. Student actor, Calvin Jantz, who plays the role of Sergeant Duffy in Sydney Comstock’s play, “Sorry, Wrong Number,” has been most helpful in sharing his experiences as an actor. He states that there is really “not much of a difference” between having a student director and being directed by Mr. Gagnon. He continued to explain that having a smaller cast leads to more cooperation and enthusiasm.

This set of one act plays will also serve toward a bigger purpose: funding the Drama Club’s trip to NYC later this year. They have done a number of fundraisers already this

*The student directed plays will be held on Friday, February 17th at 7 pm and Saturday, February 18th at 2 pm.*

year, including their fall production of “Forgiven: A Fairy Tale,” Applebee’s breakfasts, and a bake sale. These fundraisers will help keep student costs for the trip down and allow more students to attend.

This experience has given the student directors a new appreciation for what their director does, and avid student actors an opportunity to continue exercising their dramatic skills. The one act plays will be held on Friday, February 17th at 7 pm and Saturday, February 18th at 2 pm. Don’t miss them!

### One Act Plays

“Sorry, Wrong Number” directed by Sydney Comstock

“Siblings” directed by Sarah Ahles

“10,000 Cigarettes” directed by Katherine Burritt

“The Game” directed by Chloe Gilman

“Impromptu” directed by Zoe Scialdone

# Sports

By James Kattato

1989: Nikki Salisbury sets the all time scoring record for the Poland Girls Varsity Basketball team with 1,446 points. As many famous athletes say today, records are made to be broken.

January 26th, 2017: Superstar Senior, Shiane Irwin hits the hardwood to take on the Lady Magicians of Herkimer, only 6 points shy of the prestigious scoring record held by Salisbury.

“Yes, I was nervous. I tried not to think about it but it's hard not to think about it when there a cameras everywhere and every time you shoot someone yells "YES!!!" or "NO UGHH!" on a miss. I was excited for the game because it's something I've been working for my whole career.”

Irwin had 4 points at the end of the first quarter and was able to shake off the nerves pretty quickly. With 5:15 left in the second quarter, Irwin drove to the basket and got fouled on a shot attempt, sending her to line for two, enough to break the record.

“When I stepped to the line knowing I needed only two points I wanted to make both free throws because I wanted to get it over with.”

With the adrenaline pumping and her heart racing, the Senior drained both free throws and the packed gym went berserk. The referees stopped the game as Irwin was given hugs, cheers and gifts. Behind the cheering crowd, frantic reporters and flashing cameras, Irwin had an opportunity to take it all in.

“It was amazing to see all the support we had in the gym, it felt great knowing that I was able to reach this milestone with my family there, including my grandparents who aren't able to make any games. The vibe in the gym was incredible and was great for helping us get prepared for sectionals.”

When the celebration had finished, Irwin and the lady tornadoes knew they had a game to win, and with the record finally behind her, the Captain was able to breath and get into a zone.

“It took me awhile to get going because I was nervous, so I wanted to get it over with and focus on winning. I knew once I was able to get the record I wouldn't be as



nervous.”

Picture Credits: WKTV

Right she was, as she went off in the second half and finished the game with 24 points, leading the Lady Tornadoes past Herkimer 53-31. Even after all of her personal success in her basketball career, Shiane is hungry as ever and wants the team to succeed as well.

“My goals for the rest of the season are to win sectionals, I have never been able to do this in my basketball career and I want to experience it once in basketball, and I know we have the potential to do it.”

The Lady Tornadoes finished the regular season with a record of 16-4 and a league record of 8-0. They will enter the Section 3 Tournament as the 2 seed with their first game at home, on Tuesday, January 21st. With Poland coming into the tournament as favorite, Irwin will have the potential to cap off a sensational basketball career.

## Track

4 girls on the indoor track team will represent Poland at the State Qualifier tournament this Saturday at Onondaga Community College.

Those athletes are Sophomore Jordyn Squire, Freshman Leah Basel, Senior Sam Kraszewski, and Sophomore Tayler Clark.

I pulled myself out of bed and put on a dark gray shirt, a pair of black skinny jeans, and a New York Yankees baseball cap, backwards.

"Don't stick out." That's what they kept telling me when they were bringing me here. But I had no idea how to fit in with city people, I was from the south. *This is gonna be a rough transition, I thought.*

As I walked out the door, I bumped into someone and nearly fell flat on my face.

"I'm so sorry," I muttered. My accent was heavy and I knew not standing out was gonna be harder than I first thought.

