

## More than Just a Sculpture

By Leah Basel

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Did you know?  
*The Tornado  
Times* is now  
available on the  
school website un-  
der the *Communi-  
ty* heading.

Around school, you may have noticed some sculptures made of tape. In Mrs. Milianta's Studio Art class, students had the opportunity to work in pairs to tape one person's full body. However, this project goes a little deeper than just a taped person made for fun. The students had to choose a social issue to incorporate into their projects. There were a total of 7 sculptures made over the course of nearly 4 weeks, going through almost **40** rolls of tape in the process.

Mrs. Milianta hasn't done this project in a few years, but for this go-around, she wanted to incorporate OLWEUS, which made things a little more complex. She finds joy in the students reaction to getting the sculptures to "stand without any aid," and receiving the feedback of the projects once they are displayed.

But getting these projects to stand wasn't as easy as it may have seemed. Several of the students struggled to get the projects to stand on their own. The projects were not allowed to be taped to the ground or

leaned up against something for support. When it comes to this, Mrs. Milianta quotes Thomas Edison, "**I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work.**" She believes that learning what works and what doesn't for the construction and balance of the projects is important.

The students generally enjoyed the project, but frustration arose at points in construction. It took about 25 classes to complete the whole project and do the write up on what the meaning of the project was.

Savannah Neal teamed up with Jennifer Sergott to construct their tape person, a wounded soldier. Neal says, "We wanted to get out that we are all the same and that soldiers should be respected no matter how they look because they fight for our safety."

They enjoyed making the prosthetic leg and adding all of the pieces to the "wounded warrior" part of the tape man, but stumbled upon troubles with keeping their projects to stay upright and sturdy. For other

*Continued on Pg. 2*

students in the class, getting the project to stand once it left the classroom was challenging. Neal and Sergott were both happy with the outcome of their wounded warrior tape project.

The construction process may not have been simple, but the meanings of the projects express real world problems and allow the students to express themselves with their voice through art. Incorporating OLWEUS allowed the projects to change from a simple taped person to an expression of a real problem today.

One of Mrs. Milianta's goals for her students is to leave her classroom with "an appreciation for art." Through this project, she hopes that the students can understand that through art, meaning can be conveyed more powerfully than with words.

Since the students had to work as a team, they shared different thoughts of issues in society and worked together to come up with an ideal representation of the issue. The students not only learned more about art and construction, but they learned about the value of teamwork. Without cooperation with each other, the project may not have been as enjoyable, and they may not have gotten as much out of it. They had to work through their issues, like how they will in the real world. Creat-



Savannah Neal and Jennifer Sergott's "Wounded Warrior" tape project on display in the library

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*"I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work." – Thomas Edison*

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ing the projects with a greater meaning to it opened up an opportunity for the students to express themselves in a new way.

Mrs. Milianta says that she would do this project again because **"it was more than just making a sculpture."** The students were rather committed to making the projects the best they could be, and when they had completed the task, they could take pride in their art. Through all of the struggles that happened, Mrs. Milianta is still proud of her students for persevering through them and for putting effort into making something great to go around school. The students learned a lot through the process, which "is what art is all about."

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### Peer Leadership's Quote of The Month

"Lead without fear of opposition and you'll find that you don't have any"  
– Kaitlyn Barlow, Vice President

# Welcome To Poland!

*This month, PCS welcomes two new administrators to its staff*

By Ashley Lynch & Gabrielle Stemmer

During the month of March, Poland had two much needed additions to our administration. As they begin their long term positions in our community, it is important that we all get to know them and welcome them to Poland.

## Mrs. Smith

After Mr. Speich left his position as the elementary principal, the Board of Education decided that, rather than hiring a new principal, they would just extend Mr. Cuthbertson's realm to include grades pk-4. This meant a lot of new responsibilities for him, so they elected to hire Mrs. Smith.

Mrs. Smith is our new Dean of Students and her job is similar to that of a principal, however, she will be handling more disciplinary items. She is very qualified for this position.



Mrs. Smith was raised in New Hartford, New York. She attended SUNY Oneonta and earned a degree in Elementary Education, then SUNY Cortland where she earned a master's in reading, and Grand Canyon University, earning a master's in Educational Administration. She went on to teach in Utica School districts for 18 years.

Mrs. Smith stated she has always heard of the good things Poland does and the accomplishments of the students, so when she saw the job opportunity here, she applied and is now our new Dean of Students. Her experience so far has been good. She says,

**"Everyone has been very welcoming,"**

and that the students and the staff have been showing her around and making her feel at home. She has had a lot of experience with other students and would like to slowly integrate ideas she found that worked with others into our daily lives.