"No it's my bad. You must be the new tenant, I'm not the landlord, I got a complaint that there was screaming coming from your room last night?" he smirked at me and his eyes squinted showing small laugh lines around his eyes. I looked him up and down and thought carefully before responding to him. He was taller than me, which was kind of intimidating, but he had kind eyes and a sweet smile, and sandy brown hair that fell over his eyes. He looked carefree and he was actually quite handsome.

"Oh erm, sorry about that. I just had a bad dream."

I scrunched up my shoulders and looked away. He chuckled and I could feel the brush creep into my face.

"I hear some hot tea before bed helps with those, but if you ever want someone to talk to I'm usually up half the night anyways. Just call me." He handed me a business card with his name and phone number on it. I smiled at him and stuck out my hand and he grasped it firmly, and smiled back at me.

"Thank you Mr..." I glanced down at the card, "Johnson," I finished.

"Oh no, call me Michael, please." For a New Yorker he was really nice. Nothing like what I had imagined.

"I'll see you around then," I said brushing past him, I didn't want anything to do with anyone here, I just wanted this to be over. On the other hand....

"Actually I was wondering, I'm new here and I don't know my way around, could you show me the city? I would really appreciate it. Ya know, show me all the good places to eat and coffee?" I could be here for a while. Might as well make the best of it. He smirked and nodded "Let me swing by my apartment and grab my keys." He walked towards the end of the hall and I followed him closely.

*Maybe this new beginning could be good for me.*

**Rebekkah S.**

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## Peer Leadership's Quote of the Month

"Success never comes from you saying you can't, and everyone else saying you can" - Anthony Goff, President

# ART & MUSIC

## STUDENT ARTIST OF THE MONTH

The student artist of February is Nathan Nellis, a freshman in Senior Band and Chorus. He participates in advanced classes, and Tri-M Music Honor Society. He is part of an independent study for Chorus, he sings Baritone, and he plays percussion in Senior Band. He marched in The Sherburne Pageant of Bands last year. When asked if he would like to pursue a career in music, he responded with "I have thought about it, yes," but only as a performer. When told he was picked by Mrs. Rauch and Mr. Brown, he was amazed and thought it would have been one of the older students.



## Do It Yourself: Make Your Own Snow Globe

By Gabrielle Stemmer and Ashley Lynch



As we come into the winter months, building crafts is a fun way to pass time when it's too cold to play outside. For the month of JAN/FEB, we will show you how to make your own snow globe.

### Gather Materials:

1 Jar, Waterproof Glue (such as super glue), Glycerin, Water, Small Figurine, Glitter.

First, glue the figurine to the inside of the jar's top so that it is standing up. Fill the jar up almost to the top with water, and add a bit of glycerin to keep the glitter from sticking to the jar and figure. Add a pinch of glitter, not too much. Put the top onto the jar be sure to glue it shut.



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# ENTERTAINMENT

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## SPLIT

By Dominic Altamura

Shyamalan goes back to his roots in thrilling fashion

Let's be honest, M. Night Shyamalan has been off his game as of late. From *The Last Airbender* to *After Earth*, he seems to have lost his touch as a director and a screenwriter since *The Sixth Sense*. Or so I thought. I went into *Split* knowing as little as possible about it. I had seen no reviews, no trailers and no interviews with the cast. I just referred to it as "That movie with the X-Men guy" for a month. I honestly thought it was going to bomb after I saw what Shyamalan had done to a good actor like James McAvoy, the main draw to the film, in *The Happening* with Mark Wahlberg. But then I was greeted with that classic Shyamalan twist and saw what I believe will be the toughest movie to top so far this year.

The storyline of this movie is genius. It's about a man named Kevin Crumb, who abducts a group of girls, led by Casey, who is the main character of this film, who also happens to have twenty-three personalities. Casey and her friends must find their way out of Kevin's dungeon-esque abode through quick thinking and careful observation of his different personalities. It's a

classic premise, but the addition of a man with split personality disorder gives more of a sense of urgency, as the antagonist could change in a split second (see what I did there?). Kevin is a different sort of antagonist who is always one step ahead because of how quickly he can become someone else. It adds a sense of mystery that has been absent in Shyamalan's films for a long time, and it is definitely a welcome return.

I'm surprised a concept like this, an antagonist with split personality disorder, hasn't become more mainstream, as it adds a surprising layer of dread every time you see a new personality come out of Kevin. Although the only threat in the movie is Kevin, McAvoy's portrayal of him is so fresh and well-done, it makes it seem like there's actually an assortment of different actors that just look remarkably like James McAvoy. When an actor can play more than one character simultaneously, and do each one so well,

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you know it's a great performance.