She says she enjoys her job in administration and would like to stay in a position of Educational Leadership for quite a while. If you get a chance to, she would love to meet you. She is a very kind and caring person who has our school's best interests at heart.

*Continued on pg. 4*

## Mrs. Hartman

Mrs. Hartman is our new CSE (Committee on Special Education) director. This means that she oversees all of the CSE department, and that she directs special education and AIS. There was previously no official director for the program, so her position will give it more stability and direction.

She currently lives on the same land she grew up on in East Herkimer with her husband and children. She studied Human Services at HCCC, attended Utica College of Syracuse University, Grand Canyon University, and has a certificate of Advanced Studies from Western Governor's University.

She is an inspiring person who has done so much for her community, such as working as a caseworker in the Domestic Violence Program, an In-school suspension and Attendance Supervisor at Herkimer Jr/Sr. High school, a special education and senior teacher with Tradewinds at Upstate Cerebral Palsy, and she even took her talents to The House of The Good Shepherd as a chairperson.

Our biggest question for her was, with all of her extensive knowledge and her love for helping people, why would she want to come to Poland as CSE director? She answered with, "I love the small school community and ever since I did my student teaching and administrative internship here, I knew I wanted to one day come back and work here." As for CSE, she said that helping people with special needs has always been part of her life, starting with a member of her family. She likes to help students reach their highest potential.

So far, people have been very friendly and nice to her. In ten years, she sees herself continuing her administrative roles and possibly becoming a Superintendent of Curriculum. She loves talking to students and would be happy to talk to anybody in her new office, the old conference room.



"I love the small school community and ever since I did my student teaching and administrative internship here, I knew I wanted to one day come back and work here."

On behalf of all students, welcome to Poland!



# Spring Sports Lineup

*By James Kattato & Andrej Fedorov*

After an exciting winter sports season, the snow finally melts and spring gets underway. The Coaches, as well as the players, are eager to get their seasons started and show us what they can do. We had a chance to sit down with Coach Cuthbertson and Coach Haver, the coaches of the Varsity Baseball and Softball teams, and we asked them to give us a little preview of how they think their seasons are going to go.

The PCS Girls Varsity Softball team has a lot of returning talent this year from the section semi-final team that went 18-2 and held a league record of 14-0. With a few weeks of practice under his belt, we got an opportunity to ask Coach Haver about his team and the goals he is setting for the Lady Tornadoes.

**“After last season our goals are to win a league championship and win a section 3 title. Having many players returning will give us an opportunity to have many players share the leadership role. I am very excited for the upcoming season due to the level of returning talent and talented newcomers.”**

The PCS Boys Varsity Baseball team are excited to get back on the diamond after a very competitive schedule last season. Coach Cuthbertson had some words to share about what he expects of his team this year.

**“We are a very young team. I expect that we will come to work everyday and focus on getting better. Our goal is to compete everyday and to learn to play the**

**game the right way with energy, focus, and grit. We have some experienced players coming back, but we are still a young team. The returners need to lead by example. Teams are only as good as the leaders of the team. This is only my second year coaching at Poland after spending 12 years at Rome Free Academy. We have a lot of work to do, but so far the players have come to work everyday and have been coachable which is all I am asking for. Once we can get outside and start playing games, that will be the true measure of how our team will be this season.”**

Sports of any kind are of great importance to Poland's community and culture. There is always outstanding support for our Tornadoes at any event and it doesn't go unnoticed by the players and coaches, all who appreciate it very much. Win or lose, we have a great community that stands behind our players until the end.

The first game for the softball team is home against South Lewis on April 4th and the baseball team's first game is home against Dolgeville on April 3rd.

Good luck to all of the spring teams this season!

PCS is offering several varsity sports for the spring session: Softball, Baseball, Golf, Tennis, and Outdoor Track

# Art & Music

By Gabrielle Stemmer & Ashley Lynch

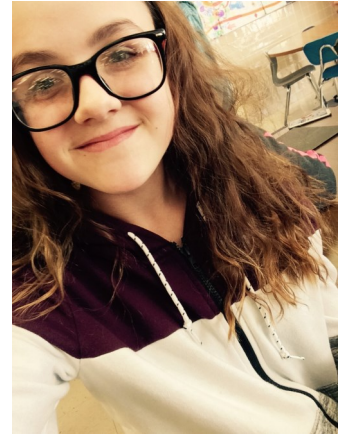
## Student Artist of The Month

The student artist of March is Hunter Gilman. She is a seventh grader in Senior High Chorus as an alto. She is participating in the Spring Cabaret on Friday, April 7th and Saturday, April 8th.

Although she is not a soloist, she sings in the chorus in a new role as a soprano. She feels that pursuing a career in music would be a good idea in college, but not for the rest of her life. She was shocked to know that she got picked over all of the older, talented students. She says,

*"I love music and it is a big part of my life."*

To hear more from Hunter, check out the Spring Cabaret and look for her in the choir.



## Do It Yourself: Pot O' Gold



You will need: Small planting pot, golden objects of your choice, rainbow colored pipe cleaners.

First gather your materials. Take your pipe cleaners and arrange them in rainbow order. Glue the rainbow colored pipe cleaners into the small planting pot. Wait for your glue to dry and then fill your pot with the golden objects of your choice. You can then give your craft as a gift (but only if it has chocolate in it) Enjoy!

# Entertainment

## DO WE ENJOY “STUPID”?

### ***When the critics and an audience collide***

Most of us have been in the position where we have an opinion that differs drastically from the majority of people. Strangely, most will disregard their own opinion and take the popular one as theirs. Should we give into the majority? Well, who says being in the minority is a bad thing?

I've seen this occurrence happen many times before, especially with my friends who are interested in film like myself. We'll talk about a movie and they'll say how they liked or hated it, and within a week or so they'll change their mind. It wasn't hard to tell they saw the rating of the movie (coming from film critics), and how it differed from theirs, leading to the mysterious change of thought. I'm not innocent of this; when I first got interested in the film industry I changed my opinion every now and then. Now I realize that we're not alone in contradicting film critics.

There are tons of examples of when the average audience member has a differing opinion from a critic. We can look to

*Suicide Squad*, or as I call it, *the first movie ever conceived by simply pouring a can of Monster energy drink onto a reel of film*. (Seriously, the movie was trying so hard to be an edgy, extreme type of movie that it at least deserves a participation medal.)

Anyway, it was arguably the biggest movie of 2016's Summer. My take on it? Well, the movie wasn't very groundbreaking, offering more of the same comic book action and premise that we're used to, but I still had fun watching it. Critics, however didn't agree, with the movie receiving a 26% approval rating on Rotten Tomatoes. But if a bunch of critics that I'll never meet didn't vouch for my opinion, at least most audience members did, giving the film a 63% approval rating. Sure, critics say the movie is a failure, but according to Box Office Mojo, I've got three hundred twenty-five million, one hundred thousand, fifty-four reasons to say otherwise.

Another example of this contradic-

*Continued on page 8*



tion can be seen with *Spy Kids*. You know, that movie about the kids. And they're, uh, *spies*. Yeah, the title is self explanatory. The original film was loved by critics, receiving a 93% approval rating from the critics. The audience, however, gave the movie a 46% approval rating. I guess you could say the movie is for *critic eyes only*. (See what I did there? Like the James Bond movie, *For Your Eyes Only*, but I replaced the word "eyes" with "critics"...never mind.)

Advancing from my failed attempt at humor, I'll close my argument with a recent movie, *The Shack*. I thought the movie was okay, nothing groundbreaking, kind of like a less poignant *The Blind Side*, except Tim McGraw was better in the latter film. Anyway, critics didn't share my sentiments with

the movie, averaging at 18% by critics on Rotten Tomatoes. The audience thought the movie was fairly enjoyable, giving the movie an 86% audience approval rating.

Going back to the title, do we enjoy what some critics might call stupid? The answer is no. We enjoy, well, what we enjoy. What critics might call "stupid," some call "witty" or describe it as entertaining, which is why we go to see movies, really. To entertain ourselves, and there's nothing wrong with that. We shouldn't tailor what we thought of a movie based on what someone else's opinion is. Not only with movies even, with any aspect of life. Boldly be different. Boldly think different. Because although these people publish their opinions, yours still matters.

**-Dominic Altamura**

Any movies you want to see reviewed? Email me the title at [daltamura@polandcsd.org](mailto:daltamura@polandcsd.org) The only guideline is that it has to be PG-13 or below on the MPAA rating, I want to review something the kiddos can see as well.

## Popcorn For Thought

Just because someone who seems to be more important than you doesn't like you, doesn't mean that you are worthless. Keep in mind whose opinion really matters - friends, family, teachers, and most especially, your own. Critics are everywhere, but you can still be awesome without their approval.

# Movie Quote of The Month

"Doubt is useful. It keeps faith a living thing. After all, you cannot know the strength of your faith until it has been tested."

-Pi Patel, on how he handled being stranded in the ocean, in *Life Of Pi*





# Parlez-Vous Francais?

*LOTE teachers help students learn about other cultures in creative ways during Foreign Language Week*

By Kaitlyn Barlow

March 6th-10th was Foreign Language Week, and Poland teachers Mrs. Gibbons and Mrs. Glover made sure that all students knew about it. It was celebrated in all areas of the school in an effort to reach all students with several goals.