This setup would've been a complete flop if the actor couldn't handle the character (or rather, characters), but McAvoy does a stunning job that definitely deserves at least an Oscar nod when the time comes. The actresses who play the girls in the film are decent in that they get the job done, but they are completely overshadowed by McAvoy's performance. If you see this movie for only one reason, see it for James McAvoy in possibly the greatest performance of the year. This isn't one of those films you can get an idea of just from a review. This is something you have to view and just appreciate what Shyamalan has accomplished. I hope he keeps this up and delivers more fantastic films, rather than the half-baked ones he's delivered as of late. If you're into thriller flicks, or are a fan of Shyamalan's golden age, this will not disappoint by any means. It may be shocking to hear, but out of the choices available this



month (which we all know aren't a lot), you should see the new M. Night Shyamalan movie, *Split*.

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## Movie Quote of The Month

"Do. Or do not. There is no try."

-Yoda from *The Empire Strikes Back*



# Student Life

## Spring

For the new, student run, Poland Newspaper, the Student Life Column had a writing contest. For this we had writers in our school write either a poem or short story, to have featured in our debut. The theme was new beginnings in honor of this newspaper debut. The next contest will be for any sort of art entry or writing entry, themed with spring. Further specifics will be posted at a later date. We hope you enjoy! - Bailey Dunn

My name is Carmen Smith, well actually that's not my *Real name, that is the fake name given to me by the government. My real name is Casey Dover I was born in South Virginia. I watched my father get murdered last year, now I'm in the witness protection program for violent crimes. I was moved to New York City and given a full makeover. The fashion my father was killed in was brutal, and they were worried I would be murdered as well before I could testify against the man who committed the crime. I was told it was like a new beginning, but it felt more like I was being ripped out of my home and thrown into some unknown place and left to fend for myself and mourn my father by myself. The sooner they catch this man and the trial takes place, the better.*

I unpacked my suitcase and looked around the new apartment I would be living in. It was cramped, there was a small bedroom with a low roof and barf yellow wallpaper. The chipped wood floor was faded and matched the rest of the awful room. The kitchen was overly cramped and had no room for more than one person at a time. The countertop had a chunk missing and you could see into the cupboard. Peeling flower wallpaper covered the living room that had a single loveseat and a small box TV with an antenna sticking out of it. I watched out of the corner of my eye as a small flash of black darted across the bathroom tile floor and I nearly screamed. A rat infestation to top of this all of this. Lovely.

I sighed and stuffed my clothes into the scuffed

*The tree will blossom,  
And you will grow with it.*

*Its petals reach to the warm sun,  
inching closer to it each day.  
Your mind reaches toward something else,  
A disclosure only you're aware of.*

*The petals have evolved  
into fruit which will feed the hungry.  
Your mind has developed,  
Carrying with it much wisdom  
To feed the hungry for knowledge.*

*The tree sits peacefully.  
It has blossomed once again.  
You sit at ease with your erudition.  
You have taught once more.*

**Sydney Comstock**

dresser squeezed into the bedroom. *If I'm gonna live here it's gonna look nice, I thought, first thing tomorrow I'm gonna go out and get some paint swatches and flooring panels and a lot of trash bags.* I checked the time and flopped onto the the vomit orange bed sheets, tossing and turning until I fell into a restless sleep.

I woke up in a cold sweat, my body shook. I couldn't sleep without feeling his warm blood soaking into my clothes. I needed this to be over with, I was missing his funeral for this.



# But First, Let Me Take A Selfie

By Kaitlyn Barlow

We all feel the pressure of social media in our lives. Maybe your Instagram photo didn't get to 100 likes, maybe you don't have your ideal number of Twitter followers, or maybe someone you like didn't accept your friend request on Facebook. Whatever the case is, social media has become ingrained into our lives, and its presence only seems to expand. With a growing role in society, it is important that we not let it consume our lives and that we use it properly.

Social media is a tool that has a purpose like any other; this purpose is determined entirely by the user. Poland's favorite Guidance Counselor, Mrs. Watrous, has some important words to share on the subject of social media. "There are plenty of good purposes for social media. It can help you stay connected to an old roommate from college or family that lives far away, we've

even seen Facebook pages to support people with cancer, or for other good causes," Mrs. Watrous says.