"The goal of foreign language week is to promote the study of language and to help students understand the diversity of different cultures in the hopes that they'll become more tolerant and educated people," Mrs. Gibbons says.

They tried to reach these goals through a number of avenues during the week. Each day, a French and Spanish Club officer read a "Did You Know?" fact about foreign language learners, and a foreign language trivia question that students could answer to win a prize. The idea behind this was to engage students in learning about other cultures and foreign language.

"The goal of foreign language week is to promote the study of language and to help students understand the diversity of different cultures in the hopes that they'll become more tolerant and educated people"

There was also a poster contest for elementary students. Any student could enter a poster with the theme "We Are The World." This gave the younger students a chance to participate in the events of the week and to really think about the world and its diverse range of cultures.

But what may have been the highlight of everyone's week was the food. The cafeteria menu featured a food from a different country each day of the week, like Polish perogies or French toast. Students also brought in their favorite foreign food dishes to be shared with any interested student dur-

ing advisement. Students could come to Mrs. Gibbon's room and sample food from around the world and get a "taste" of what it's like in other countries.

The foreign language classrooms also took the competitive spirit of their students and used it to raise money for charity. The "Penny Wars" took place all week, with students bringing in their change, in the hopes that their language classroom would raise more than the opposing language. The winning language was given the privilege of choosing where the money would go. The Spanish classes raised the most money, with a total of \$54.58 over the whole week. The combined total was \$103.88 and the students voted to give the money to the Lamphere family.

The students were very interested in the ongoing events of the week and got very involved with the festivities. They learned about the benefits of learning a language and the importance of understanding other cultures.

Kendra Walker, an eighth grade French student, says she sees foreign language week as beneficial because, "people get to learn, maybe even things about themselves that they didn't know before."

This was also ones of the goals that Mrs. Gibbons spoke about. She says, "we want our students to go home and ask questions like 'where did grandpa come from?' or 'why do we have this dish served every week?' because it gives them insight into themselves and who they are."

Mrs. Glover also spoke about her goals for foreign language week. She says, "I want my students to gain a broader view of other people and where they come from, because we don't all come from the same places, and I think there's something to be appreciated about that."

Calvin Jantz agreed with her about this, stating that he enjoyed foreign language week and all the ways it has helped him to learn. He says, "I

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*Poland students sampling “food around the world” during National Foreign Language Week*

like learning about the past and my ancestry.”

But the student who was perhaps the most excited for foreign language week was Poland’s German exchange student, Marius Mussinger. He says that the week was an “interesting cultural experience that makes your horizons broader.” He obviously sees value in learning about other cultures, and he says that the reasons to are “to disassemble stereotypes, to have a chance to see that things we think about other countries aren’t always true, and it helps you go to other countries with an open mind.”

He said his favorite part of the week was the food tasting because “it’s better to have something to touch and to try. It gives you an idea of what it’s like in another country.” When asked about the accuracy of the dishes served, he said, “Some of the dishes are surprisingly accurate, and they taste good.” This means that the experience the students had when sampling each other’s food was an authentic one, which gives it more value to everyone.

Foreign language week was very beneficial to the entire student body, but it was only one

week, and the LOTE (languages other than English) teachers wanted to make sure that the long term impacts of learning a language weren’t overlooked with all the food sampling and fun facts. Mrs. Glover says that learning a language “helps you understand how other people think without misunderstanding and helps you to be a more empathetic person.”

Mrs. Gibbons says that learning another language, “opens our minds to understanding that all of us aren’t that different. It helps us to communicate with others and overcome cultural barriers. It also helps people further their careers or even just helps them have a better experience when they want to travel.”

The benefits of learning another language are unmistakable and that’s why Poland offers two of them. It’s so important to keep an open mind in a world where culture is constantly changing and we encounter people from different places of the world every day. Learning a language is a first step in the right direction to embracing all of our differences, and that is why we took a week to celebrate it.