But she also warns of the negative side of it, "News travels so much faster with social media, and sometimes that can be a very harmful thing. It is also the forum for cyberbullying, which we see happen a lot, and sometimes happens when you don't even realize it." She goes on to give examples such as a student being excluded from a group chat or see things that might be about them, but they don't know for sure, causing paranoia, which they then bring to school with them.

She also warns about the convenience that social media brings to the table, which further escalates the problems. "It's easier for students to take to social media with their problems rather than talking about them or to engage in drama because, A. it's instantaneous and they don't take the time to think about the impact it could have, and B. because they're behind a computer screen, it's sometimes hard to understand that they're dealing with a real person and their feelings."

This aspect of social media is often used for evil and not good; people often think twice about saying nasty, hurtful things to someone's face, but when it's online, they simply disconnect from the idea that they truly are dealing with other people. Our actions always affect those around us, and being online increases the number of people around us, so it's even more important to make sure that what we put out there is positive

and helpful.

We all know that it's so much easier to go online and make an angry post about something that has happened rather than confronting the situation, but that is very unhealthy and only escalates the situation. Going online and ranting about a person won't get them to stop behaving in a way you don't like, it only makes you look bad for complaining to a computer. There are many, much more effective ways of dealing with conflict or coping with a bad situation. Mrs. Watrous says the best course of action is to consult a trusted adult and have conversations with others, rather than having a one-sided rant that will only make you more angry.

Another thing that many students should be aware of when posting on social media is that colleges and employers often look at their potential student's or employee's social media accounts, because it tells a lot about a person. "More and more colleges are asking for things like Facebook profiles and Twitter handles on their applications, so you have to be sure that what you're putting out there is college or career material, because that could mean the difference between you getting into your dream college or not," Mrs. Watrous warns.

If a college recruiter looks at your online accounts and sees three subtweets about a personal fight, five statuses about how you hate your school and complaining about all your assignments, and a photo of you holding an alcoholic beverage,

## Things to avoid putting in your post

- ~ Comments on a situation that you aren't involved in
- ~ "I'm so sick of..."
- ~ Anything vague, but obviously about someone in particular
- ~ "I hate when people..."
- ~ Anything insulting to a person or group of people
- ~ "Some people..."
- ~ Anything false or simply seeking negative attention

they will probably throw your application in the trash. "It's easy as a fifteen or sixteen year old to not think about these types of consequences, but they are very real, and once it's online, it's there forever," Mrs. Watrous says. A person's digital footprint is permanent and can always be recovered, even years in the future, so it is extremely important that everyone be conscientious of the material they put online.

It is so easy for someone to take a screenshot, and once it's online, it is no longer in your hands. If your potential boss google searches your name and finds something inappropriate, they have grounds to not hire you. You may think of it as a violation of your privacy, but if you put it out there for everyone to see, that includes them, and they will be resourceful and look.

Aside from the effects on your reputation, the people around you could also suffer from your involvement with social networking. If you have your nose in your phone all the time, you aren't very present for your friends and family in the real world, and it can also get in the way of your responsibilities. "I hear students complain all the time that they have no time for homework or no time for the things they want to do, but I bet they'd have a lot more free time if they just put their phones down for a while," Mrs. Watrous reports. It's a frequent occurrence when students have free time during a study hall or in the after school program that they pull out their phones to avoid the work they so desperately need to

get done, and put up a fight when faced with authoritative opposition. They don't see it as an obstacle to their success, they see it as a part of themselves that they can't give up.

It is quite ironic and frustrating to see students complaining about the amount of work they still have to do on social media, because by complaining about the work, they are further putting off the work they are so overwhelmed with. Instead of ranting about it online, it's best to just get it done, get it off your plate, and be able to relax afterward. Mrs. Watrous suggests that you keep your phone in a separate area than where you're working on homework so it isn't accessible and so you don't feel a constant pull to look at it.

There are many things that are great to put online. but there are an equal amount of things that should never be put online. Mrs. Watrous gives us an abbreviated definition of these items: nothing hurtful to yourself or others, nothing showing illegal activities, and nothing that you could potentially regret later. It is best to ask yourself the three questions below every time you decide to post on social media.

In her final words of advice, Mrs. Watrous wants to be sure everyone is responsible with social media. She wants everyone to be more cognizant of everything that goes online and to be aware of the reality of the internet. It's important to keep in mind that you are dealing with real people and it can have real world consequences - both good and bad. She also sees it as im-

portant that we don't become too attached to our technology that we forget the people around us. "Sometimes we have to disconnect to recharge."

What might be more important than all else is that we don't become obsessed with an online persona and forget what really matters. You should never base your self worth on how many likes your photo gets, how many followers you have, or how many times you post a day. Social media should be used to spread positivity; it's not a contest. Don't become so obsessed with getting a good video that you forget to watch the show. Lastly, don't be so worried about how you look online that you forget to be a good person in the real world. Your followers won't be there for you when you need a shoulder to cry on or someone to drag you out of a ditch.

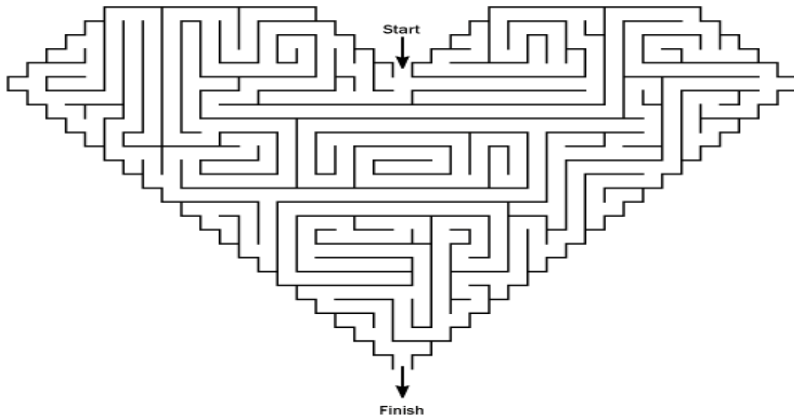
### 3 Questions to ask yourself before posting online

- 1) Is this harmful to myself or others?
  - 2) Will this better my life?
  - 3) Would I be comfortable if my grandparents saw this?
- If the answer to any of these questions is no,  
**then don't post it!**

# Tornado Times Interactive

By Leah Basel

## FEBRUARY



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### Monthly Unscramble

RRFBUYEA - \_\_\_\_\_

LAVIEENTN - \_\_\_\_\_

HUDGGORON - \_\_\_\_\_

ISPERNTSED - \_\_\_\_\_

NSWO - \_\_\_\_\_

ICUDP - \_\_\_\_\_

### *Solve the Riddle!*

*Four men were fishing in a boat on the lake. The boat turned over and all four men sank to the bottom of the lake. And yet, not one single man got wet!*

*How can this be?*

# Mr. Cuthbertson's Corner

*"The most important step of all is the first step. Start something."*

I would like to commend Kaitlyn Barlow and the other contributing students at Poland Central School for putting the very first publication of the **Tornado Times** together. Our hope is that through this publication we can inform the student body of important news, share relevant stories and provide a media for students to demonstrate and show off their creative talents.

With that being said, each month I will be sharing some insights as well on topics that I feel are relevant to our school's climate and culture. This month I would like to talk about goals. I focused on goals when we had our Mid-Year assemblies and I feel that setting personal/professional goals is vital for success in anything that you do. However, when I talk to students about their goals and de-

veloping goals I often hear what I refer to as product goals. Examples would be, "Pass all my classes, or get above a 90% on my report card. These are great goals, but how do you achieve these goals? How are you going to pass all of your classes? How will get the 90% on your report card?

We often think about the end-game when thinking about goals or the product, when we should be focusing on the process of achieving goals. Setting some process goals like completing all your assignments on time, setting time aside each night to study or using your advisement and/or after school tutoring with a teacher to get extra help will lead to those product goals. The process will always lead to the product. If your process is bad, your product is probably bad and vice versa, if you have a good process, you probably have a good product. You are the only person that can control that process, therefore **the process is the goal.**

# Class & Club Updates

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## Yearbook

The last day to purchase a PCS MS/HS 2017 Yearbook on Jostens.com is March 3rd at the cost of \$40.

## Girl's Varsity Soccer

Reminder to all girls planning try out for varsity soccer in the fall: there will be practices in the Trzepacz Gym on Tuesdays at 7pm.

## Class Of 2018

The Class of 2018 will be hosting the 2017 prom. The theme for this year is James Bond / "Casino Royale". It will be at Valentino's Banquet Hall (New Hartford, NY 13413). The prom will be held on May 20, 2017 from 7-11p.m. Tickets will go on sale from March 27th- April 28th. Ticket prices are \$35 per person or \$65 per couple, and \$40.00 for late purchases.

The menu at the venue will be Mozzarella Sticks, Pizza, Prime Rib, Chicken Riggies, Mac N' Cheese, Roasted Potatoes, Salad, Sundae Bar, and Soda Bar.