# Tornado Times Interactive

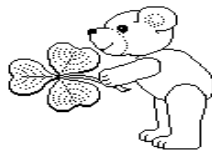
Print this page if you want to complete it by hand (you can print a single page with most printers)

By Leah Basel

## St. Patrick's Day Word Search

IRELAND  
IRISH  
GOLD  
POT  
RAINBOW  
GREEN  
CLOVER  
LUCK  
SHAMROCK  
PATRICK

K	P	T	P	V	J	W	B	G	S
X	G	R	E	E	N	V	T	D	E
X	E	E	U	G	V	M	I	Z	G
M	B	V	L	N	S	V	R	U	O
X	G	O	L	D	A	D	I	M	D
K	T	L	U	C	K	N	S	P	O
T	K	C	O	R	M	A	H	S	A
B	B	Q	N	X	E	L	P	G	H
D	E	O	L	K	J	E	O	D	I
D	F	I	K	C	I	R	T	A	P
G	L	W	O	B	N	I	A	R	N
E	M	N	F	S	W	O	H	Z	V



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### Monthly Unscramble

UKLYC - \_\_\_\_\_

PGISRN - \_\_\_\_\_

PNALEEHRUC - \_\_\_\_\_

WRIBNOA - \_\_\_\_\_

ELVOCR - \_\_\_\_\_

RAHMC - \_\_\_\_\_

RAHMC NSAEMDS - \_\_\_\_\_

### Answers to February's Unscramble:

February

Valentine

Groundhog

Presidents

Snow

Cupid

Last month's riddle was: 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?

Answer: All of the men were married

This month's riddle is: What kind of room has no doors and no windows?

### Jokes of the month

I love how the earth rotates. It really makes my day. Kleptomaniacs just don't get puns. They always take things literally.

How did the hipster burn his tongue? He drank his coffee before it was cool.

# Mr. Cuthbertson's Corner

*Accountability: an obligation or willingness to accept responsibility or to account for one's actions. - Merriam-Webster*

This month I would like to talk about **accountability**. This is a word that is thrown around often by administrators, teachers, coaches, parents and even peers. We talk about people being accountable for their actions or behaviors, their words, their school work etc...

I am sure you have all heard at one point and time, "You must be accountable for .....". It is a word that is often used when people are not doing what they are supposed to be doing or did something wrong.

However, being accountable is not about doing right or wrong, it is about looking within and understanding what you are doing and owning it. We all have choices in our lives that we have to make, some bigger than others,

but to be accountable means that you understand the consequences and benefits of those choices.

Education, as a whole, is meant to challenge you when it comes to accountability. Homework, studying for tests, attendance, being engaged in the learning process, and following the code of conduct are examples of the choices that you will have to make during your school careers. What you decide to do when it comes to these choices or other choices in your life is not the question when it comes to accountability. The real question is, **are you going to accept the results of these choices?** And more importantly, **are you going to learn and grow from them?**



# An Issue With the Tissues

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As your student board representative, I readily welcome any complaints or concerns that you may have about the school environment or policies. I want to hear your problems and try to solve them for you, no matter what they are. However there are some things that I just can't do and I hope you can understand that.

For example, one of the very first complaints I heard this year, and that I have heard throughout the year, is about the tissues the school provides. I have used them myself and I completely agree that they feel like bark-based cardboard that was cut entirely too thin. I have tried to get better quality tissues, but the answer was no.

I will explain this to you the same way that it was explained to me. Think about if you went to the store to buy tissues. If you were to buy the bargain brand of cheap tissues (aka the ones we have in school), it would cost you around \$1 per box. If you wanted to buy the super soft Puffs tissues, you'd be looking at \$3 or more per box.

Now that may not seem like a lot, but when you're providing for around six hundred students all year long who go through thou-

sands of boxes, it adds up pretty quickly. It would cost the district literally thousands of dollars for you to blow your nose more comfortably. They think that money is better spent elsewhere, like on new technology to help you in the classroom, or on new equipment for your sports team, or for new and updated textbooks, and I cannot disagree.

I'm sorry I couldn't fix this problem; I promise you I tried my best. I've heard it from a great number of students all year long, so I felt it should be properly addressed. If it is really that big a concern to you, the only thing I can suggest is that you bring your own, softer tissues to school.

I hope this one complaint being fixed doesn't prevent you from coming to me with your problems in the future; believe it or not, I can, and have, gotten several problems taken care of this year. I love hearing from you, no matter the complaint, because it means you care enough to try to get something fixed. I always take all issues seriously and I try my best to get it taken care of. This time, it was a little more than I could do, but that doesn't mean it always is.

~ Kaitlyn Barlow

*The Tornado Times* is an entirely student run newspaper, founded by Kaitlyn Barlow. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, feel free to contact her or any of the contributing students for inquiries on a particular section. The contributing students and their subject areas are as follows:

Art/Music - Gabrielle Stemmer & Ashley Lynch

Sports - James Kattato & Andrej Fedorov

Entertainment - Dominic Altamura

Student Life - Bailey Dunn

Interactive - Leah Basel

Class/Club Updates - Kaitlyn Barlow

*We thank you for your feedback!*